



## PROTEST COMMITTEE DECISION

Case No: 1/2025 Race:-- 1/11 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Series

### PARTIES

Boat or Committee or Person	Class/Fleet	Represented By/Not Present
Z54	Victory	Geoff Dixon
Z69		Mike Ellison
Z78		Jim Downing
Z79		Nick Benham
Z80		Not Present

### WITNESSES

Hugh Pringle	Written report
Frank Worley	Present

Valid – Yes

**Case Introduction:** Following the start of this race five boats sailed a shorter course than the other three due to differing interpretations of the OOD's intended course set both on Sapristi's board and on VHF

**Procedural Matters:** No conflict of interest was declared by any member of the protest committee.

**Facts found:** The protest committee found that the Race Committee had indicated a start between the committee vessel 'Sapristi' and KB Drystack. They had indicated, on the course blackboard, Victory Class course 4 (YO-Haslar Start, Baker Trait, KB Drystack, Baker Trait, KB Drystack, Yola, Portsmouth Sailing Club, Yola) followed by the comment omit YO/BT. All agreed that the same course had been passed on VHF.

The protest committee also found that the fleet had sailed two different interpretations of the course; a literal interpretation where YO and BT were taken out of the course; this interpretation was sailed by X54, Z79, Z80, Z78 and Z69. And a different perception where 3 boats (Z68, Z74 and Z76) sailed an additional rounding of KB-BT.

**Conclusion & Rules:** It was clear to the committee that there were two clearly different perceptions of the course on the evening. That of the race officer and Z68, Z74 and Z76 and that of Z54, Z79, Z80, Z78 and Z69.

The committee deliberated the course as indicated on the course board and indicated on VHF; the committee alighted on the fact that looking at the logical conclusion of pure facts of the information transmitted visually and verbally rather than any perception was vital.

The conclusion of the committee was that the logical conclusion of the course announced was as follows:

Start between Sapristi and KB – BT – KB – YO – PSC - YO (Finish)



Due to the one design racing and the comprehensive recording of the fleet as it rounded various marks the committee found that redress in the form of a revised form of finishing positions was achievable and appropriate in accordance with Rule 61.4 (b) (1).

The committee agreed that additional redress shall be given to Z76 for completing the course albeit outside of the time limit. Since it was through the error of the race officer that this occurred.

The protest committee advises that the Victory Class should carefully consider whether they wish to continue using the course card as it sits; notably it is based upon the assumption of a start line using the start box in Fort Blockhouse. However, given the fact that the class now regularly uses Sapristi a different way of indicating the courses should be considered to prevent reoccurrence.

Furthermore, when altering the course markedly from a pre-planned course it may also be advisable to write out the intended course in full. This would have prevented this incident from occurring.

**Decision:** Redress is given as follows: The order of boats is redressed as follows:

1. Z54
2. Z79
3. Z80
4. Z78
5. Z69
6. Z68
7. Z74
8. Z76

**Request to Withdraw:**

**Request Approved:**

**Protest Committee:** Adam Ballard (Chairman) Matt Salt Jim Page

**Signed:**

Date, time: