

FLEETWOOD MODEL YACHT & POWER BOAT CLUB

MYA A CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP & YACHTING MONTHLY CUP REGATTA 2017

RACE OFFICERS REPORT

This event is the MYA's oldest continuously running weeklong event. Held alternately between the Fleetwood & Gosport clubs this was the 41st time that Fleetwood had held the regatta.

In years gone by this regatta drew crowds of competitors from far & wide reaching a peak in 1973 of 56 boats, but since this milestone entries have gradually declined and this year we had only 12 boats. But, what we lacked in quantity was more than made up for in the fleets quality & enthusiasm. With 4 World Champions and several previous winners involved the racing was always going to be close & we were not disappointed.

It was decided to sail for 2 complete rounds of the 11-boat schedule and to give everyone a lay-day on Tuesday. With the separate, stand alone, YM Cup event taking place on the Wednesday this gave us 4 days to complete the 22 heats.

The regatta opened with "Tea & Cakes" for all in the clubhouse on Sat at 5pm. The RO's welcome briefing about what to expect during the week followed this. We also covered information about the local area & social events etc.

Sun morning at 10am we started racing in a 12knt sw wind. We moved the fleet along at their own pace and managed to complete 7 of the 22 heats in the first day. Sun evening was first social of the week with a BAR B QUE DF95 racing & the famous Fleetwood quiz!!

Monday's wind was a bit stronger but we still completed 6 heats so by Mon night we had completed 13 of 22 heats, over half way through.

Tuesdays lay day was used by some competitors to repair torn spinnakers, re fix a loose lead, repair damaged jib luff fitting, & generally keep their boats in good condition for the 3 days to come. Families Vice & Geldard went to Blackpool for the thrills & spills of the pleasure beach, and some

competitors just lazed around to re-energise themselves for what was to come later in the week!

Wednesday is YM cup day. The wind had changed by 90 deg and was blowing from the South varying from sse to ssw and brought a large element of “luck” into the results.

This is a stand-alone event held in knock out style. The 12 competitors were divided into 4 x 3 boat groups of mixed ability (seeded from the scores in the championship) and raced each other twice. The top 2 from each group then go into a quarterfinal knock out down to a final & then a winner. The final was between David Bell & Shaun Wyeth. After 2 beats they were 1 each, so it was down to the final run. They changed places several times over that run, but eventually Shaun crossed the finish line ahead winning the trophy. (Not for the first time)

Racing for the main event re commenced on Thurs at 10am. The wind was blowing much stronger 20 – 25 knts still from wsw. Progress was slow and it was decided to take 20min breaks “recovery time” between heats. After the second heat was completed we received our only protest of the week, a competitor questioned the decision of the scorer on one of the close finishes on a downwind leg.

A disinterested group of 3 skippers were convened as a protest committee, and a long lunch break was called.

After long discussions and viewing video evidence presented by the protestee (taken from the bank by his wife) which was dismissed as it was not taken from the finish line, the protest was dismissed & the result of that board stood.

Racing re-started in slightly stronger wind and 2 further heats only were completed before it was decided to stop for the day as boats were breaking and people were tired.

Friday dawned with a slightly lighter wind 18-20 knts from the wnw. We had to complete 5 heats to finish the championship. Racing got underway by 9.45 and after 3 heats were completed a short lunch break was taken. The 2 last heats were then finished and the main racing ended around 3.30 pm with 5 resails left to complete the event. These were completed by 5pm and all that was left was to tidy up & lock up the clubhouse, and repair to the prizegiving at the Blackpool & Fleetwood Yacht Club.

BIG THANKS TO ALL THE COMPETITORS, WHO CO OPERATED SO WELL TO MAKE THIS RACE SUCH A SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY THE “YOUNGER” (30 –50YROLD) WHO SAILED THEIR OWN BOATS AND HELPED THE REST OF THE SKIPPERS

WITH THEIRS. (SEVERAL REPEATEDLEY JUMPING IN THE LAKE TO SAVE BOATS FROM DAMAGE).

THEY DESERVE OUR UTMOST RESPECT & THANKS.

Conclusions.

It is easily possible to complete 22 – 25 heats in 4 racing days, if you let the fleet move at their own pace. If you try to rush them along, or insist that that they go in a certain order, they move much slower & you get very frustrated!

Most people now seem to prefer 1 layday instead of 2 half days & the race team get a break also.

Most competitors accepted when they had broken a racing rule & accepted their penalty (disqualification) gracefully.

RESULTS.

Scrutton Cup

1 st	David & Robert Bell	Fleetwood	83 points
2 nd	Peter Whiteside & Eddie Greenwood	Fleetwood	73 points
3 rd	Martin Roberts & Bernie Mc Nunlty	Birkenhead	68 points

Jonnies Cup (Most Beats) David Bell Fleetwood 19 Beats

Wing&Wing Cup (Most runs) Martin Roberts Birkenhead 16 Runs

Yachting Monthly Cup Shaun Graham & Lewis Wyeth Gosport.

Little Portugal Cup (Highest placed skipper not won Scrutton cup) Peter Whiteside.

Neptune Trophy (Club team of 3) Fleetwood

TOT's Trophy (Random Team of 3) David Bell. Antony Warren. Martin Roberts.

Dennis Lippet Trophy (Junior who made best contribution to event)

Amber (Doris) Geldard.

4Candle Trophy. (Junior Choppa race) Not held. Kids too busy playing & catching crabs!

Trophy sent to Gosport with Wyeth family for next year.

And finally.....

Much, indeed MOST, admiration must go to the team racing Blue Note. This 48lb weight boat was raced into 2nd place by the 2 oldest members of the fleet,

Peter Whiteside	71
Eddie Greenwood	80

Blue Note	17
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Combined age	168
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What an achievement!!

Derek Priestley PRO MYA A Class Championship Fleetwood 2017.