

Snipe Nationals, Bridlington - 26-28 August 2006

Two boats from Orkney - *Go Quickly Red* (Malcolm Tipler/Peter Tipler) from Stromness SC and *Moonstone* (Andrew Leslie/Rachel Roberts) from Holm SC - made the trip south to join thirteen other boats for the Snipe Nationals at Bridlington.

Moonstone did not fare too well over the week-end and finished twelfth overall although she did also have an eighth and a ninth place on the way. Almost perfect positioning for the start of the final race suggested that for that race things might go better for *Moonstone* but unfortunately she was a fraction too early crossing the line and had to round the end and restart. She then had no chance of catching the leaders.

Go Quickly Red was the oldest boat competing in the Nationals and probably the heaviest too. Despite brand new Speed sails and improving results as the wind increased from a light breeze on day one to a strong breeze on day three, *Go Quickly Red's* best result was a sixth place and she finished in ninth place overall.

The full final results as issued by the organisers can be seen in the 2006 Snipe Nationals Results document in the Archive. Although the Orkney teams were not amongst the trophy winners, the organisers rewarded them with Snipe lapel badges for making the effort to travel south for the event.

For Malcolm the Snipe Nationals expedition may be remembered as much if not more for events off the water rather than on the water. Things started to go pear-shaped on the Saturday when he discovered after racing that his wallet was missing. As far as he could recall he had left it in his sailing bag in the clubhouse but it was not there and was either lost or stolen. After a thorough search he rang home to get his wife to put a block on all his plastic cards - an action which also blocked all except one of his wife's cards too, much to her displeasure. Malcolm and Pete were then stuck with no money and no means of getting any before Tuesday as it was a Bank Holiday week-end.

The good news is that on the Sunday his wallet was returned to him intact as it was not lost or stolen but left by him in the registration office. By then the cards had been stopped so they were still no help but at least they could celebrate with the £5 they now had to last until Tuesday. When Malcolm rang home at lunchtime to give the good news about the wallet turning up he was greeted with the news that his father-in-law had died in Madrid. Later, when Malcolm came to rig the boat ready for the afternoon's sailing he found that the locking device at the top of the mast was not working properly and the mainsail would not stay up so *Go Quickly Red* had to miss that race. Perhaps that was no bad thing because the wind was strong and only six boats survived to the finish.

But that was not the end of Malcolm's trials. He collected some money from the bank on Tuesday and then delivered Pete back to Durham before continuing north to Orkney. He rang home around 6pm to say that he had got as far as the Caithness Glass Visitor Centre at Perth and was waiting for the AA to arrive as his van was making strange noises. An hour and a half later he rang to say the van was being loaded onto a recovery vehicle and he was being relayed by the AA to Scrabster, complete with boat trailer. That journey would take around five hours so they would expect to arrive in the early hours of the morning.

Malcolm finally arrived in Scrabster at sometime after midnight. The AA man went on his way and left Malcolm to his long, cold night in the van. With no further mishaps he caught the first ferry to Stromness and was met by a recovery vehicle. His van was delivered to a garage for repair. Thanks to Fred for rescuing the boat and trailer and returning them to sailing club. Despite it all Malcolm is still smiling and claims to have had a great time at the Nationals!