

Vane A Club Racing Sunday May 13th 2018

Five boats, ten competitors and two starter/finishers turned out for the Vane A racing on a sunny and warm Sunday in May. The forecast was for light-ish west-south-westerly winds (described as off the Gasometer) with some stronger intervals during the morning. Most of the time the boats were heeling well, under full rig, but with flat spots for anyone straying under the trees on the south bank. As the gusts had a tendency to back to the south-west, skippers were sometimes faced with the dilemma of how far off a full beat to trim.

Racing started promptly and in the second heat some crews used spinnakers on the downwind leg, although the shifts around the clubhouse meant that these weren't always advantageous. However, Lewis and Russell made it pay with a superbly controlled first spinnaker run to beat Peter and Paul, while Shaun and Thomas beat Jacque and Eric.

In the second heat Peter and Paul's Hollom 'The Minstrel' took five points from Graham and Ray, and Lewis and Russell's Hollom 'Sea the Stars' took all five in their races. In the third heats, Jacque and Eric's Simpson 'Lightening', not always easy to set up for fetching conditions, took five from Lewis and Russell. Jacque and Eric then consolidated those wins by adding five more in the next heats, beating Graham and Ray both ways. In the final heats, Lewis and Russell found form again by taking a round five from their opponents.

Jacque and Eric's 'Lightening' won the day with 16 points, also winning best boat to windward by 12 points to Peter and Paul's 9. Peter and Paul's slightly longer 'The Minstrel' took second place overall with 13 points, and Lewis and Russell were a very, very, close third, with 12 points, also winning a well-deserved best boat on the down-wind legs. Fourth were Shaun and Thomas (the latter, the youngest competitor in the race!), and in a very below par for them, fifth place were Graham and Ray, looking forward to sailing their new Hollom design in the near future.

The next Vane A racing is scheduled for the 10th of June, and it is hoped that at least one of the new 2018 season boats will be sailing. After that there are only two more Vane A club races to the championship, so it is important to get as many boats sailing as possible. Perhaps it will also be arranged for some extra sessions brushing up race techniques.

The next vane racing will be in 36's, on Saturday week, the 26th May. See you there!

Mervyn