



Race Report – Summer Series Race 3

Who'd be a race officer?

The winds in Southampton Water for this Summer Series have certainly been testing. Race 1 saw a very patch and shifty SW'ly. Race 2 had to be abandoned when we simply couldn't get started under a line of black cloud.

Race 3 saw a different challenge. The gradient was due to be in the north but there was a sea breeze south of us. Just after the time check the RC explained to the competitors that since 5.30 the wind had been up constantly up and down between 5 or 6 knots or nothing, and anywhere between north and west. But when the breeze did pick up it was pretty consistently from the NW and so that was the course we set between Netley Buoy (7Q) and After Barn (7W) with the RC in the middle.

The course was 7Q to Port, 7R pass to starboard, 7W to port, through the line and twice around. The passing mark still allowed boats to get out into the ebb tide but gave the RC a extra mark at which to record times in case of the need to call a retrospective finish in the very light breeze.

At the warning signal there was a 7 knot breeze from the NW and the plan was looking OK but then it all fell apart

The boats managed to clear the line in around 3-4 knots of breeze. The choice was then to go inshore out of the building ebb of stay out where there might be more breeze. Boats made their choices and were pretty evenly split. That was when the breeze fell away to virtually nothing and the battle was to made any headway at all. At 7.20, 15 minutes after the start the breeze did start to pick up but it favoured the boats on the left hand side of the course.

By 7.30 the breeze was up to 10 knots and boats were underway again but that breeze was firmly in the west and the course had become a reach between the marks. The boats that went inshore at the start were left following those that stayed out and the positions hardly changed.

Due to the short course in a stronger than expected breeze it was a shorter race than intended.

So much for the best laid plans! There were at least quite a few smiles at the finish. Including from Glass Onion who's watches may have been on some other time zone and regrettably started too late to be given a result.

See the results pages for the detailed results.

Thanks to the race team
Julia Smith and Brian Hinde on the Hound and
Ginny Bennett and Nathan Hamilton on the RIB

Bob Trimble

1 Love in a Mist	Eric Williams
2 Jybe Talkin	Chris Burleigh
3 Antidote	Steven Haywood
4 R&W	Andy Hamilton
5 Tearaway	Bob Gardner
6 Magec	Mike Garvey
7 A Little Jollity	Piotr Nahajski