

The final race of the season turned out to be a cracker. It was well attended with Time Off II, Mary Ritchie, Sandpiper, Quintet, Janner and Gymcrack all taking part.

The morning started out warm, with a Zephyr wafting in from the south. There was plenty of pre-race action, with loins being girded, shouting and reprimands and that was just getting off the pontoon! My sources tell me Don had splashed out on a bottom scrub, I thought Pauline was looking a bit sheepish. As usual the pre-start build up was very tactical with Time Off doing timed runs to the start line, Don arranging his belaying Pins, and Tricky Dickie arranging his beer stocks. I am sure Steve has a remote control to activate the start horn, as he was over bang on time. It was now blowing 15 odd knots, still from the south and Time Off was off like a shot with Mary Ritchie in close pursuit. Meanwhile, Quintet was shadowing (Sic. losing) to Janner, with Ahoy Malloy on Sandpiper and Gymcrack making up the field. At the first mark Steve was way out in front, still with Don gamely hanging on, looking serene in his Gaffer attire. Janner took the long way round allowing Tricky Dickie on Quintet to round the mark ahead. I think Hugh was doing his Bernard Mossiter impression and penning a few poems as he was way back with Gymcrack. With the leaders way out in front, it was down to Janner and Quintet to race for third. Tricky was doing his best 'Ben Ainslie' to keep Janner behind. Steve took line honours by some margin from Don, but I fear once the Gafficap has been applied, Steve will come a lowly sixth. The race for the line with Tricky and Janner was hotting up, and Tricky crossed the line with Janner following very close; once again, Janner will probably be second once Gafficap has been applied dropping Quintet to tied fifth with the Rear Admiral. Hugh and Gymcrack crossed the line to finish a good race.

PS I sense the Nauti-Buoy already sharpening his pencil and ready to pounce for the next batch of irreverent comments about winter racing. Rumour has it, his inspiration for naughtiness is brought on by sleeping in velcro underpants.