



Cygnets Model Boat Club Maidstone

Ronnie Richardson Sail Trophy 2008 - Round 6

With a weather forecast of light winds and rain the chances of Round Six being contested on a good day for racing looked quite remote. However thirteen skippers gathered and were briefed - the course was set out again in the triangular configuration.

Of the thirteen skippers we had five in Class A and the balance of eight in Class B. There were no skippers in Class C.

And so the racing, or was it drifting, started.

The first race was horrendous and the Fifteen Minute Rule kicked in long before the leading yacht, Dave Chalk's, could navigate the third turn to bring him into the finishing straight – in fact he was drifting away from the buoy in the opposite direction. Needless to say the race was declared “null and void”.

After getting the yachts back to the shore – and that took some time – it was decided to have a break before the second race in the hope that the wind would pick up.

And so to Race 2 which was started with all the skippers going off at “scratch” because all they had all cleared their handicaps at the start of Race 1 – it was a lovely sight all thirteen yachts starting together and making the turn at the first buoy and heading for the second buoy. The wind was still light but the race was on but the 30 Minute Rule kicked in before the leading yachts had completed the fifth lap. After sorting out the positions out on the water Class A was won by Nick Clayton with Dave Tucker in second place and Colin Bird in third. Chris Harding took Class B followed by Anthony Sisley and Harry Hunt.

The third race started in light rain to add to the frustration of the light winds. Again the 30 Minute Rule kicked in and the positions of the various yachts out on the water was noted. Dave Tucker was leading Class A followed by Nick Clayton and Dave Elsworth.. In Class B Dave Chalk was leading with Les May in second place followed by Greg Chalk.

The leading positions, with points scored in brackets, after six rounds are:

	Class A	Points	Class B	Points	Class C	Points
1 st	Dave Tucker	36	Anthony Sisley	43	Derek Filmer	33
2 nd	Nicholas Clayton	37	Chris Harding	58		
3 rd	Paul Cooper	66	Dave Chalk	59		
4 th	Colin Bird	73	Les May	82		
Joint 4 th			Harry Hunt	82		
5 th	Dave Elsworth	76				
6 th			Greg Chalk	100		

It is interesting how Class B has developed over the year – initially Anthony Sisley and Chris Harding were racing “out and out” sports boats and winning everything - the balance using ETNZs and Voyagers. However Anthony, Chris and Dave Chalk have now changed to Seawinds, a beautiful looking yacht, and as can be seen from the table above are very competitive at the top of the Class. A few slip ups by any of the top three and Les and Harry are handily placed ready to pounce.

It was noted that after the racing on Sunday and the wind had picked up (my pal sods law again) that a couple of guys, including my son, were having trial runs with the Seawinds. Me thinks that Class B will be very competitive next year.

The next series of races, Round Seven, is on Sunday 5th October commencing at 12.30 pm followed two weeks later with Round Eight on the 19th October – lets hope we get some good winds on those days in order that exciting racing results.

Sorry No Photographs