

Shetland Inter-club Yachting Association

Report of the 71st Regatta

11th, 12th, 16th, 17th and 18th August 2018

Yell's Vielmar leads the way at the Inter-club Regatta

The 2018 Inter-Club Regatta was truly that, with five different clubs sharing the trophies. 21 races were sailed, split over two weekends for the first time in the Regatta's 71 year history. The decision to radically alter the sailing programme was taken because of severe weather disruptions in recent years causing numerous races to be cancelled. But this is the Inter-Club and weather disruptions are bound to happen whatever plans are made by the organisers. The final Saturday fell victim to the weather and three races could not be sailed in the gale force conditions that day. Over the two weekends the main highlights were:

- Two Dipping Lug cups for South Yell's Vielmar
- 6 classes of dinghies with a welcome interest from younger sailors
- The most senior sailor, Brian Wishart, 70, is the champion dinghy helm over six races
- Whalsay's Comet wins most but Skirmish is the best performing Shetland Model in the open events
- Ross Fraser and Jayden Moore are be best of the Mirror sailors
- Lerwick, Sandwick, Walls, Whalsay and South Yell Clubs all win cups

It was a slow start to the Regatta on Saturday 11th. Lerwick harbour lay as calm as the ocean was in the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner and there were glum expressions on the organisers' faces until a few ripples began to appear near the Bressay shore. The boats launched and the event began with a delay of an hour. The Dipping Lug competitors faced light and shifting westerly winds, never a good "ert" in Lerwick. High levels of concentration (or sheer luck) are required in light winds and that allowed Vielmar, helmed by Steven Brown, to gain a huge advantage in the first race for the Stout cup to win by a distance from Krak-at, Jim Tait, followed by Kon-Tiki, Laurence Irvine.

Stout Cup

1. Vielmar, S. Brown
2. Krak-at, J. Tait
3. Kon-tiki, L. Irvine

Krak-at took a swift revenge in the second race, keeping to course on the reach from Knab to Leiraness while other competitors played a luffing match in the lee of the cliffs. Krak-at's lead was stretched over the rest of the five mile course.

Theodore Andrew Cup

1. Krak-at, J. Tait
2. Vielmar, S. Brown
3. Styooch, M. Tait

After a short break the third race proved to be the most competitive of the day with only two seconds between the triumphant Vielmar and Kon-tiki in second place. Styooch, Michael Tait came in a close third. This was Vielmar's day and hopefully Steven, stepping out of his Albacore for the occasion, will continue this Yell revival in future years.

Murray Cup

1. Vielmar, S. Brown
2. Kon-tiki, L. Irvine
3. Styooch, M. Tait

The dinghies took to the water in the afternoon. This year there was a welcome upturn in dinghy interest with 6 different classes to provide a better variety in the competition. A Laser, 3 Laser Radials, a Taser and an RS200 joined the usual Fireballs and Flying Fifteens. It is encouraging to see that a number of younger sailors have moved on to the faster dinghies after learning in the Mirrors. But it was still the old hands that set the pace on an Olympic Course sailed in Breiwick. White Lightning, Willum Mowat, was the best on the water that afternoon winning both races after gaining early leads in both. New competitor Luke Bullough, sailing Spree, a Laser Radial, took fourth place in the second race and showed that the old order can be shaken at least a little.

Scalloway Boating Club Trophy

1. White Lightning, W. Mowat
2. All or Nothing, B. Wishart
3. Tidal Fire, S. Nicholson

LHD Cup

1. White Lightning, W. Mowat
2. Firewall, D. Grant
3. Tidal Fire, S. Nicholson

Sunday morning's dinghy racing belonged to the Flying Fifteens in the lighter Easterly wind sailing past Ham into the Bressay shore. David Grant sailed well in

Firewall to take line honours in both races but Under Pressure helmed by Kenny Leask certainly put the Fireballs under pressure to win the cups on corrected time.

Adamson Cup

1. Under Pressure, K. Leask
2. All or Nothing, B. Wishart
3. Firewall, D. Grant

Unst Dinghy Trophy

1. Under Pressure, K. Leask
2. All or Nothing, B. Wishart
3. Firewall, D. Grant

By Sunday afternoon the breeze had picked up a little but was still very shifty. After a lot of consideration the committee decided to stick with the course at Ham. The stronger wind allowed Firewall to have both line honours and victory in the first race. White Lightning set the pace in the second race but Neil's unfortunate slip while adjusting the spinnaker pole caused the Fireball to capsize after the gybing mark. Firewall pursued by Under Pressure and All or Nothing got past but White Lightning was quickly righted and gave immediate chase. Close racing ensued and a foul by Under Pressure on White Lightning as they approached the gybing mark for the second time was a deciding factor in the race. Kenny's penalty turns allowed All or Nothing to pass and to win the race on corrected time.

Thulecraft Cup

1. Firewall, D. Grant
2. White Lightning, W. Mowat
3. Under Pressure, K. Leask

P&O Dinghy Trophy

1. All or Nothing, B. Wishart
2. Under Pressure, K. Leask
3. Firewall, D. Grant

Class Race – Fireballs

1. White Lightning, W. Mowat
2. Tidal Fire, S. Nicolson
3. Firewall, D. Grant

Class Race – Lasers

1. Spree, L. Bullough
 2. Windhelm, J. Fraser
 3. Sparky, A. Marples
- Line Honours Prize – Pier Pressure – B. Hamer

The dinghy sailing was highly competitive over all races. All or Nothing won the Cruister cup for best dinghy over the event with 11 points. Under Pressure and Firewall both recorded 12 points and White Lightning was only 3 points adrift on 14. Laser Radial Spree took the Noost Trophy for best performing slow rated dinghy. Also of note was the continuing improvement of the young Laser sailors over the event with very close racing throughout Sunday.

Spectacular is the only word that can describe the Shetland Model races on the second weekend. The forecast was a windy one and so it came to be. In order to avoid sailing on Saturday, which had a gale forecast, the organisers opted for 2 races on Thursday evening and hoped that the wind would not be too strong on Friday for the rest of the races. The force 5 wind, gusting 6 on Thursday evening led to ridiculously fast sailing in the South Harbour with a few capsizes to match the lumpy conditions. This was grand prix style sailing and many of the competitors said that they had never sailed faster. The longer waterlines of the Whalsay boats helped significantly in the big waves and Comet, Laurence Irvine, powered its way through to the lead by the end of the first circuit, a lead that they built on to the finish.

North Challenge Cup

1. Comet, L. Irvine
2. Skirmish, J. Simpson
3. Solus, B. Leask

In view of the growing sea conditions in the South Harbour, the race committee made a decision to move the course to the Middle Harbour for the Smith Cup. The sea was less but the strong westerly wing was gusting off the town, allowing spectators to watch the “black flans” flatten a number of the competitors. It looked as if Solus had taken an early lead and that none of the Whalsay boats could touch them. Unfortunately the Lerwick boys had been over the start line and were disqualified leaving Comet to prevail once more.

Smith Cup

1. Comet, L. Irvine
2. Velus, S. Nicolson
3. Skirmish, J. Simpson

Friday morning brought in the same windy conditions and a decision was taken to venture back to the South Harbour for first team race and the competition for the non-teamed boats. These races were fast, survival sailing events again and Whalsay were ahead after the team race while the young, more inexperienced crews in Sarepta and Verve did extremely well to complete the non-team course.

Whalsay Boating Club Trophy

1. Comet, L. Irvine
2. Solus, B. Leask
3. Skirmish, J. Simpson

Challenge Race Trophy

1. Sarepta, C. Irvine
2. Verve, S. Pottinger

Following a short break the Race Committee decided to try a course in the North Harbour for the John Stewart Trophy. This time Solus started well without incident , took an early lead, and surged further ahead on the reaching legs in the flatter water. It was clear that some competitors were flagging a bit in the fierce conditions and that Solus would not be caught.

John Stewart Trophy

1. Solus, B. Leask
2. Skirmish, J. Simpson
3. Tek-Sing, M. Arthur

As the wind had picked up so much by the early afternoon a decision was taken to end the Shetland Model competition. Mercifully there had been no injuries and the damage to gear was minor. Skirmish, Johnny Simpson, was the best performing Shetland model over the shortened event and won the Devon Bowl for their efforts.

Mirror sailing took place over both weekends and there was lively competitive racing throughout involving seven dinghies. On the first Saturday James Phillips and Jonathan Goudie sailing Soldian started the regatta best and won the first race from Callum Fraser and Matthew Spence in Foraness. As the wind picked up a little Ross Fraser and Jayden Moore in Heogan sailed well to take the second race from Lois Phillips and Jess Fraser in Blutack. Ross and Jayden then won the third race from Foraness in second place. Two races were sailed the following Sunday with Foraness doing best in the first race to compensate for the two second places on the previous Saturday. Soldian came second. Heogan triumphed again in the second race with Hal Grant and Marc Goudie in Kirkibister gaining second place. Then the wind fell and the midges came out so all the sailors and the helpers were very happy to retreat to the Boating Club for hot dogs. There was a good spread of results over the two weekends with three different winners and five dinghies being placed.

Mirror Dinghy Trophy

1. Soldian, J. Phillips
2. Foraness, C. Fraser
3. Heogan, R. Fraser

Bertie Mowat Trophy

1. Heogan, R. Fraser
2. Blutack, L. Phillips
3. Foraness, C. Fraser

Inter-Club Trophy

1. Heogan, R. Fraser
2. Foraness, C. Fraser
3. Soldian, J. Phillips

Jeanette Williamson Trophy

1. Foraness, C. Fraser
2. Soldian, J. Phillips
3. Heogan, R. Fraser

Harry's Cup

1. Heogan, R. Fraser
2. Kirkibister, H. Grant
3. Foraness, C. Fraser

Heogan, R. Fraser was the best raced Mirror over the regatta and also won the team trophy with Soldian, J. Phillips.

Performance Trophies

Prize	Description	Winners
Linklater Cup	For a boat over the North Challenge Cup and the John Stewart Trophy	Solus, B. Leask
Lounge Cup	For a team of two boats over the North Challenge Cup and the John Stewart Trophy	Tek- Sing, M. Arthur and Skirmish, J. Simpson
Devon Bowl	Best boat in the Smith Cup, North Challenge Cup and the John Stewart Trophy	Skirmish, J. Simpson
Cruister Cup	Best fast handicap dinghy over 5 from 6 races	All or Nothing, B. Wishart
Noost Dinghy Trophy	Best slow handicap dinghy	Spree, Luke Bullough

	over 5 from 6 races	
Scalloway Dinghy Team Race Trophy	For a team of two dinghies over the two dinghy team races	Tidal Fire, S. Nicholson and Firewall, D. Grant
North Roe Cup	Best performing Mirror dinghy over four races	Heogan, R. Fraser
Commodore's Cup	Best team of two Mirrors over the two team races	Heogan, R. Fraser and Soldian, J. Phillips
Young Skipper Trophy	Best helm aged under 21 years	Joe Fraser

At the prize giving Shetland Inter-Club Commodore Roger Goudie thanked all the competitors, race officers, guard boat crews and the Committee for coming together to make such a lively and successful Regatta. Roger also expressed the Committee's gratitude to Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd for their headline sponsorship, which enabled the Regatta to remain on an even keel financially.