

Stromness Regatta

14 July 2012

After losing three sailing evenings in June due to adverse weather conditions, it was something of a relief that Stromness Regatta day turned out to be dry with at least some sunshine and a wind strength that was good for racing. Nineteen boats took part - four Yoles, twelve Snipes and three Handicap dinghies (a Laser Radial, a Laser 4.7 and a Topper).

The first mark of the course was set within the harbour and boats then headed out to the Bay of Ireland where the Yoles sailed a triangular course and the rest of the boats sailed a triangle and windward/leeward sausage before returning to finish the race back in the harbour. The wind direction was north-westerly when the first race started but then moved round to the west, which resulted in the intended windward leg being more of a reach than a beat. A change in buoy location for the second race provided a better beat and brought more tactical sailing into play.

RACE 1

Yoles (Corrigal Cup): Only three of the Yoles took part as *Sumato* was still sailing over from Longhope and missed the start. The result placings were: 1 *Helga* (Pat Tulloch/W Black & A Sinclair), 2 *Lizzie II*, (Richard Wilson/Andrew Wilson), 3 *Lily* (Ian Richardson/Anderson & Sutherland)

Snipes (John Hourston Trophy): 1 *No Fear* (Neil Foubister/Glen Foubister), 2 *Wild Goose* (Mark Taylor/James Stockan), 3 *Bonxie* (James Burgon/Gordon Deans), 4 *Freyr* (Pete Tipler/Paul Kerr), 5 *Go Quickly Red* (Malcolm Tipler/Sheena Taylor), 6 *Nemo* (Ian Johnstone/Ed Johnstone), 7 *Noringa* (Gordon Hill/Ross Manson), 8 *Hassfang* (Chris Moore/Doodie Robertson), 9 *Double Dutch* (Kenny Holland/Johnny Robertson), 10 *Scooby* (Donnie Hall/Ingrid Kerr), 11 *Humdinger* (Barry Jones/Paula Hemsley), 12 *CrewZen* (Graham Ramage/Audrey Cameron)

Handicap Fleet: 1 Laser Radial *Little Gem* (Michal Meszka), 2 Topper (Barbara Bailey). The Laser 4.7 (Nathan Omand) retired due to gear failure.

RACE 2

Yoles (Yawls Challenge Cup): The fourth Yole arrived for the second race but was delayed at the start when intrepid sea-dog crew Hector, (wearing his buoyancy aid) went swimming and had to be retrieved and returned to *Sumato*. The result placings were: 1 *Helga*, 2 *Lizzie II*, 3 *Lily*, 4 *Sumato* (Angus Budge/Christine, Laura & Hector). *Helga* was also winner of the Blue Ribband for the first local Yole in the Allcomers Race.

Allcomer Dinghies (Jackie Robertson Cup):

The Snipes and the Laser Radial from the Handicap fleet combined for the Allcomers race. The start was very close and marked by much shouting of "Starboard!" as the boats tried to get clear away to the first mark. The lead in the race changed several times. *Wild Goose* had been going well but skipper and crew took an early bath and their hopes of glory were dashed. *Go Quickly Red* came up through the fleet and for a while it seemed that a win was in the bag but then a dodgy tactical decision allowed three Snipes to overtake. The final result placings were: 1 *Bonxie*, 2 *Nemo*, 3 *Freyr*,

4 *Go Quickly Red*, 5 *Hassfang*, 6 *Laser Radial Little Gem*, 7 *Noringa*, 8 *Wild Goose*, 9 *Double Dutch*, 10 *Humdinger*, 11 *Scooby*. Retired: *Snipes No Fear* and *CrewZen*. Did Not Start: *Laser 4.7* and *Topper*. *Bonxie* also won the Davo Harcus Quaich for being the first Snipe in the Allcomers race.

Thank you to all the sailors who took part in the Regatta. Numbers were notably down on last year, with less Snipes, only three handicap fleet dinghies and no catamarans taking part. John Hinckley turned up to race his yacht, *New Dawn*, but as there was no other yacht for him to compete against he sailed back round to Kirkwall. Thank you for making the effort, John, and we're sorry you did not have the opportunity to race.

Thanks go also to all involved in organising and running the Regatta and supplying equipment, with special thanks to: the starting team; the sailing clubs and individuals who supplied and crewed the safety boats; Stromness Golf Club for the use of the premises for the trophy presentation; those who took photographs; and those who supplied the soup and sandwiches.

For images from the Regatta please see the Stromness Regatta page on the Stromness SC website at <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/STROMNESSAILING/> and Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/StromnessSailingClub>. For the normal club sailing results for racing held on Thursday, 5 and 12 July please see the Club Racing Results page on the website.

Isobel Tipler