

RSYC Spring Solent Double

Sunday 28th April 2019

RACE REPORT

The race was postponed 24 hours due to Storm Hannah crossing the country on Saturday's scheduled race day. Sunday dawned calmer but with a cool 13 knot breeze from the north west bringing overcast but dry conditions into the Solent.

The Committee boat set a start line at Maraval, south east of Hill Head buoy, and described a course around the Central Solent avoiding all the other fleets that had been storm bound the previous day but were out taking advantage of the sailable conditions. After a beat to the entrance of Southampton Water, the fleet had a spinnaker reach past Calshot to Stanswood Bay, then a downwind run to Osborne Bay, a beat back to the south of the Bramble Bank, a run back to Osborne Bay, then a reach across the Ryde Middle Bank through some 60 Warsash Spring Series boats to East Bramble, ending with a short beat against the tide to finish at Maraval.

The four classes started on schedule and the line was clear for each start. In fact, the line continued to be clear for some time after each start. Well, it was the first double handed race of the season.

Magec in Class 3 had the whole of the start line to themselves, but the other classes had up to 6 boats, as 15 double handed enthusiasts braved the morning's chill wind. Once away, the leaders started to pull clear and were soon reaching across to Royal Thames helped by the last of the ebb. Classes 1 and 3 had a good long spinnaker run to Peel Bank, although J-Dream decided to retire at that stage and sailed home. By the time Class 1 had finished the beat back to RORC, High Jinks in Class 2 had overtaken their tail enders.



After the final run to Colette, the fleet reached across the Ryde Middle Bank weaving their way through all the Warsash Spring Series boats as well as some Fast 40s that had appeared there as well. Arriving unscathed at East Bramble, Jo Jo Gunne radioed to announce they were a mile from the finish and proceeded to take line honours at 13:00 hrs after racing for nearly 3 hours.

The last boat home was Tudor Rose III at 14:05 hrs but everyone was happy to have managed to race the first double handed of the season after the stormy conditions of the previous day.

Thanks go to the Race Management Team of Dave Martin and Jan and Neil Cox, without whom the rescheduled race would not have been possible. To celebrate, a chocolate Easter Egg was cracked open with a winch handle in appropriate nautical style.



For the link to more photos, go to:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d3vb1oybt3hpnj/AAD16OHNhKxGDIINnkzmLE_Xa?dl=0

We look forward to seeing everyone again for the next race in the Double Handed series, the West Princessa Double on Saturday 25th May. Meanwhile, the Thursday evening Twilight Series of 6 races starts on 16th May.

Tina Scott
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