

Shetland Inter-Club Yachting Association 69th Regatta

The 69th annual regatta of the Shetland Inter-Club Yachting Association was held in Lerwick between the 8th and 13th of August. As is usual for the Inter-Club regatta there was a lot of wind, but too much at times this year. Shetland's annual four day celebration of sailing sport witnessed high levels of competition, even if the number of entries were a bit lower than expected. The traditional dipping lug races got the Regatta underway on Wednesday afternoon. In the westerly breeze the course for the Stout Cup was set in the South Harbour. The windward leg was from Ham to Breiwick and then downwind to Leiraness. A strongly sailed race from Kon Tiki, helmed by L. Irvine (with Krak-At, J. Tait second and Vielmar, D. Thompson third) left spectators predicting that the next two races would have the same outcome. Those predictions were unfounded as Krak-At judged the second windward leg of the Murray Cup best from Ham and kept clear to win from Kon-Tiki and Styooch, helmed by M. Tait. And in the evening race for the Theodore Andrew Cup it was the improving Styooch that held their handicap in the lighter wind to win from Kon Tiki and Vielmar.

Eleven competitors came to the start of the first dinghy races on Wednesday evening, sailing an Olympic course in the South Harbour. The two races were the Scalloway Boating Club Trophy and the first team race for the LHD Cup. These were well contested and were very close. Fireball Tidal Fire helmed by S. Nicolson won the first by two seconds from Flying Fifteen All or Nothing, helmed by B. Wishart with Fireball White Lightning, helmed by W. Mouatt in third place. The team race was won by White Lightning by eight seconds from All or Nothing with Flying Fifteen Olive Oyl, G. Sandison, finishing third.

By Thursday morning the wind had risen to a demanding force five and it was the dinghies that began the day sailing what became a shortened race in the South Harbour in the southerly wind. The challenging conditions led to numerous capsizes and one retiral so, after thirty minutes of hard and eventful racing, the race was finished with Fireball Black Fantin, helmed by J. Manson the victor for the Adamson Cup (and second team race) from Ffireblade, K. Leask and Fireball Judgement Day, D. Forrest. As the wind had risen so much so quickly and the sea conditions had become difficult the next race for the Unst Dinghy Trophy was shifted into the harbour for more shelter. Sea conditions were better but the wind increased more so the racing was extremely fast, a blast over the sprint sized course. Black Fantin was the winner from Tidal Fire and then White Lightning.

The wind steadied in the early afternoon for the first Shetland Model race, the Smith Cup. Starting at Leiraness the beat was to Ham, then downwind to Pier and a reach to Gardie, repeated twice, finishing at Leiraness. Comet, helmed by L. Irvine was the

only boat to overtake all the lower handicapped competitors and finished first ahead of Solus, helmed by B. Leask and Skirmish, J. Simpson.

A fleet of eleven Mirror dinghies raced for the Mirror Trophy, Bertie Mowat Cup and the first Team Race. Seamew helmed by S. Morris sailed best in the first two races winning from Heogan, J. Fraser and Nautilus, B. Laurenson in the first race and from Heogan and Noness, J. Bell in the second. The Team Race was won by Heogan from Seamew and Nautilus.

Thursday's second Shetland Model race for the North Challenge Cup was sailed on the same course as earlier. The result was also the same as earlier with Comet winning from Solus and Skirmish.

The final race on Thursday was the Dinghy Pursuit race. After seventy minutes had elapsed White Lightning was still just behind Ffireblade leaving the Flying Fifteen as the winner. Tidal Fire was third.

Unfortunately the wind was too strong on Friday and all sailing was eventually cancelled for the day and a much more intensive programme of sailing was planned for Saturday. The opening race on Saturday was for the Shetland Models sailing the John Stewart Trophy in freshening conditions, again in the South Harbour. Solus took full advantage of the higher wind on the first beat and could not be caught downwind by the faster boats. Solus finished first, Comet was second and Skirmish finished third. The result of the next race for the Whalsay Boating Club Trophy was a repeat of the first with Solus winning from Comet, then Skirmish. Leviathan, helmed by G. Williamson won the Challenge Race Trophy, followed by Tek-Sing, M. Arthur and Crusader, C. Irvine.

In the dinghy races, sailed in the harbour, White Lightning won the Thulecraft Cup by one second from Ffireblade with Judgement Day in third place. White Lightning repeated their success by winning the P&O Dinghy Cup, this time by a wider margin of twenty six seconds from Ffireblade with All or Nothing, A. Wishart, in third place.

By the time the Mirrors began to race at 12.00 the wind had picked up again and the six competitors did well to tackle the more demanding elements. The Jeanette Williamson Cup was won by Mousa, helmed by J. Bell, followed by Heogan and Noness, R. Beattie. Only two competitors managed to complete Harry's Cup with Heogan prevailing over Seamew, helmed by R. Morris. These young sailors fared a lot better than the experienced Shetland Model sailors as the worsening conditions for the final team race in the afternoon led to capsizes before the start and the race was called off. On reflection, the race officers and competitors had done very well to pack seven races into the three hour weather window between nine o'clock and midday.

Performance Trophies

Devon Bowl – Comet was the best Shetland model in the Smith Cup, North Challenge Cup and the John Stewart Trophy

Linklater Cup – Solus was the best Shetland Model with restricted measurement over the North Challenge Cup and John Stewart Trophy

Cruister Cup – White Lightning was the best dinghy, with fast handicap, over five of six races.

Lounge Cup – Solus and Comet were the best team of two boats over the North Challenge Cup and John Stewart Trophy

North Roe Cup – Seamew was the best Mirror over three races.

Young Skipper – This was presented to Christopher Irvine, helm of Shetland Model Crusader.

Commodore's Cup – Sandwick were the best Mirror Team.

Noost Dinghy Trophy – The Wizard was the best dinghy, with a slow handicap, over five of six races.

Scalloway Dinghy Trophy – Black Fantin and All or Nothing were the best team of two dinghies.

Shetland Inter-Club Yachting Association Commodore John Abernethy thanked the Lerwick Port Authority and the Lerwick Boating Club for the use of the facilities and then all the competitors, race officers, committee boat and rescue boat handlers, shore staff and committee members for making the regatta a memorable success, despite adverse conditions. He said that, even with the Regatta being shorted by a day and a half, only three races were lost, which showed the effort that everyone had put in. During the Regatta the Commodore had also presented recently retired Committee member and former Commodore John Lowrie Simpson with an engraved tankard to mark his 38 years of valuable service for the Inter-Club.