

Annual Regatta

13th August 2016

The weather on the morning of the Regatta was dull, overcast and with some rain. The forecast was for a significant improvement mid morning and, sure enough, the rain stopped but the forecast lightening wind did not materialise. Instead of an ideal force 2 to 3 from the southwest sailors had to cope with force 5 at the start.

Despite the strength of the wind there was a very encouraging entry of 10 boats for the 18 mile long cruiser race which got under way at 1235. The first mark was the East Culver buoy in mid channel and this involved being close hauled on starboard tack against the neap flood tide. Many boats reduced sail before the start anticipating a hard slog to windward.

Two boats, *Lesmar II* and *Sally Loper*, tacked early to go inshore, believing that they would not lay the mark. This proved disastrous since they fell well behind the rest of the fleet which were all able to weather the Culver buoy. The race was being led by the scratch boat, *Shadow*, closely followed by *MiSue* and *SoCo*. The hard leg to the first mark took the best part of 2 hours for the whole fleet and there was then the partial relief of broad reaching down wind to the second mark, the Weston buoy east of Flat Holm. *SoCo* flew her spinnaker and overtook *MiSue* on this leg. By this time the flood tide had eased somewhat but the relief of sailing down wind was short lived since the return to the finishing line in Jackson's Bay was a beat and the wind had increased to force 6. The leading boats still had to combat the last of the flood and the best course was close to the Welsh coast in order to gain some advantage from the early inshore ebb tide.

As can be seen from the results sheet below, the first boat to finish, *Shadow*, completed the course in almost exactly 4 hours. She was closely followed by *MiSue* and *SoCo* whose handicap figures allowed them to beat *Shadow* on corrected time. Despite finishing almost half an hour behind the leading boat, *Swiftly* was also able to save her time. The final order as shown below resulted in Lyn Reeve (*MiSue*), Digger Brooks (*Swiftly*) and Owain Thomas (*SoCo*) winning the silver trophies and prizes in that order.

Whilst the sailors were off racing round the channel there was a series of rowing races which, due to the weather, had to be held inside the harbour. Each flag officer chose a team of four and by a process of elimination the winning team was that chosen by the Vice Commodore, John Wilson.

The prizes for sailing and rowing were presented by the Commodore's lady following an excellent barbecue out of doors in front of the Clubhouse. The competitors, either sailing or rowing, all seemed to have very good fun despite the boisterous windy conditions. The Commodore thanked all those who were involved in organising this very successful day ashore and afloat.

Start Time - 1235

Boat Name	PY H/cap	Finish time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Place	Achieved performance %	
MiSue	1039	16:14:43	03:39:43	03:31:28	1	1009	-2.9%
Swiftly	1151	16:39:24	04:04:24	03:32:20	2	1122	-2.5%
SoCo	1049	16:19:18	03:44:18	03:33:49	3	1030	-1.8%
Shadow	957	16:10:50	03:35:50	03:45:32	4	991	3.6%
Sally Loper	1128	16:49:27	04:14:27	03:45:35	5	1169	3.6%
Highlight	1009	16:28:40	03:53:40	03:51:35	6	1073	6.4%
Ripple	1075	16:45:16	04:10:16	03:52:48	7	1149	6.9%
Lesmar II	1116	16:57:46	04:22:46	03:55:27	8	1207	8.1%
Preceptor	1029	16:40:16	04:05:16	03:58:21	9	1126	9.5%
Morgan LeFay		RTD					