

Norman Moore 2011

Disturbed from its normal position over the May bank holiday by an early Points Week, the Norman Moore this year was at the end of August, with the fleet now all on top of the new rig and in competitive form. The event brought out 20 boats for some great racing under the direction of PRO David Priscott who set us a series of windward leeward courses.

Race 1 – Saturday started with a force 3 and a long course over to Mill Rythe – a good beat saw four boats – *Migrant*, *Bluff*, *Skua* and *Gwaihir* – break away with *Gwaihir* getting the shifts right on the second beat to take the gun.

Race 2 – the wind had come up, the ebb was in full flow to give choppy conditions and the depth had dropped, so we had a tricky course between East Head and Freddie Brooks. *Gwaihir* showed everyone the way from the start. *Solitude* worked through to second and opted to gybe out of the tide on round 2, rather than run by the lee, and showed everyone how far onto the Stocker bank you can get on a spinnaker reach; *Cockersootie* tried the same trick and also recovered from missing Snowhill mark first time round to finish second; Kit Glover in *Darter* was less fortunate losing second place through missing Copyhold.

Race 3 – the PRO had promised a long morning race a delivered with a two and a half hour marathon between East Head and Channel – it all looked to be decided by half way up the first beat with *Swift*, *Cockersootie*, *Darter* and *Buccaneer* taking the left hand route but *Gwaihir* had other ideas and found a big shift under a dark cloud on the second beat to pull up to third

Race 4 – again the wind over tide had built up a vicious sea and a brisk race was sailed at the top of the Itchenor reach – *Cockersootie* started well and sailed away for a win, with *Gwaihir* slipping past *Skua* to take second place

Race 5 – *Cockersootie* had done enough to require *Gwaihir* to sail despite contrary orders from ashore – but *Gwaihir* made it all look easy, drawing ahead on a first beat over to Channel, never to be challenged again. *Bluff* was out again to take second place.

Overall then, *Gwaihir* won convincingly with *Cockersootie* in second and *Skua* third.

Musings:

- What could *Cockersootie* have done if they had started the first race with the rest of the fleet?
- And how long can *Cockersootie* remain a Swan?

- A man was seen aloft on Swift dropping the spinnaker – will this set a new trend?
- An excellent dinner and mid-season prize giving on Saturday night