

Norwich Model Yacht Club

Newsletter No.9

Whitlingham Cup Open Meeting for RM's

Saturday 6th April 2019

Eleven skippers came to the line from four different clubs in the Eastern Region. There were no entries from outside the region this year, no doubt due to the event not being classified as a ranking race this year. This however did not detract from the event as all skippers were familiar with each other and their boats bringing a level of camaraderie that does our sport a great deal of good especially to the many casual walkers and families around Whitlingham country park.

The Race Officer was Richard Buxton (aka, Rick), ably assisted by Mark Quayle, Andy Francis and all scoring by Beryl who also acted as official photographer.

The weather although with 100% cloud cover gave a good (but cold) East North East breeze with a promise of strengthening winds (which never materialised). The top skippers also the more experienced sailed with their A swing rigs all day whilst a few started out in B rig hoping the fresh breeze would become even fresher!

Entries:

Alan Bright	Norwich MYC	Sail No.10	Ellipsis M
Vinnie Zammit	Norwich MYC	Sail No. 17	Quark
David Perkins	Cambridge	Sail No. 71	Nioutram
Graham Nelson	Norwich MYC	Sail No. 14	Starkers Cubed
Ian Self	Norwich MYC	Sail No. 85	Starkers Cubed
Duncan Ellis	Norwich MYC	Sail No. 37	Grundge
Robert Owen	Norwich MYC	Sail No. 12	Goth
Eric Curtis	Broads RYC	Sail No. 89	Goth
Michael Howard	Broads RYC	Sail No. 31	?
Colin Goodman	Chelmsford	Sail No. 61	Grundge
Neil Cousins	Broads RYC	Sail No. 78	Monarch

The course that was set was a long challenging one of two laps starting with a long beat to the windward mark rounding to port with a short wing leg the a very long run to a leeward gate, on the final lap after rounding the leeward gate there was a short beat to the finish line.

Racing took the pattern of two races back to back followed by a short 4-5 minute break to allow skippers the chance to do those inevitable tweaks to try and get that little more boat speed or alter the handling.

The interesting feature of the morning session was Vinnie hitting a total seven marks, none of which it might be added were marks of the course! With Vinnie taking responsibility for laying the club buoys you could be forgiven for thinking he knew where they were!



Skippers concentrate during the start countdown, closely watched by the R.O. (centre)

After lunch almost everyone sailed in A rigs as the strong winds had not arrived. There were few incidents during the day and those that were called, usually for starting early or hitting a mark of the course were acknowledged by skippers and penalties completed where necessary. Eric and Ian retired during the afternoon. The only real collision of the day occurred when Vinnie on port collided with Ian's boat and broke the mainsheet of Ian's boat, necessitating use of the dinghy to recover it. Vinnie acknowledged his error and withdrew from that race. Ian was able to effect a



quick repair and continue racing.

Shortly after the start.

Racing finished pretty much as scheduled just before 4.00 pm after twenty races had been completed, largely due to the excellent race management by Rick and his team.

The full result can be seen on the official Norwich RYC website (nmyc.org.uk) , but the main leaders were:

- 1st Colin Goodman
- 2nd Duncan Ellis
- 3rd Vinnie Zammit



Colin Goodman accepting the winners bottle of wine from Vinnie (closely watched by Lulu and Ozzie!)

I think it is fair to say that everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day, even Beryl who nearly froze to death in the cold wind (thanks to Andy for looking after her!)

The organisation was efficient and racing although at times hectic was what all the skippers had signed up for so twenty races certainly filled the bill.

Alan Bright.