

## **TW3/10**

(That was the (Points) Week that was).

### **The Buccaneer Trophy**

The bullet points:

- *Gwaihir*
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- but not forgetting *Skua*, *Darter* and *Marengo* who also managed a bullet apiece.

So what do you want? Cool, generally cruddy weather with oodles of breeze everyday or bright warm sunshine with zephyrs? The coldest August for 17 years delivered the former but the quality of racing on the top of the spring tides, master-minded by Roger Wickens and his ace team, was never compromised by the unseasonal weather and gave us excellent races in different course areas that resulted in us rounding all but 3 of the harbour marks during the five day extravaganza (and that despite the abundant use of inflatable marks as well). It was gruelling and great, relentless and raucous – both on and off the water.

### **Results**

1st *Gwaihir* (Mike Wigmore, Charles Hyatt and Rachael Struckett - 13

2nd *Marengo* (the CBeebies , Carolyn Brigg, Sue Glover and Christine Graves) 18

3rd *Skua* (Harry Roome, Mark Chilton, Lavinia Massey, Jonny Miller, Tim etc) 20

4th *Migrant* (Charles Fisher, Richard and Carol (sometimes), Hugo (once) etc 23

5<sup>th</sup> *Darter* (Tony Glover, Richard and Linda Jackson) 26

Mid-fleet prize: *Whimbrel* (Peter Snell, Michael Cover)

### **Noted in passing (or when being passed)**

- 25 boats took part during the week, the weather and fatigue taking it's toll at various points. Good to see *Quetzal* (K61!) out and about once again.
- To qualify to sail on *Gwaihir* you need to have sailed round something recently – Mike (Round Britain), Charles (the World). Still trying to work out how Rachael made it (other than being a brilliant spinnaker trimmer/tactician/harbour specialist etc).
- In R1 accepted wisdom was to cross over to the Pilsey/Thorney shore and plod along for the 1.25 mile beat to Mill Rythe in slacker tide and in 1.5m of water. 4 boats took the E Head route. There was just 10 metres in it between the first two at M – one from each.
- Tuesday's thrash in the Gallon Reach (a spectators' dream – the whole village was on the bank) was tricky enough with just one fleet and by the time we were also mixing it with the X's it was quite frenetic. The race belonged to *Skua* and in particular to 12 year old Jonny Miller (s/o George) who had been drafted in as a last minute sub to sail his very first Swallow race and did not want to yield the spinnaker sheet - even in F7. Bravo and welcome!
- For the second consecutive year finding Gardner proved the undoing of a race leader – this time *Buccaneer* surrendered a comfortable lead to *Marengo* by over-standing.

- Thursday's b2b races were expertly packaged such that we finished at Lowles (and could have re-started immediately from the pre-laid line to port of Betivuka) but the swinging breeze dictated a move to Pivot which resulted in one of the most interesting and technical races of the week.
- After having failed to note the relocation of the leeward mark on Tuesday morning, *Gwaihir* needed to lose the resultant 13<sup>th</sup> place and finish four points clear of the next boat on Friday to win. A cautious start, a couple of safe tacks – and they're leading at the inflatable in the Thorney channel entrance- and just kept on extending! End of. Fun to get to go to both Calvert and Treloar in that same race and amusing to observe *Marengo*'s last throw of the dice by taking a monstrous flyer over to E Head (which actually did no harm).

### **The social whirl**

- The attendance figures speak for themselves: 170 at Simon and Belinda's opening soiree, 80 at the Festival theatre for 42<sup>nd</sup> St (still humming and tapping *Lullaby Of Broadway!*), 185 for the hog roast and jazz on Wednesday (such amazing resilience and resourcefulness by the organisers to relocate when the arrival of the monsoon was confirmed), 120 (Swallow only) at the Perry's ab fab drinks in Apuldram and 100 for the concluding Red, White and Blue 'not a prizegiving' dinner. Well done and thank you to Liz, Anne, Claire and Sarah for all their hard work (and not forgetting Graham), and to our hosts for their splendid hospitality and generosity.

### **In case you didn't even know**

- There appears to be a convention (akin to TMS) of competitors baking a cake for the team on *Betivuka*. *Skua* kindly did so on Wednesday – but it didn't save them from the guillotine for missing out the final windward inflatable that very same day.
- John H (you should do PW) very kindly lent *Avocet* to Jon P and his team after *Swift* was damaged beyond immediate repair on Tuesday.
- You thought the final run of the last race to Treloar was exciting? So exciting that Caroline M was on the blower to her daughter about a new job prospect, Richard J was concluding the sale of his house and Rachael S was getting the latest cricket info from the Test at Lords. Really!
- After their debut at the Edinburgh Fringe, Caroline Clarke and Sarah Varvill (with Dudley Howard supporting) gave extracts from their comedy routine 'One fine day' to a select audience in the early hours of Saturday morning. They are available for weddings, bar mitzvahs, boat launches etc.
- The REAR Commodore (Sailing). Ask the afore-mentioned Dudley for the lurid details.
- PW 2011 will be in June, or possibly July, or even August, or maybe September.