

## **The Deep End Trophy**

Remember the summer? Those fabulous warm sunny days that embraced the Easter weekend and encouraged 16 Swallows to contest the opening day of the two day, four race – and critically all to count – Deep End Trophy, the first of the year.

There were some interesting dynamics to the final result, at the end of the first day the (Hyde-powered Bluff headed the leader board and the now somewhat lighter Swift (12.5 kg of antifouling removed during the winter!) was 2<sup>nd</sup>. Swift did not sail again but their results were sufficient to secure the Swan 1<sup>st</sup> prize (Jon a Swan?!). Despite surrendering their lead on Sunday morning when Bluff momentarily hit a bump near Astra, that 2<sup>nd</sup> place further advanced Bluff in the direction of the Trophy. However that was the point they bowed out to join their young families for Easter lunch.

The finale was a light (to non-existent) wind affair with the strong tides holding back the trophy contenders as they endeavoured to round the Pilsley Post, some even drifting back inside the post and over the stakes after rounding. There was also a pivotal moment (literally) when Gwaihir sought to pass inside Buccaneer at the post. We are all the wiser for the subsequent examination of the issues! The day actually belonged to Marengo, helmed by Kit Glover who claimed two wins. Gwaihir was ever-present at the front throughout the weekend and that consistency gave them a 1 point victory over Marengo.

1<sup>st</sup> Gwaihir (Mike Wigmore, Mark and Rachel Struckett)

2<sup>nd</sup> Marengo (Kit and Tony Glover, Sarah Varvill, Richard Jackson) – and the Easter Eggs

3<sup>rd</sup> Buccaneer (Mike and Bettine Bond, Steve Hammett)

### **Brass tacks**

- What if Swift had sailed on Sunday, and Bluff (Hugo Fisher and Alastair Langhorne) had continued on Sunday afternoon? What if 3 races rather than all 4 had counted (Marengo would have won)?
- Bluff is a light wind flyer – there were occasional benefits to being just 2 up but Swift defied that on Saturday.
- There is no commonality yet in the approach to jib sheeting – just an emerging view that the sail does not need to be sheeted quite as far forward as previously thought?
- Do check the rule book as to what is and what is not an obstruction.
- So many red faces (obviously nothing more than sunburn).