

**MARLOWE CUP
RACE REPORT
Saturday 19th May 2018**

On a wonderful warm sunny day, with a blue sky, some 9 boats came to the club line off the Shrape for the start of the Marlowe Cup. There were mutterings among the helmsmen beforehand, as they made their way from the club pontoon to their boats, that there was no wind, the tide would not turn west in time, had they brought enough food, thus revealing the typical concerns of the cruising sailor. And yet, on the line, a gentle wind from the east came in ready for the start of the race.

Mike Palette, as Race Officer, raised the tension by announcing over the radio that they were racing for the 85TH Marlowe Cup, it having been presented to the Club in 1933.

The fleet consisted of a good cross section of the club boats: 'Reasons to be cheerful' (Rick White) a mini tonner race boat, had her spinnaker ready to set, lots of control lines everywhere, ready to tweak for that extra speed, staying close to the start line for a quick getaway, and in comparison, DenebK (Joe Moore), a lovely Gaff rigged boat complete with beautifully set topsail, sailed serenely to the start. With one minute to go the fleet bunched on the line, with the Commodore in Mana (Torsten Richter) extremely close to the line, eager to keep the trophy he won last year. There was only one boat on the wrong side of the line, Aphelion (Conal Grier), who for technical reasons we understand, was facing the wrong way.

At the gun everybody was away to the west, a close fleet, with Zulu (Jill and Nick Bredon) and Tarim (Ivan Kirk) setting sails well and looking very smart. Tideline (Mike Tenucci) in pursuit of the leaders, and Gina of Poole (David Nixon) supervising from astern. As the fleet closed on Gurnard, the first mark, 'Reasons' had her spinnaker set leading the way.

The race team then retired to catch up with the other big event of the day, a popular wedding at Windsor.

The first boat to finish at Berthon was 'Reasons' at 15.13.18, taking line honours, followed by 'Aphelion' some 2 minutes later, having made up time after their technical delay at the start.

However, neither boat could save their time to the small cruisers, with Melody (Jane Paull) edging Mana (Torsten) into second place and Tideline (Mike Tenucci) a respectable third, on corrected time. Gina of Poole (David Nixon), having had a most enjoyable sail, was the last to finish at 16.10.

Interestingly, Jane Paull apologised to me the week before, when I had to chase her for her entry form, she said she had had a senior moment, and thought that she had entered. So well done to Melody, and hopefully everybody had an enjoyable sail.

John Garlick

Rear Commodore Sailing

THE SOCIAL SIDE

Normally, competitors make the round trip back to East Cowes or spend the night in Lymington. Mike's Tideline had a mind of her own and ended-up anchoring off Hurst.

Mike was going full-out past the finish line and then, as he rounded up, the starboard jib sheet wrapped round the rigging and the sheet's stopper knot shook itself undone.

The current was sweeping Tideline towards the Hurst narrows. By the time Mike had sorted himself out, Tideline was nearly in the lee of Hurst spit. He bowed to the inevitable, dropped the hook in a fathom or so of water, made a cup of tea and enjoyed the afternoon sun.

Boats berthed in Lymington were Aphelion, Gina, Melody, Tarim and Zulu.

Generally, crews from ECSC find their way to Lymington Town Sailing Club sooner or later.

In this instance, Jane from Melody organised a table for us at the club. Although the club was busy with several functions, they made us very welcome.

There was a fine selection of reasonably priced and beautifully prepared food together with a well stocked bar. The view from the club is outstanding and we spent an enjoyable few hours in company as the light faded.

oOo