

Stromness Sailing

The Stromness SC sailing season began on Thursday, 2 May. As sailors were beginning to emerge from winter hibernation in March and April there had been a practical workshop on boat rigging, with Ewan Stirling, and a seminar on sail trimming and performance, with David Bowdler, and skippers were keen to see whether they could translate the changes they had made and advice they had received into improved performance on the water.

The expected strengthening wind had not arrived and the south-easterly wind that blew was good for sailing but it was very cold and wet and the main enthusiasm was for getting the races over as quickly as possible. As usual on the first evening of the season, boats were very slow onto the water because the skippers were still making last minute adjustments, dealing with an unexpected gear failure or trying to remember what the new marks on halyards and sheets really meant. Starter tolerance for late starting this week will not be carried forward to future race nights, so please be on the water ready for a 7:00 pm start.

Wild Goose made an infringement at the start that called for penalty turns and was left behind. Other boats jostled for position but it was *Bonxie* (James Burgon/Griogair Morrison) that was able to build up a good lead and go on to win. Parental honour was at stake as *Go Quickly Red* battled to stay ahead of *Go Faster Blue* to take second place.

In the second race, *Bonxie* had a good start and several boats were close at the first mark. *Go Faster Blue* had a gear problem after the mark and dropped well behind the fleet but was able to make up places so that the first three boats were the same and in the same order as in the first race. With the *Hammnavoe* away south for repairs, it had been expected that the harbour would be clear of big boats during the race but a large freight carrier passing through the middle of the beat from mark 2 to mark 6 made a few of the dinghy skippers sit up and pay attention. There was an interesting moment when *Double Dutch* (Kenny Holland/Alan Long) capsized at a little distance from the passing freighter but skipper and crew were soon back aboard.

Race 1 - 1 *Bonxie* (James Burgon/Griogair Morrison), 2 *Go Quickly Red* (Malcolm Tipler/Barry Jones), 3 *Go Faster Blue* (Pete Tipler/Thorfinn Johnston), 4 *Double Dutch* (Kenny Holland/Alan Long), 5 *Wild Goose* (Mark Taylor/Lee Thomson), 6 *Scooby* (Donnie Hall/Finley Hall).

Race 2 - 1 *Bonxie*, 2 *Go Quickly Red*, 3 *Go Faster Blue*, 4 *Wild Goose*, 5 *Scooby*, 6 *Double Dutch*

The support boat was skippered by Andrew Clouston and the starter was Iso Tipler.