

Report of the 72nd Shetland Inter-Club Regatta

Lerwick wins the Memorial Cup in breezy conditions.

In time honoured tradition the 72nd Inter-club Regatta had to dodge a series of heavy weather fronts to complete a programme of twenty races, hair raising at times, spread out over seven days. Sailed in a spirit of good fun and high competition, seventeen boats succeeded in lifting trophies. The main highlight of the event was Lerwick's victory over rivals Whalsay in the Memorial Cup team race, after seven long years of sterling effort.

The annual Inter-club Regatta began on 10th August, a fine sunny morning with light winds for the Mirror dinghy competitors. Close racing in the near calm conditions meant that the prizes were shared very evenly. The first race for the aptly named Mirror Trophy was won by Foraness, crewed by Calum Fraser and Alfie Duncan, with Blue Tack, crewed by James Phillips and Jayden Moore, second and Galta, Willum Leask and Haaki Drakeford, in third place. Nautilus, crewed by Alec Sinclair and Liam Moore, then won the Bertie Mowat Memorial Trophy with Nellie Bly, crewed by Ruth Morris and Robyn Laurenson, second and Heogan, crewed by Lois Phillips and Mark Goudie, third. The third race for the Association Cup was won by Heogan, followed by Foraness and then Nellie Bly. This was also the first team race and the points were shared equally by the three competing teams: Lerwick, Sandwick and Waas/Lerwick, all on sixteen points.

Mirror Trophy

1. Foraness – Calum Fraser and Alfie Duncan
2. Blue Tack- James Phillips and Jayden Moore
3. Galta – Willum Leask and Haaki Drakeford

Bertie Mowat Memorial Cup

1. Nautilus – Alec Sinclair and Liam Moore
2. Nellie Bly – Ruth Morris and Robyn Laurenson
3. Heogan – Lois Phillips and Mark Goudie

S.I.Y. Association Cup (Team Race One)

1. Heogan – Lois Phillips and Mark Goudie
2. Foraness – Calum Fraser and Alfie Duncan
3. Nellie Bly – Ruth Morris and Robyn Laurenson

After no wind on Saturday afternoon and a near gale through the day on Sunday, the dinghy racing was postponed until Sunday evening. Five crews were prepared to

brave the still very demanding conditions. The course was set at the Leiraness shore. These were Fireball conditions and proved to be a masterclass from White Lightning, helmed by Willum Mouat, as they dominated the session winning all three races. Flying Fifteen All or Nothing, helmed by Brian Wishart, hung on to take a third and two seconds. All five competitors took at least one place in the session.

Scalloway Boating Club Trophy

1. White Lightning – Willum Mouat
2. Firewall – David Grant
3. All or Nothing – Brian Wishart

LHD Cup (Team Race One)

1. White Lightning – Willum Mouat
2. All or Nothing – Brian Wishart
3. Under Pressure – Kenny Leask

Adamson Cup (Team Race Two)

1. White Lightning – Willum Mouat
2. All or Nothing – Brian Wishart
3. Ffoo Fighter – Tommy Allan

With the weekend programme shattered by the calms and gales, the final dinghy session was shifted to Tuesday evening. In the much more moderate sailing conditions, a course was set in Breiwick just south of the Knab.. With White Lightning unable to plane consistently in the lighter winds, the stronger performances came from the Flying Fifteens and the Albacore Ondine, helmed by David Thomson. Tommy and John Allan in Flying Fifteen Ffoo Fighter sailed a flawless first race to win the Unst Dinghy Trophy with All or Nothing in second place and Ondine in third place. The rest of the evening belonged to All or Nothing which, with bang on starting and the highest standard of sailing tactics, won both the Thulecraft Cup and the P&O Dinghy Trophy. Ondine was only four seconds adrift of first place in the third race after sailing to a very high standard all evening. After both sessions were counted All or Nothing was the best performing dinghy and won the Creuster Cup. The team race was won on maximum points by All or Nothing and White Lightning.

Unst Dinghy Trophy

1. Ffoo Fighter- Tommy Allan
2. All or Nothing – Brian Wishart
3. Ondine – David Thomson

Thulecraft Cup

1. All or Nothing – Brian Wishart
2. Ondine – David Thomson
3. Under Pressure – Kenny Leask

P&O Dinghy Trophy

1. All or Nothing – Brian Wishart
2. Ondine – David Thomson
3. Under Pressure – Kenny Leask

The Dipping Lug is the most traditional of sail racing with its roots away back in the time when the square sail was routinely used by most inshore fishing boats in Shetland. Modern racing boats are very different but the rig is still a relatively simple affair. The Dipping Lug races took place on the afternoon of Wednesday 14th August. Race one for the Stout Cup was remarkable for two incidents. On the first beat Styooch, skippered by Michael Tait, hit Vielmar, helmed by David Thomson, in a port/starboard situation and had to take two penalty turns which is far from easy with a lugsail, leaving Styooch a distant third. Styooch was sailing well and was able to pass Vielmar later in the race but was still a long way behind Krak-At, helmed by Jim Tait. However a broken shackle on Krak-At's shroud meant that they were unable to react to a wind shift on the last beat until the repair was made. Styooch took advantage to win that race and then took an early unassailable lead in the race for the Theodore Andrew Cup. Finally Krak-At's day improved with a sound victory in the third race for the Murray Cup.

Stout Cup

1. Styooch – Michael Tait
2. Krak-At – Jim Tait
3. Vielmar – David Thomson

Theodore Andrew Trophy

1. Styooch – Michael Tait
2. Krak-At – Jim Tait
3. Vielmar – David Thomson

Murray Cup

1. Krak-At – Jim Tait
2. Styooch – Michael Tait
3. Vielmar – David Thomson

The Shetland Model sailing began on Thursday evening with a rearranged programme owing to the poor forecast for Friday. It was decided to open the sailing with the first team race. Starting at Ham in a moderate westerly wind, the Lerwick boats Chicane, skippered by Brydon Leask and Solus, skippered by Michael Tait, built on a strong first windward leg to hold their positions at the finish with Whalsay's Firestorm, skippered by Andy Hutchison, in third place just ahead of team mate Comet, skippered by Lawrence Irvine. Vela, skippered by Scott Nicolson, held off Tek-Sing, skippered by Mark Arthur to claim fifth place for Lerwick. This all meant that Lerwick led Whalsay by 8 points to 13 (low scoring system). The race for the non teamed boats was won by Sarepta, skippered by Christopher Irvine, with Verve, skippered by Steve Pottinger, in second place.

Whalsay Boating Club Trophy One (first team race)

1. Chicane – Brydon Leask
2. Solus- Michael Tait
3. Firestorm – Andy Hutchison
4. Comet – Laurence Irvine
5. Vela – Scott Nicolson
6. Tek-Sing – Mark Arthur

Challenge Race Trophy

1. Sarepta – Christopher Irvine
2. Verve – Steve Pottinger

The North Challenge Cup had been rearranged to Friday morning and the course was set in the middle harbour to avoid the worst of the high winds in the north and south harbours. Comet won from Chicane in second place and Tek-Sing in third place. By the end of the race the sailing conditions were so severe that racing had to be abandoned for the rest of the day and competitors were advised that an early start would be made on Saturday to complete some of Friday's missed races.

North Challenge Cup

1. Comet – Lawrence Irvine
2. Chicane – Brydon Leask
3. Tek-Sing – Mark Arthur

Saturday 17th August came in like the proverbial lamb and very definitely went out like a lion. The Mirror dinghy sailing was delayed for a time due to calm conditions but then proceeded well as a light air developed. As the wind increased so too did the performance of the young Lerwick sailors. Foraness, sailed once more by Calum Fraser and Alfie Duncan won all three races with Kebister, crewed by Jess Fraser and Freya Tait consistently second. Blue Tack, crewed by James Phillips and Mark Goudie, took two thirds while Heogan, this time crewed by Jonathan Goudie and Zander Stout gained the other third place. These efforts also meant that Lerwick swept the Commodore's Cup for the team race. Foraness won the North Roe Cup for the best performing Mirror.

Jeanette Williamson Memorial Trophy

1. Foraness – Calum Fraser and Alfie Duncan
2. Kebister – Jess Fraser and Freya Tait
3. Blue Tack – James Phillips and Mark Goudie

Harry's Cup (Team Race Two)

1. Foraness – Calum Fraser and Alfie Duncan
2. Kebister – Jess Fraser and Freya Tait
3. Heogan – Jonathan Goudie and Zander Stout

Breiwick Cup

1. Foraness – Calum Fraser and Alfie Duncan
2. Kebister – Jess Fraser and Freya Tait
3. Blue Tack – James Phillips and Mark Goudie

Starting early on Saturday, the Shetland Models had also endured a drifting match in the south harbour for the John Stewart Trophy. Eventually the race was concluded after a single triangle and Serepta won from Comet with Solus in third place. As the wind had increased by that time an immediate start was made to the Smith Cup and this time it was Solus that won ahead of Vela with Comet in third place. And then the real fun began. "Carnage" was the expression most aptly used to describe the afternoon races for the non-team Andrew Johnson Trophy and the second team race. The freshening breeze had reached a force five, gusting six and seven and had backed more westerly. Starting at Leiranness, the competitors for the non-team trophy were all unable to complete the first triangle of the course and either retired following capsizes or abandoned due to the conditions. The team race fared a little better but at one stage only the two leading boats were sailing as the others tried to recover capsizes on the downwind legs and the gybing mark. Three boats managed to get going again but one had to retire due to an injury. Comet prevailed to win for

Whalsay but the next three places went to Lerwick's Solus, Vela and Chicane. Tek-Sing completed in fifth place. This result meant that Lerwick was the victor in the Memorial Cup after a race where getting crews ashore safely had become the higher priority.

John Stewart Trophy

1. Sarepta – Christopher Irvine
2. Comet – Lawrence Irvine
3. Solus – Michael Tait

Smith Cup

1. Solus – Michael Tait
2. Vela – Scott Nicolson
3. Comet – Lawrence Irvine

Whalsay Boating Club Trophy Two (second team race)

1. Comet – Lawrence Irvine
2. Solus – Michael Tait
3. Vela – Scott Nicolson
4. Chicane – Brydon Leask
5. Tek- Sing – Mark Arthur

After the Regatta had concluded Roger Goudie, Inter-Club Commodore, expressed his thanks to the rescue boat crews, the race officers, the competitors and all the helpers for a very successful regatta, despite so many changes to the sailing programme. He particularly thanked Greig Seafood Shetland Limited and the Lerwick Port Authority for their generous sponsorships which enabled the regatta to go ahead.

Performance Trophies

Devon Bowl	Best Shetland Model in the Smith Cup, North Challenge Cup and the Johns Stewart Trophy	Comet
Linklater Cup	Best Shetland Model over the North Challenge Cup and the John Stewart Trophy	Comet
Cruester Cup	Best Dinghy over five of	All or Nothing

	six races with fast rating	
Lounge Cup	Best Team of two boats over the North Challenge Cup and the John Stewart Trophy	Firestorm and Comet
North Roe Cup	Best Performing Mirror Dinghy	Foraness
International Paints Cup	Best individual boat over the two Shetland Model Team races	Solus
Young Skipper	Best Skipper aged under twenty one	Calum Fraser
Commodore's Cup	Best Mirror Team	Lerwick – Foraness, Kebister and Blue Tack
Noost Dinghy Trophy	Best dinghy with a slow rating	Low Flyer
Scalloway Dinghy Trophy	Best team of two dinghies	White Lightning and All or Nothing
Memorial Cup	Best team of three boats over two team races	Lerwick – Solus, Chicane and Vela