

# VICTORY CLASS

Class Sponsors:



Race reports from the 2021 season



The Victory Class at the Island Sailing Club for the Annual Cowes Week Dinner

**3rd April 2021**

Accidental Victory Class season opener as declared by the class captain [Russell Mead](#)





### **13 April 2021 – First Race of the Season - Race 1 - COVID CUP**

In an epic feat of organisation and hard work with such limited time, a fleet of Victories made it to the start line for the first of three races in the Covid Cup, a 2021 special series, and the Taylor Trophy.

OOD was Sid with help from Jim and Clive.

There was a brief postponement, but the course was set-

Line (PSC to Galadriel)

RNC & RAYC

Laid mark (in the vicinity of 2 Bar)

Gate x2

It was a beautiful evening and perfect conditions to remember how to sail a Victory! A south westerly wind of 12 kts decreasing to 5 or so as the sun set. The start was at low water with a strong tide along the wall.

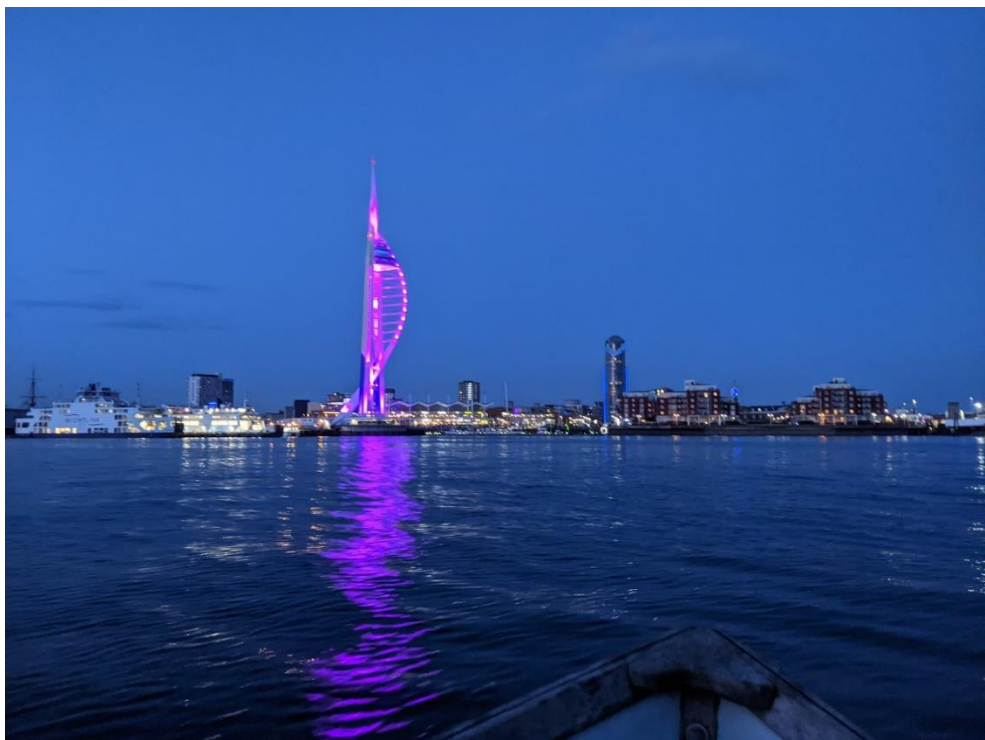
After just managing to complete both laps before the wind and sunlight died, the race was well fought but Z74 won, closely followed by Z80. We rushed back to the Camber in time for last orders at the Bridge Tavern.

Thank you to the OODs for a great welcome back to racing. A strong turnout to the 2021 season but with a few boats still on dry land the fleet is looking very competitive and eager to make up for the lost races in 2020.

The full results-

Z74, Z80, Z75, Z69, Z77, Z71, Z70, Z73 (ret)





### **Thursday 15 April - Race 2 - COVID CUP**

Thursday night and the second instalment of the Covid Cup, only three boats made it to the start line Z75, Z67 and Z74.

OOD was Sid, thank you again!

There was more breeze than expected, 8-10 kts from the NE. The course was a simple windward-leeward with Z67 leading around the first mark.

The final results were -

Z75, Z67, Z74

It was all to play for in the Covid Cup, who would win on Sunday?

### **Saturday 18 April – Race 3 - COVID CUP**

Many a worried sailor was sat on the boom yard wall on Saturday afternoon, remembering Prince Phillip, drinking too much Guinness and wondering if the breeze would be as good for the decider of the Covid Cup. They shouldn't have worried as they were a fresh but decreasing breeze southerly blowing well and creating a lovely chop.

The 4 boats out for the Covid cup soon became three when a rouge harbour entrance wave put end to Z70 outboard. Z69 volunteered to be gate boat and set a windward leeward course between Gleeds and the temporary Suffolk sails (QHM in possession of the real one again) with a start at KB.

James Jopling completed his first ever gate start, and Jim Downing nearly fluffed his by getting very close to the towed fender. Z75 shot off up the first beat followed by z69 and Z67. Much stayed the same for the first lap, but things got slightly interesting in the 2nd. Z67 held Z69 high forcing them to tack. Z67 decided to then sail into every header and lull possible and Z69 were nicely ahead by the end of the 2nd round. Z75 still somewhere in the distance. Z67 banged hard right into a lift on the third beat and clawed back some distance on 69 with both boats going around Gleeds for the final time together. Z69 did more tacks and gybes then necessary at Gleeds and z67 snuck through. Final run and not much changed.

The final results on the water were Z75, Z67 and Z69. More Guinness was consumed after racing.

Well done to Team Zilch for winning the first and hopefully last ever Covid Cup.

### **Saturday 1 May 2021 – Race 3 - HELMSMANS CUP SERIES**

With Big Lizzie the aircraft carrier causing chaos in the harbour entrance it was decided that racing would commence up harbour with Z69, Scam and Max, as OOD and gate boat.

It was due to be a showery, light wind day, but it ended up becoming a torrential downpour with the wind changing direction, dying and then filling in with some stronger puffs at times. There was a strong flood tide pulling the five Victories up to Fareham.

The course was set: Start at V3 - W1(p) - A2(p) - Z1(p) - P(p) - Z1(s) - W3(p) - Finish at B1

Z69 opened the gate and went right up the first beat making their way towards the Hardway moorings with most of the fleet except Z68 who went left. After a short first beat at the first windward (W1) Z68s gamble paid off and they were in the lead flying their spinnaker to A2. Z71 narrowly missed out on making it around the mark but had to put in two extra tacks which mean Z69 snuck in slingshotted themselves towards Z68.

With Z69 and Z71 set on hunting down Z68, Z53 and Z73 were battling in light airs and strong tide through the moorings. The next leg was up to Z1 and then around the corner up to Portchester to find P. Z68 was overtaken by Z69 and Z71, Z71 decided to fly their spinnaker for a short reach whilst Z69 were having mechanical issues onboard.

Around P, Z69 was still in the lead and trying to pull away whilst Z71 took care of their soggy third crew member they were slightly distracted and Z68 closed the gap on them. Around Z1 and then a short leg with the spinnaker to W3, drop, and then head for the finish at B1. It was still close between the front three boats but Z69 sailed well and finished first.

Thankfully the rain had cleared and the sun came out whilst we waited for Big Lizzie to leave the harbour. Gareth acquired some refreshments which were handed out in celebration of a great race up harbour.

Thank you to Z69 for OOD duties, thanks to Z68 (John and Bill) for ferry duties. One quick pint was had in the PSC Boomyard before drying off from a wet, cold but fun day on the water!

Z71 did find an excellent way of stowing children (or inebriated crew!)

1st Z69 Scam and Max

2nd Z71 Gareth, Archie and Zoe

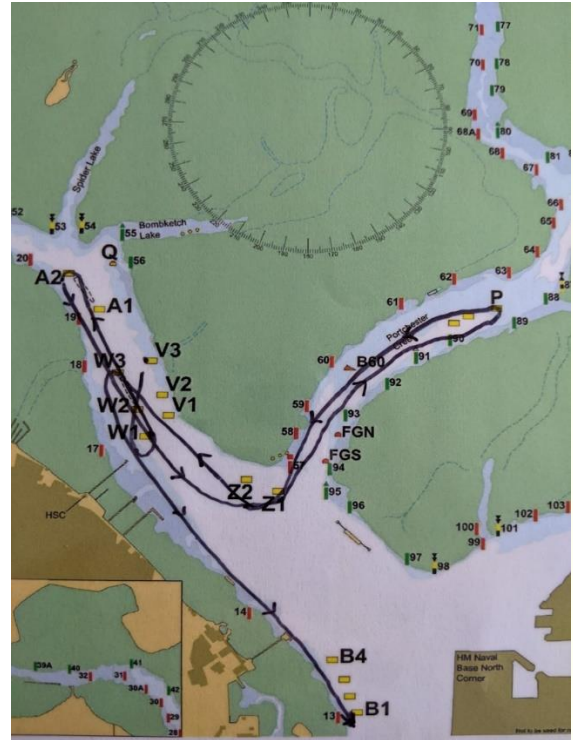
3rd Z68 John and Bill

4th Z53 Steve and Ron

5th Z73 Munch and MC

5th Z73 Munch and MC





## **Tuesday 4 May – 3<sup>rd</sup> Race - 1st Tuesday Series**

With one of the crew from Z71 checking and squeaking at Bramblemet and Windguru from lunch time, even seeing the Hovercraft be cancelled, they were secretly hoping Z57 (OOD) would cancel early in time for a trip to the pub. However, this was not the case... the wind didn't die off (much!) and the 5.45pm trip across to Victory Village lingered ever closer.

Down at the point there was a hubbub of sailors looking over the wall and out of the harbour to see if the conditions were sailable. In the end Z80, Z75 and Z71 decided to brave it, with Z57 (Janet, Stretch and Baby Stretch- Ben) and Sid on Galadriel as OOD.

The wind was shifting around but settled on a gusty Westerly 20-28kts, Haslar wall providing some relief from the wind and flattening the sea.

A course was set: PSC p - Laid Mark p - Gate FIVE LAPS!!!

The three boats lined up for the start with Z80 and Z71 (the only wooden boat out) starting at the pin end on port, Z75 flew down the line on starboard and made it in front of the other two. A short video of the start is [here](#). It was then a short beat to PSC, Z75 made it around first followed by Z71 and then Z80. Spinnakers flew out their bags and on Z71 the 'Cowes Week heavy wind protocol' was adopted. Z75, in the lead but not by much, felt the pressure from Z71 and struggled to get their kite to fly.

At the first leeward mark positions stayed the same, Z80 and Z71 hunting down Z75.

Now the rest of the laps blurred together but at the leeward mark on lap 3 or 4, Z71 made the silly decision to tack out of Z75s dirty air, leaving the race course open for Z80 to move into second. Z71 also suffered a minor mechanical; the mainsheet had double backed through the block meaning Gareth was fully sheeted on and couldn't ease through the >25kt gusts until crew Munch untangled the snake pit.

The five laps were short, sweet and a lot of fun with the finish gun going off after just 48 mins for Z75. A perfect way to dust off the cobwebs !

The final results were-

Z75 Nick, Ian and Jim D

Z80 Russel, Salty and Richard

Z71 Gareth, Munch and Zoe

There are two races left in the 1st Tuesday series with Z75 and Z80 currently in the lead, does anyone fancy taking them on?!

Thanks to the OODs for braving it on Galadriel (although you do have a cabin!) The next race is tomorrow for the 1st Thursday series.





## **Thursday 13 May – Race 3 - 1st THURSDAY SERIES for THURSDAY TANKARD**

First Thursday Series, R3

Scam and Max were joined by Sid for Galadriel and OOD duty. A great attendance, requiring two ferry trips for the Class. With the Easterly breeze the start was positioned at RN and Royal Albert Yacht club, and the first beat set down to the new sponsor's buoy Linington (first use for the Class).

The course which was rather extensive and tested the fleet on either memory or the availability of a chinagraph pencil was (get ready), RNC & Royal Albert Yacht Club (start), Linington (port); RNC & Royal Albert Yacht Club (port); KB Dry Stack (port); RNC & Royal Albert Yacht Club (port); KB Dry Stack (port), Portsmouth Sailing Club (starboard), Suffolk Sails (finish).

Eight boats at the start, with Scam positioning the Committee boat as the pin end.

Good starts from Z74 - leeward end, Z57 - nearest the line, and Z67 - windward end, but there was another option, with the tide was it better to arrive late at the boat to tack off? - z77.

The fleet well underway for the long beat down to Linington, of course keeping south of the lay line. Z77's starting gamble paid off, leading the way after being the first to take the tidal advantage. Meanwhile there was a lot going on the committee vessel with Sid's great instructional training course (via Jim's notes)

On the turn at RA, some interesting kite drops, positions were z57-z75-z74-z67-z77-z54-z68-z70. Very close racing between the top three and boats lying fourth to eight with MC slightly adrift from the fleet in her and Matt's new purchase.

On the short beat to KB, z67 being helmed by Chris Rust (without much back stay), went left, losing ground to both z77 and z54.

With the beat to the finish, z57 defended with loose cover against z75 and z74, and finished first. Second and third place looked set but hang on .... z77 is sneaking along the wall to the nearer end of the line...can she make second?

Not quite, z75 in second with z77 beating z74 to third by less than half a length. Another close finish followed as Z54 pipped z67, again with z54 being closer to the signal station on the line. Then Z68 followed for seventh, with a small interlude before z70 finished on the Suffolk Sails finishing line.

A long race but completed by 20:15, with the competitors retiring to the Spice Island for drinks.... Plus Scam could remove the requirement for being on the committee boat





## **Saturday 15 May Race 1 - 2nd SATURDAY SERIES for PRESIDENTS SHIELD**

After the initial Saturday morning Social media activity – the class managed to rustle up 3 boats to race in the afternoon (Z54, Z69 and Z70). Interestingly Matt had persuaded Jim D to come out for a Saturday afternoon race helming Z70.

With the tide still flooding in the harbour entrance – engines were the order of the day to reach the race course in the becalmed conditions. As Z69 was the only boat fully crewed, the other boats forfeited the Gate boat duties.

With Jim requesting a trip to Quarr (old Bob Kemp) while in the marina, Scam set about planning a reasonable length race knowing the predicted breeze and rain was starting to arrive, and decided on KB Drystack (start), North East middle Middle(port), Gleeds (port), Suffolk Sails (starboard), Linington (starboard), Portsmouth Sailing Club (starboard), Suffolk Sails (finish).

With the wind steadily increasing at the start and the west going tide, Z54 crossed the gate boat line first with Z70 following a few lengths later. Working up to Gilkicker point Z69 led closely followed by Z70 and Z54. Z69 and Z70 decided to go South for the main tide while Z54 went west along the shore. With the breeze building Z69 slowly gained to windward against Z70, largely due to Z69 benefitting from having Joppers being the third crew and extra pair of hands. On the next cross Z54 had managed to gain leverage along the shore with breeze and lifting conditions. As Z54 crossed the fleet the breeze decided to build rapidly under the weather front up to the reported 32knots at Brambles post. The crew were “enjoying” the hailstone conditions as the fleet continued to race to NERM. Under the conditions the third crew and weight helped Z69 reach NERM first with Z54 second and Z70 third. On rounding the mark, a moving obstacle was encountered, (blasting a lot of signals – see Notice to Mariners), a survey ship with a tow. Z69 managed to gybe in front, while Z54 stayed south of the vessel and Jim decided to have a conversation with the skipper as the vessel blasted more sound signals....

This had allowed Z69 to reach Stokes Bay first for the tidal relief with the breeze dropping again to a zephyr. A run along the shore to Gilkicker before heading out to Gleeds. The crew could see the breeze and rain building again in the west. This allowed Z54 and Z70 to close the distance to Z69. The gybe at Gleeds, allowed Z69 to carry the kite on the tight reach to Suffolk Sails. With the breeze again building both Z54 and Z70 dropped their spinnakers at Gleeds for a white sail reach to Suffolk Sails.

As with the Saturday races, fleet communication allowed the OOD to shorten the course at Suffolk Sails, with the next heavy band of wind and rain approaching for the west. So the race finished Z69, Z54 and Z70. The sailors returned to PSC boomyard for the obligatory beer under the glorious sunshine.



## **Saturday 22 May – Race 2 - 2nd SATURDAY SERIES for PRESIDENTS SHIELD**

Hard slog

Late posting of a report from the previous week. Unfortunately, no pics or photos to add. With a great sailing day as the winds from the week decreased five boats arrived at the start area. Z69 took responsibility for the gate boat. Setting the course initially to Kemp Quay(P), Suffolk Sails(S), Linington(S), Royal Albert(S), Suffolk Sails (P), Portsmouth Sailing Club, Suffolk Sails. Before the warning signal this was altered to Mother Bank as the first mark. On the first start, the gate boat unfortunately lost the timing and with the observation by Munch, the start was abandoned with a restart. The winds were beginning to ease at start time. With all the yachts correctly starting the fleet decision was to short tack at Gillkicker to cheat the tide. Lots of lead changing happening between Z69, Z54, Z70 and Z68 all having a turn. Unfortunately, Z67 a little behind after the morning's repair and maintenance. Eventually the fleet managed to get around the point after some intense short tacking, reminiscent of a Cowes Week Race, Z69 leading, followed by Z70, Z54, Z68 and Z67. With the breeze lightening, was the choice to obtain tide relief at Stokes Bay, or plug to the west gain a slight southerly track from the tide. Hold on, a brave choice Z67 tacks for the Island shore – perhaps a visit to the red post or will we see them later???

The main fleet struggled against the tide to the West, Z54 moving in to second through Z70. Z68 seems to be moving well closer to the mainland shore. How far to go before committing to the starboard tack to Mother Bank in the main flow. Z69 tack first with the fleet following suit, except for Z67 (somewhere in the Eastern Solent).

With a couple of tacks, Z69 lead around Mother Bank, followed by Z54, Z70, Z68 with Z67 as the straggler. With the commercial traffic around Mother Bank and the breeze building, there were some alternative courses.

Z69 kite up and going extended from Z54, with the length of time on the beat it looked like it would just be the one-mark course!

At the finish Z69, Z54, Z70, Z68 and eventually Z67. Beers in the club.



## **Saturday 29 May – Race 3 - 2nd SATURDAY SERIES for PRESIDENTS SHIELD**

Summer has arrived.

A glorious day on the south coast enticed 4 boats out for the 3rd race in the President's Shield. Yet again Jim D turns up to helm yet another yacht in the Saturday series, but also great to see Mike Scott and Isabel's return to racing!!!

The Gate boat duty was offloaded to the marvellous fellows from Z68 – with the rumblings of a trip out to the rad post – I don't think Bill had seen the forecast.

With the high tide at 14:30, engines were the order of the day to reach the sailing area with the transit of the harbour entrance.

So the course was set, Gate Boat start at Suffolk Sails, Mary Rose (P), Suffolk Sails (P), Gleeds (P), Suffolk Sails to finish.

Z68 opened the gate with Z48 crossing first followed by Z53 and then Z69. Z68 closed the gate and continued south along the Haslar wall. While the rest continued east along the main channel before tacking due to the channel boundary with Z48 ducking Z69's stern with Z53 dropping slightly behind.

The big decision, and the outcome of the race – when to tack? With the main west going tide the fleet needed to stay on the swashway. Z69 tacked first protecting the left hand side of the track, with Z68 almost up to Royal Albert before tacking and Z48 tacking in between. With the breeze shifting right, Z48 gained position on the fleet and dominated to Mary Rose. Z68 pipped Z69 to the mark with Z53 bringing up the tail.

The breeze started to lighten with the tide carrying the fleet towards the west. BANG!!! What was that?? – Z68 mounting Gleeds – not a mark of the course yet – but very funny for the other competitors as John H checked the damage As this was happening Z69 managed to pass Z68.

As the fleet neared Suffolk Sails for the first time the tide and slight bend in the breeze caught us all out as the run turned to a tight reach to the mark. Z48 first, Z69, Z68 and Z53.

The second beat, wind lighter and shifted, the fleet this time all went south, but when to tack? Z48 went to the layline, Z69 tacked to again protect the left, with Z68 tacking between the two choices. As the tide was helping the boats reach the mark, Z69 managed to pinch up from under Z68 to reach the mark in second after Z48 had extended again. Z53 was still plugging away rounding 4th. On the way to the finish the wind lightened perhaps providing an outside possibility of some change, but no, the boats maintained the order to the finish. Well sailed Z48 (Jim, Mike and Sid).

The sailors then had a swift half on the lightship, before returning to the club. dangerous with the new opening times of the bar (and of course thanks to Munch & Joe).

Can you see Z53, on the exciting finish?



Post-Race Analysis?



## **Tuesday 15 June – Race 3 2nd Tuesday Series - Bishop Painting 1**

OOD was Jim D and Mike Scott

Start was between KB and Galadriel with a westerly breeze of 10ish kts and due to die as the sun went down. A course set with a laid mark halfway between Gleeds and PSC.

Gleeds p

PSC p

Laid mark p

PSC p

Finish between KB and Galadriel

With a little tide pushing us back into Portsmouth harbour, and a short line, it would be an interesting start. Most boats wanted to be at the committee boat end and everyone struggled to get a clear lane. The fleet split with Z57, Z74 and Z75 leading the left side towards Southsea Castle. Z77, Z54, Z70, Z68 and Z71 went right. Z73 went up the middle.

At the windward it seemed neither side paid as Z57, Z75 and Z77 all went around in swift succession. The breeze started to drop and the lumpy chop from the ferries slowed the downwind but Z57 stayed in the lead, the rest of the fleet spread out fighting for the breeze.

The positions stayed much the same, Z71 catching Z77 but throwing it away when they didn't manage to cross in front, Z54 put up a fight with Z74 and Z53 tried to catch up with Z73, Z73 overtook Z70.

The final positions were-

Z57, Z75, Z77, Z71, Z74, Z54, Z68, Z73, Z70, Z53

The race was wrapped up in about an hour and we all rushed back home for a beer at PSC, promptly filling the bar up (socially distanced of course!)

Thanks to the OODs for their top work this evening. We are now halfway through the 2nd Tuesday series with the current standings-

1st Z57

2nd Z75

3rd Z68

The next race is tonight for the first race in the Solstice Regatta, OOD is Z72 (Sid)

Don't forget there are two extra races this week, a Friday multi-race, plus a mini social on Saturday after racing.

Please contact the social team (Matt, Max or Zoe) to let them know if you are coming Saturday for pasties and a pint.



Finally- if anyone needs crew(s) please message me, i have some university students looking to race.



## **Tuesday 22 June – Race 2 - Solstice Regatta and Harbour**

The final chapter in the Solstice Regatta was to be held up harbour with Sid as OOD. Wind was ~15 kts from the north, due to drop, tide was out but rushing back into the harbour. Course 4 was chosen -

Start between the committee boat and pile 58

P port

Z1 port

P port

Z1 port

P port

Finish at B1

A short line and gusty conditions lead to a messy start with some boats gybing round and protest flags being displayed. The windward leg was all about using the incoming tide to our advantage, pushing us up to Portchester. Z75 and Z80 did well on the first leg, Z54 jostling with them to stay in the mix for the Solstice Regatta.

After the first round Z71 gave a place to Z74 but then had a good fight with Z70 downwind, Z57 (with crew Stretch and Martin in charge!) and Z69 also had some close racing and kept switching places between legs. Even on the last downwind from UHAF to the finish at B1, four boats were within touching distance of each other (Z69, Z70, Z57 and Z71) whilst Z80 was clear in the lead followed by Z75 and then Z74 who pulled out all the stops after their bad first leg.

The final results after an hour were-

Z80, Z75, Z74, Z54, Z69, Z70, Z71, Z57, Z73,

The results from the Solstice Regatta-

1st Z69

2nd Z54

3rd Z70

Congratulations Max and Scam for winning the Solstice Regatta again! Hopefully next year we will have some actual summer weather!

Thanks to the Dollerys for OOD duties







### **Thursday 24 June – Race 3 - 2nd Thursday Series - Puffin Trophy**

A good fleet of 9 boats set sail on a sunny Thursday evening, we were set course number 2 but starting at KB instead of the Victory line. With the tide coming into the harbour the smart move was getting over to the wall for the beats. This paid throughout the race despite the lure of more breeze further out. There was close racing throughout with Z57 leading for the first half, followed closed behind by Z74. Z74 took the lead on the last beat and stayed there for their first win in the series.

The results were: Z74, Z57, Z77, Z78, Z68, Z69, Z54, Z70, Z73



## **Saturday 26 June – Race 1 - 3rd Saturday Series - Saturday Trophy (1/5)**

3 boats kicked off this series,

Z54, Z70 and Z73. The wind came across the land from the NE and with an outgoing tide made for an interesting battle. The course set, starting from PSC

was, with Z54 being the gate boat was:

Gleeds – port, PSC – port, Linington – port, Suffolk Sails – Finish

The fleet immediately headed to the channel to seek the tidal advantage, Z70 got there first and stayed there all the way to Gleeds, despite some argy-bargy with a Sunsail yacht. PSC was next and reached in considerable less time than the beat took, the fleet remained unchanged with Z70 in the lead of Z54 and Z73. Up again to Linington which saw all the boats heading to the channel, before tacking up. This was not as easy as it sounded as the wind was getting light and the tide was playing games. This meant plenty of tacks were required to reach Linington. The last leg down to Suffolk sails was a very close reach to start, then a run and then back to a reach to the finish. Z70 remained ahead of Z54. Z73 retired but still had an eventful trip back home as they required a tow as their outboard got a little salty! Thankfully Orinoco rescue them into the safety of the harbour.

## **Friday 23 July - Crews Race**

With about five boats looking likely to enter the crews race it looked like a good opportunity for the helms to hand the tiller over. However, once Galadriel arrived in Victory Village the weather filled in from the NE and blew up. This increase in wind speed made the conditions marginal for the crews to handle, and with Cowes Week just around the corner it was decided that 19 knts gusting 22 would be too much. In typical sailing fashion the forecast was wrong, and it moderated just as the pints were poured in PSC!

Instead we enjoyed a few beers followed by an informal but excellent forum led by Stretch. Focussing on Cowes Week but also all aspects of racing Victories, it was great to get our heads back in the game ready for this weekend.

Pizzas arrived, and we continued discussions, but avoiding rule talk as we would have been there all night! The main takeaway was how important communication is between crews and helm on the boat.

Thanks, Stretch for a great evening off the water, hopefully we can reschedule the crews race for later in the year.

Look out for Cowes Week race reports starting from Friday with the passage race to The Island.

Zoe





## **Tuesday 27 July – Race 1 – Tuesday Twilight Series - Brunswick Gate Trophy**

1st race of the Twilight/Candlelight series, a grey afternoon with 15-18kts of wind from the SW. Jim D and Mike Scott were OOD on the good ship Galadriel.

Eight boats left Haslar but Z53 turned around due to bilge pump issues and a lot of water in the boat from the mega thunderstorms on Monday night. Galadriel was anchored by KB, course 2 was set (first time for Z71 on a set course this year!)

Course 2 is as follows-

RA p

SS p

RA p

SS p

PSC p

SS p

PSC p

SS - Finish

The line was biased for a port hand flyer but only Z71 fancied trying it out, a little early but managed to sail past the fleet on port once the gun went off. The fleet then split a little with some going into the wall and some heading out on starboard. Lots of ducking and place changes up the first beat especially when there were some sneaky lifts. Z57, Z75 and Z71 seemed to be neck and neck until a few bad tacks for Z71 lead to them ducking some starboard crossers.

The race was shortened at the first PSC lap, with Z57 and Z75 clear ahead followed by Z54. Z71 and Z68 found it out on the last two laps together, Z71 just pipping Z68 on the finish.

The final results-

Z57, Z75, Z54, Z80, Z71, Z68, Z70

Thank you to Jim and Mike for OOD duties. There are no more races left before the Blackbird Trophy/Cowes passage race on Friday. Good luck to all those competing at Cowes Week, don't forget we have an extra year of beer to catch up on!!

Zoe

## **Cowes Week**

### **Saturday 31 July – 1<sup>st</sup> Race of Cowes**

Finally, after two years we are back in Cowes, with a little difficulty getting the boats to their moorings. Some boats crossed on Thursday and others last minute on Saturday morning cutting it fine before racing.

Cowes has changed the format a little this year and most classes (Black and White group) are starting on the RYS line in rolling five-minute starts. Yesterday's weather was mixed with light winds, 10kts from the west, but with looming black clouds tempting us with wind and rain.

Our course was set-

CHS s

Hamble Yacht Services p

RORC p

Contessa 32 Class p

Royal Thames p

QXI International s

Finish at the breakwater

A busy start with lots of other boats to avoid, classic up the green tacking with Z74 sneaking round the IDM, Z71 across the line first. A game of snakes and ladders, Z80 pulling away in front but Z74, Z71 and Z69 trying to catch them up. Z71 was first round the windward, but had some confusion whether it was the correct mark there was some delay on the hoist.

A very long downwind leg over the Bramble bank to the Hill Head shore, foreign land for the Victory Class! Lots of tide taking us East and a little light at times, Z73 did well to catch up the fleet after their delayed start.

Up the next windward there were lots of place changes, the right side ended up paying massively. The big black cloud was slowly making its way to us, Z71 put their jackets back on just before 20ish knots hit us with some painful rain!!

The middle of the course was a little bit of a blur but there was one entertaining moment on Z71 after rounding RORC, a Daring just in front of us were trying to hoist their spinnaker but a shouting match onboard got louder and louder and they nearly had a fist fight, can you protest your own crew?!

More wind blew through for the last short downwind leg from Royal Thames to QXI International, Z71 hoping we wouldn't need to gybe! Once we rounded the last mark it was time to hot foot it to the finish near the breakwater. Unfortunately, two large ships decided it would be a good time to come through the southern shipping lane. No Victories made it in front of the first one, but some made it before the second. Shifty

breeze funnelled down the Medina making finishing a bit of a slog, Z71 were cold, wet and looking forward to a beer.

The results-

Z74, Z70, Z80, Z67, Z54, Z71, Z69, Z77, Z73

Congratulations Z74!

### **Sunday 1 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> Race of Cowes**

SW Force 4, with some light patches on the course but no big squalls (like yesterday!), some threat of rain. After some beers in the Island Sailing Club and then some more in the Duke of York, some members of the Victory class were feeling more spritly than others as we gathered in the morning. What to wear was another question, a soggy and cold first day wasn't too be repeated.

Z71 had a good start to the morning, got the boat ready, got the right kit on, no hangover for the youngest crew member, brilliant! ... until.... when hoisting the mainsail the youngest crew member decided it would be a great time to test the length of the halyard. OH SHIT! With 30 mins before the start Stretch and Gareth had some very quick thinking, wanting to avoid a possible costly trip to Lallows (and possibly the second this season!, we went to the ISC pontoon and with some help, Gareth up a ladder and Stretch pulling the boat over, they rethreaded the halyward and we could try and make our start.

Well, we missed the start but thought we would try and catch up, whilst avoiding the squibs and XODs! Stretch quickly got the course and thankfully we at least knew where the first mark was. Time to settle down and hunt the fleet down.

If anyone would like to let us know how the Victory start went, that would be great! I did hear Z67 might've touched a big green buoy before the start sequence, Z54 also might've bumped the bottom on some rocks up the green.

Oh the course was-

CHS s

Contessa 32 Clas p

RORC p

Royal Thames p

Williams Shipping p

QXI International s

Breakwater finish line

Z71 had a delayed spinnaker hoist (to add to the delayed start!) due to the mast gubbins being in a complete mess, not great. We did catch up Z73 who fought hard to stop us over taking on the upwind between Contessa 32 Class and RORC. We then tried our hardest to catch up the rest of the fleet but unfortunately the race was a little

shorter than yesterday and we ran out of race course. Z67 and Z69 weren't far in front at the finish, only one minute between Z71 and Z67! Top work Gareth and Stretch!

Z74 led from the first mark, followed by Z70 and then a couple of changes between Z80 and Z77 but Z80 came out third. Consistency at the top of the fleet.

The results-

Z74, Z70, Z80, Z77, Z54, Z69, Z67, Z71, Z73

### **Monday 2 August – 3rd Race of Cowes**

The Victory Class had a late night change of start from committee boat to RYS line, still at an unacceptable 1135, the wrong side of midday! The change was due to the race committee looking at the forecast with a shift to light easterly winds and a strong tide at the finish, they wanted to keep us west, so we could get home for beer. The forecast was windier than expected, but looming large clouds threatened wind and rain again (clothing choices made challenging!). The Victory Class were going west, our yearly pilgrimage, uncharted territory!!

Z71 successfully left their mooring with all the ropes in the right place, already a better day than yesterday... West going, downwind start at the Squadron line with the following course-

YachtDataBank p

East Lepe s

Laid black mark (8J) p

Laid black mark (8K) p

RYS line finish

The fleet were shy of the line (unlike the XODs!!!) with eventual golden buoys Z54 very line shy but with pace, ended up leading the first leg west to Lymington. Z77, Z70 and Z71 were the next group chasing down the Cowes Week defending champions, Z54. Z80 and Z74 went far right towards Southampton, Z71 overtook Z70 downwind with some great kite flying from the reserve trimmer, whilst the actual trimmer (Stretch) searched hard with binos for the leeward mark. Z67 (self professed) were very slow downwind and Z73 taught them a lesson sailing over the top of them, Z74 were behind them.

The short beat back to East Lepe, dodging the Redwings, XODs, Squibs and Mermaids, led to some place changes. Back west, what was the tide doing? Trending eastwards? Has the Victory Class ever gone this far west? We turned our winning tides over to never before used pages.

Laid mark 8J was a delight to spot on the northern shore, Z77 weren't sure if they were heading for a moored powerboat, Z71 was definitely sure where the mark was. Z54 was still in the lead but the gap was closing. On a bloody long run Z74 accelerated past Z67, Z69 and Z70 to set themselves up for a final hurrah to the finish. The last



time Graham Stone was this far west becoming a man overboard, much to Munch and Jules' disgust (circa 2012).

The last leg(ish) home included a hook around laid mark 8K in Thorness Bay, just about where a huge tanker had parked up for lunch (is it only ever here during Cowes Week?!). By now the tide was ripping to Portsmouth/East and Z54, Z77 and Z71 were still in the lead, but all was to change as Z77 got the tactics right and pulled away from the other two, Z71 had lunch and Z54 ran out of chocolate. These relapses in concentration meant the rest of the fleet caught up, some of us totally screwed up the rounding of the laid mark and bore away so hard the spinnaker could've been hoisted, if it was on the correct side! Z77, Z69 and Z74 absolutely smashed the rounding and slingshotted to the finish. Z54 promptly deployed the drogue, whilst the fleet sailed past. Z67 tried hard to get back into contention.

With a shifty breeze around Gurnard point, boats tried their luck in the deeper water but ultimately it didn't pay off. Z80, Z70 and Z54 stayed inside (risking the wind dropping) but had flatter water, Z71 out by Gurnard cardinal fought hard to keep Z70 and Z54 behind but Z80 snuck through in the last 100m possibly due to the jib being backed on the wrong side by the youth crew on Z71... oops.

The results-

Z77, Z69, Z74, Z80, Z71, Z54, Z70, Z67, Z73

Congratulations Z77. Let's enjoy the light winds tomorrow....

### **Tuesday 3 August – 4<sup>th</sup> Race of Cowes**

The greatest perk of new technology and the Cowes Week App is that when AP/AP is displayed you can check from the comfort of your bed, roll over and catch up on those hours of sleep lost in the Duke of York. Light winds were forecast with a battle of two breezes (SW vs SE) to take place in the middle of the Solent, probably just about when our start would be. Most of white group had been moved from a committee boat start to the RYS line, our lack of engines could have made it a struggle to get to the committee boat.

With postponement still up, a trip to Cowes Green for a swim was in order, perhaps it will shake off the hangover? Also a great opportunity to find out where those rocks are...! At about noon, AP/AP was taken down and some of us headed to the moorings to slowly get ready. The wind was light and consistent for a while, looking promising to get a race in.

The course was set-

RYS line

8 Gamma pass to port

West Ryde Middle p

Team O Events p

Williams Shipping s

Stansore p

Finish at RYS line

The start time was now 1505, usually when we are coming home! Tide was pouring east, the same way we would be starting. The start was messy, Z67, Z69 and Z74 were OCS but went back but did they go back far enough to clear the line? The tide was so strong Z71 put their spinnaker up and bore away to make it around 8 Gamma (the passing mark), some of the fleet only just made it. It was now a slow speed car crash to the next mark, Z69 in the lead but Z80, Z77 and Z71 close.

Rounding West Ryde Middle, Z69 was still in the lead and went north to the bank with Z77, Z71 attempted to sail the shortest distance to overtake. The wind went even lighter, the sun came out and Z71's helm started to strip, I wondered if they had any clothes on looking at the pile of kit on the floor!!

The slow slog to TeamO Events by Calshot, Z69 was still in the lead but Z71 had caught them up. Now at this point Z71 were concentrating so hard we can't remember what happened behind us, Z80 and Z77 did try to catch us up. Spotting TeamO Events on the Calshot shore was a challenge!! Z69 were lower than us but would they pass us when they tacked for the lay? Would the Redwings going to the same mark get in our way? It was very close but Z69 just made it around first, it was now a fetch to Williams Shipping- could we catch them?

The time limit of 1700 was fast approaching and we were being finished at Williams Shipping to make it home in time for dinner. Z71 still couldn't catch Z69.

The results-

Z69, Z71, Z80, Z77, Z67, Z70, Z54, Z74, Z73 (RET)

Congratulations Z69!

## **Thursday 12 August – Pursuit Race – Rob Smith Memorial Trophy**

The concept of a Pursuit race is quite simple. Set the tortoises off first, then release the hares, and in a perfect race all the competitors would finish across the line at the same time. Reality of course is very different, and anyway in sailing you don't have tortoises and hares, as everyone knows you only have Ferrets.....

And so on Thursday night we reached the point in the season where the Victory Class hold their annual Pursuit Race. With Ferret-Master in Chief Sid Dollery in charge, assisted by Mike Scott (thank you once again guys), a slightly depleted fleet of 5 Ferrets (following the rigours of Cowes Week) came to a start line at PSC racing mark. The Ferret-Master set course 2 (twice RA to Suffolk Sails, then twice PSC to Suffolk Sails)

The start time for each Ferret had previously been calculated by the Ferret-Master based on performance to date in Class races this year and the target race duration of 60 minutes. Those Ferrets feeling smug at earlier great performance looked a little crestfallen as they realised how many minutes of a lead they were having to give those with a less illustrious early season. The start process commenced with no concession to those who were not actually present, and so a number of ghost starts occurred, with the names of missing Ferrets vainly called over the VHF.

After 2 minutes Z70 charged enthusiastically off the line under the control of MC and headed up the first beat into an inviting SW 12-18 knots. Two minutes later Z54 wandered over the line a few seconds late, contemplating the huge gap ahead, followed one minute later by John and Bill in Z68. Finally, after a further 2 minutes had passed Z75 set off, followed 30 seconds later by Z57. A total of 5 minutes and 30 seconds separating the first and last racing Ferrets. There was however plenty of space on the start line when it was your turn.

The balance up the first beat was between the fresher breeze offshore and less tide under the wall. A careful balancing act. It's always lonely as the upfront Ferret, but Z70 pressed on, while 54 worked hard to close the gap. Optimism proved misplaced, while 54 closed the gap, it was Z70 hanging on to be the first around the windward mark. Behind the two leaders Z68 held her position, while at the back Z75 and Z57 were nip and tuck, playing with the 30 seconds that separated them.

Downwind to SS Z54 went low, through Z70s lee and away...? 'Not So' said MC, and 70 hung in there, all the way to holding the inside berth at SS. Only after rounding did 54 manage to break away on the next couple of shifts to take the lead on the beat back to RA. Behind us Z68 held her place, and 57 and 75 fought on within a few boat lengths of each other. The breeze softened on this second beat, causing a little angst... nothing like having boats astern with a history of beating you to make you concentrate on every little aspect of your sailing!

Z54 followed by Z70 around the windward mark and off down the run. Somewhere along the way 75 and 57 got past 68, all the action left was with 75 and 57. The Ferret-Masters voice on the VHF announced that 'Glady' was at SS with an 'S' flying, and that all Ferrets should stop there and go home. 54, followed by 70 in second place crossed the line, and we watched the last of the battle as Z57 beat 75 by seconds

followed by 68. The stopwatch said that Z57 had clawed back just over 30 seconds on 54 during the race.

Ferrets of course drink beer... you know what happened next....

### **Saturday 21 August – Fifth Race - 3rd Saturday Series - Saturday Trophy**

Four boats set sail into a busy eastern

Solent with plenty of others making the most of the glorious sunshine. The race started at 1400, 2.5 hours before high water.

The course was, starting at KB – Stokes Bay East (Port), Linington (Port), Royal Albert (Starboard), Suffolk Sails (Port), Portsmouth Sailing Club (Port) and finish at Suffolk Sails. Z68 kindly volunteered to be gate boat.

The race started in a soft south westerly breeze of 10 -12 knots. The 4 boats split as they went up the first beat to, Z48 and Z68 went into the wall; with Z70 and Z53 heading out, away from the wall on starboard tack. As the fleet converged at Gillkicker corner, Z48 was ahead with the others chasing behind. As we rounded the corner we stayed close to the beach before tacking out to the mark, Z48 and Z70 rounded in one with Z68 taking an extra tack to make the mark. Z53 rounded shortly afterwards.

With kites up with starboard poles the fleet headed to Linington, successfully navigating some Solent chop from ferries and ribs; all of which were very keen to get a close look at the action!

Linington was reach with Z48 still ahead, Z68 had caught up with Z70, who had made a couple of jibs as they approached the mark. The beat to Royal Albert was next and the tide was still going into harbour so boats tacked off to avoid being sucked down the channel. Z48 extended their lead, with Z68 making good gains on Z70 so that on the final approach to the mark managed an overtake and move up into second place.

The downwind leg to Suffolk Sails was easily navigated by all and finally a short sausage to PSC and back for the finish. All positions remaining unchanged.

Z48's win meant they have now 2 guns from 2 races sailed this season, a 100% record! Z68 came home in 2<sup>nd</sup> with Z70, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Z53 in 4<sup>th</sup>.

And that concluded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Trophy which saw 8 boats compete in over the whole series and the overall series winners were Z70.

Next up on Saturday is the Underwood Trophy which runs from 21 August to 16 October 2021.

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## **Saturday 25 December – Hot Turkey Race**

Four sets of brave sailors, stunned the various forecasts for the big Christmas day's race in quiet and overcast Portsmouth harbour. The breeze was a calm 8 to 12 knots. Not even QHM stirred.

The dedicated race team successfully found the special race pennant, the small Christmas tree that would be used to dictate the direct of the course. Following many hours of studying tides, wibes and malt whiskey; the southern course was picked. Which was from the Portsmouth Sailing Club flag pole in the harbour entry to Spitbank Fort to starboard and back.

Boats gathered, with tinsel, fairy lights and reindeer antlers for the start at 1030, prompt. No present was greater awaited than a clear start across the line. Z48 judged the incoming tide the best and was first across the line, Ruby too was next followed the Z70 and Katabatic.

The tide wasn't as strong as predicted which enabled all boats to clear the harbour entry and make way to the fort. The breeze shifted from the south east to the east as the boats continued their way up the beat. Ruby Too had the best pace of the line and accelerated away from the fleet. Z48 and Z70 were just a pips blanket apart as the fort became nearer. Katabatic, made a quick recovery from the egg-nogs on Christmas eve and nipped between Z48 and Z70 to climb into second place at the turn around the fort.

The fort was successfully navigated by all boats, who sailed between it and the pylons. The downwind leg beacons to the finish in the harbour entry and sprouts aplenty. Ruby Too extended their lead from the fleet. Z70 bravely hoisted the spinnaker on the close reach back, this paid off as they overtook Katabatic. Z48 gained a couple of extra puffs in the main channel and too extended away from the chasing pack.

The finishing line was gaining ever closer now and Ruby Too had the pace of a cork from that morning's Bucks Fizz to gain line honours on the day. Z70 was striving and reaching to catch up with Z48 but alas Z48 stayed ahead to cross the line in 2nd. Z70 came home in 3rd and just a couple of minutes later Katabatic crossed the line. The race officers gave the safety rib driven by John Hughes an honourable result on the water too.

All boats received big cheers and a wave from the shoreside Race Committee and spectators in the Boomyard as they crossed the line too due to the absence of a hooter!

Having successfully completed the race, all competitors headed back to PSC for a well earned drink and nibbles provided by Tony, Karen and Robin.

A few drinks later, the race officers had made their deliberations and based on the best antlers and prettiest helm awarded Z70 the win for the day. Thanks to all involved and everyone was back for a well-deserved Christmas Day lunch!



