

## BYC Regatta, Saturday 29 July, Start time 0930 – The Harbour before the start6

Regatta Day dawned with a brisk West to South West breeze of force 3-4 and a generally overcast sky. This can be seen from the photograph above which was taken as the competitors were preparing to leave the harbour. The forecast was for this breeze to continue for most of the day.

The course was set by Brian Dotchon acting as OOD in order to allow the Commodore to sail his boat in the race. The course following the start in Jacksons Bay involved the North One Fathom buoy in mid channel, the Tail Patch buoy to the South East of Flat Holm and the South Cardiff buoy off Lavernock Point. All these marks had to be rounded to port before returning to the finish in Jacksons.

A total of nine boats entered the race with only one visitor, namely *SoCo* (Owain Thomas) from Cardiff Bay YC. The whole fleet started more or less together, some having taken reefs beforehand, and had a spanking close reach towards the first mark in mid channel. The wind began to lighten after an hour or so and those boats with reefs shook them out. Unfortunately, the wind also backed a little towards the South and those vessels that had sailed fairly free across the strong flood tide had to harden up to lay the North One Fathom. *Ripple* (Bev Luen) was first around the mark being one of those that sensibly kept well to the West and sailed closer to the wind. She was followed closely by *Porthceri* (Commodore - Phil Rowlands) and then by *Tomahawk* (Martin Rudkin) some 15 minutes later. *MiSue* rounded about 25 minutes after the leading boats and the remainder of the fleet had great difficulty in beating against the tide and dying breeze with several retiring at this point. *Lesmar II* (Mike Radford) struggled for almost an hour before succeeding.

*Ripple* and *Porthceri* had a very close race under boomed out headsails towards the Tail Patch before being separated when having to give way to a large ship proceeding up to Avonmouth. *Ripple* remained ahead of *Porthceri* but both were passed on this leg by *Tomahawk* flying its spinnaker to good effect. All three boats were in close proximity at the rounding of the mark. *MiSue* retired at Flat Holm after encountering a flat calm area.

The wind had become very light by this stage of the race but then began to pick up again for the leading boats on a close reach across to the South Cardiff. *Tomahawk* remained in the lead followed very closely by the two other boats which had changed places. By this time the rest of the fleet, apart from *Lesmar II*, had given up.

The final leg was a beat and the three leading boats remained in the order of rounding South Cardiff all the way to the finish. As can be seen from the results table below, these three vessels finished within 6 minutes of each other after more than 3 hours of racing. Indeed the first two finishers were only a minute apart. To her great credit *Lesmar II* battled on to the end when all others had fallen by the wayside and she finished some 40 minutes later.

The results show that *Tomahawk* won by 2 minutes from *Ripple* on corrected time with *Porthceri* some 9 minutes away in third. *Lesmar II* was unable to save her time on the leading boats but won many admirers for her doggedness in defeat. The three leading vessels were presented with their trophies and prizes by the Commodore's Lady later that evening during a very successful barbecue.

Boat Name	PY H/cap	Finish time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Place	Achieved Performance	%
Tomahawk	1055	12:47:43	3:17:43	3:07:25	<b>1</b>	1031	-2.3%
Ripple	1075	12:53:42	3:23:42	3:09:29	<b>2</b>	1062	-1.2%
Porthceri	1002	12:48:46	3:18:46	3:18:22	<b>3</b>	1037	3.4%
Lesmar II	1116	13:33:45	4:03:45	3:38:25	<b>4</b>	1271	13.9%
Fine Times		Retired					
MiSue		Retired					
Kindred Spirit		Retired					
SoCo		Retired					
Shoogaroo		Retired					