

Tuesday 4th October 2011

This week's course consisted of only two marks, but, being 3 and 7, were as far apart as they could be. The wind direction allowed the use of the start line by the clubhouse with a fairly short line set by the distance marks.

Race 1

The first race was run with two reefs as had been the case during the afternoon's sailing. On the start Tony and Alan started from the starboard end early and reached down towards the port end. Meanwhile Neil, Steve and John Page were aiming for a port end start and all three tacked onto starboard on the gun. There followed a long starboard tack up towards Broadlands marina. Neil was the first to tack onto port with most going further to windward before tacking across. There followed a long beat up to 3, and with the wind gradually dying the reefs left the boats somewhat underpowered.

At 3 Neil rounded first, closely followed by Alan and Tony; Steve got an overlap on CJ before two boat lengths which enabled him to round it just ahead. They were followed by John Page, John Goodwin, and Rhia. The run down to 7 was all down to tactics. The trick was to find the areas of pressure on the water, although stealing wind from boats close ahead was also popular. Rounding 7 Neil led closely followed by Tony and Alan, who tacked early onto starboard. Shortly after them came John Page, Steve and CJ, followed by John Goodwin and Rhia. The beat to the line was won by Neil, but unfortunately as he had sailed without any reefs his efforts were in vain as the result was disqualified. Alan's early tack proved to be the correct decision as he beat Tony to the line. They were followed by John Page, Steve and CJ, and then John Goodwin and Rhia.

Race 2

The reefs were shaken out, but John Goodwin and CJ decided to sit out the second race. Most decided to start from the starboard end with the exception of Neil who went for port, but his crew's watch must have stopped as he was some way off the line at the start. John Page got the best start and led the way at the start of the beat. Once again it was a generally long first tack, but then all options were taken on the route up to 3, with most favouring the right hand side of the course.

Alan must have selected the best route as he rounded 3 first followed by Tony. Next came Steve and Neil in close order followed by John Page and then Rhia. With the wind still dying and the light fading, finding pressure became the order of the day. Alan, having a good lead, took a conservative route not too close to the north shore. Neil and Tony took a route closer to the shore, with Steve some 10-15 yards further out. Coming around the point the north shore had the pressure as Neil and Tony built a lead on Steve. Unfortunately for them the pressure ran out and it was Steve who turned the tables and edged ahead. The race officers took pity on the sailors and shortened the course on the run to the line, much to the relief of Alan whose lead had been steadily disappearing. Steve held second and Tony won the battle with Neil to take third. Both however were almost caught by John who found a cracking line to the finish, followed by Rhia.