



Race Report – West Princessa

It was overcast and calm when Sabrina, our committee boat, left Mercury Marina to head out to the starting area off Hill Head. We were fully aware of the lack of depth at several marks due to being low water springs.

4-5 Knots from the NNE greeted us so we began the sequence. However, the sun came through and the wind dropped to nothing forcing us to postpone the start for half an hour. Patience paid off and Classes 1 and 3 got away at 1000 followed by Class 2.

With a good east going tide the fleet would get to Bembridge to meet a foul tide to West Princessa. The fleet were requested to take their times there to allow for retrospective shortening if necessary. Once round, the wind started to build from the north and the now favourable west going tide encouraged us that all would be able to finish at Hamble Yacht Services (4V)

The wind continued to build during the afternoon, giving a lively beat to the finish. Extra excitement was provided by a large fleet also using 4V as a turning mark at the same time.

Akarana 4 had line honours and maintained 1st place on corrected time with Brendas J and Azygos completing the podium for Class 1. Marmalade, Mandarin and Cloud Nine were 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Class 2 with Sailfish and Mint Julep completing the line up for Class 3.

We were delighted that all fourteen starters completed the twenty four miles before the wind rose above twenty knots and the temperature plummeted.

My thanks to Dave, Sue, Angela and Jan and of course all the competitors who turned out.

Neil Cox - Race Officer