



Ray Maki Series – Race 3 Nov 5, 2011

Grass Beds to No 3 West Channel and again!!

Wot a great day for a sail...all the crews were congregating at QHPL harbour for the good news on the weather....light winds and a beautiful day for racing!

Our OOD in Ian and Bev Lee had the scones and thermos of tea ready in anticipation of a quiet afternoon "watching the boats go by!"

Our lady Commodore Jill opened with news and events before handing to the Sailing Captain in Ian Curtis who announced a windward and return from Grass Beds to No 3 West Channel and a port hand course to boot!



Six skippers took the challenge in Sundance, Chinon, Tiercel, Tintagel, Ariel and Kinsale through 3 divisions.

As predicted at the "kick off" time of 1330 the fleet was circling and our Tintagel took off like a startled Gazelle taking an inside line against the shore, ticking off the yellow buoys marking the infringement zone of DoD....noting that a few black shirts lurked in the bushes close to the shore observing their movements.

Second division with Chinon, Tiercel and Ariel made good ground with the "new kid on the block" in Tiercel under the helm of Dr Colin Gibbs, trying to hide a new bit of kit against the big boys!

Colin timed his start with perfection and immediately tested our Steve in Chinon as he flew down the course....

Last but not least our lads with the challenge in Sundance and Kinsale pounced from Div 3 ready to take the young lads in front should they falter!

The first leg showed a great turn of speed by Tiercel in the light conditions of near 10 knots maintaining first position and making No3 first with a nose ahead of Sundance and Chinon close on Colin's heels.

The tide was only providing a mild influence (thank goodness!) and spinnakers cracked on the return to Grass Beds. At Grass Beds the fleet settled into a



rhythm with Sundance leading the second lap, Chinon and Steve following and Tiercel taking the third placing ahead of Doug in Kinsale, Peter in Ariel and lastly Colin and Ian in Tintagel.

Nothing changed on the second lap of course with a freight train of yachts making their way around the buoys and looking for wind that might have made a difference....not to be!

At the end the line honours went to JB in Sundance with Chinon and Steve second followed by Kinsale and Doug ahead of a close finishing Colin in Tiercel. The last two to finish and looking close was Ariel and Tintagel.



And the results showed the test of the race in such light conditions with Chinon in first place (congrats to Steve), Sundance in second and a mighty effort from Colin Gibbs in Tiercel saw him take out third!

Thanks to Ian and Bev as they toasted the winners with their tea and scones and for a course that had everyone guessing as to the final winner!

AND now to Opening Day at the club House tomorrow . . . we should see some challenges as the crews tuck into some delightful food prepared for the occasionthanks to the committee once again!

