

## Sam Davies Race

17<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Start Time 0900.

This race was rearranged due to the cancellation on the original date due to bad weather. The forecast for Saturday was excellent with steady winds of force 3 to 4 from the northwest and clear skies. This was certainly the situation at the start and it was a little disappointing that only three boats came to the line for the early start.

The course set was down to the Wreck buoy in mid channel and then to the Middle Nash buoy before the return to Barry. There was a very strong spring tide and the boats were starting about an hour after high water so would have this benefit all the way to the furthest mark. The straight line total distance for this course is about 33 miles.

Although the wind was forecast to be no more than force 4, the boats experienced up to 20 knots (force 5) at times on the beat to the west. This was probably due to the effect of the tide pushing them against the wind and increasing the apparent wind on the boat. Unfortunately, one of the competitors, *Shadow*, experienced a mainsheet block failure and had to retire. She motored home, initially against the tide and took a very long time to do so. Another of the boats, *MiSue*, miscalculated the strength of the tide and failed to pass the correct side of the Wreck buoy. The strength of the tide the lack of sufficient strength of the breeze at that time meant that she could not return to the mark and also retired.

This left the remaining boat, *Ripple*, to continue unopposed and she duly completed the course after rounding the Middle Nash and then slowly running back up channel in a weakening breeze against the remainder of the ebb tide. Eventually she gained the benefit of the young flood but it was particularly frustrating at the end to have great difficulty in crossing the finishing line as the wind went very light. She had to push against the inshore ebb tide running down across Jackson's Bay counter to the offshore flood. She eventually finished the course in a couple of minutes under 7 hours.

Boat Name	PY H/cap	Finish time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Place
Ripple	1075	15:58:00	6:58:00	6:28:50	1
MiSue	1039	RTD			
Shadow	957	RTD			