



# Salcombe Yawl

1st May Open 2015



Checking out sail trim in the boat park

As you know the Salcombe Yawl Owners Association ran a training weekend at Salcombe Yacht Club, to help new Yawl owners and existing owners improve their racing skills and learn more about sail trim and handling a Yawl around a course. It was run by Richard Whitworth who has trained Olympic teams, Merlin Rocket teams and many more. Richard ran many different exercises, from classroom work to practical manoeuvres on the water, which included practice starts, to going around the windward mark and follow my leader to practise boat control. He also went through sail trim on a Yawl in the boat park. There were nine Yawls on the water and twenty participants. Even though there was very little wind and a bit of rain, Richard kept us so engaged we did not notice.

We signed up two new members to our association which I now welcome they have both recently bought yawls. My main thought around the training weekend is to encourage new blood into our fleet and get more Yawls out racing. And I have just heard that we have also had Philip King a Merlin sailer sign up to the association and is hunting round for a Yawl, if you haven't heard of him google him, and watch out!

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Well we have certainly kicked off 2015's first Open with a bang, the weather threw just about everything at us, rain, 25+ knots of wind with amazing gusts, which caused a few troubles for some. We also had our annual black tie dinner which I thought was great. Everyone seemed relaxed and it is always lovely when we get dressed up as, no offence, we are quite a scruffy bunch in our sailing gear. Which is how most of us get to see our fellow sailors. As always a big thanks to all who helped make the weekend happen, it's a big commitment out of a holiday weekend and when the weather is bad a little stressful for those in the box.

The May Bank Holiday weekend saw plenty of action in Salcombe Harbour,



Simon and Nick who like to pose

when the Salcombe Yacht Club hosted the first Salcombe Yawl Open meeting of the year, with 22 Yawls. Saturday afternoon saw light easterly breezes, and the Race Officer, Julian Meek, chose to send all of the fleets "up



Michele and Sue

harbour" toward Gerston on a dank and drizzly afternoon.

In the Yawl "Modern" fleet, Simon Gibbens and Andrew Reed, in a borrowed boat, were early beneficiaries of more pressure in the middle of the harbour, leaving some of the fancied teams, languishing

alongside the Cliff House gardens sea wall, though the ubiquitous Will Henderson sailing with Tristan Stone managed to make a strong recovery



Can I ever get these two to pose no, David and Dan

from a slow start to finish second on the return home.

In the "Classic" fleet, John Smithers and Pete Hughes appeared to have the race in the bag; however an unfortunate broach saw them lose their bowsprit, allowing Simon and Nicki Dobson through to take the winning gun, from Anthony and Francesca Lofts.

The annual Yawl Association dinner saw some bleary eyes on Sunday morning. A more solid Force 3 to 4 Southerly breeze; sailed on a spring ebb tide, made for more interesting racing, and Race Officer Malcolm Mackley sent the fleet to Blackstone, Gerston and then returning to Blackstone.

Simon Gibbens and Andrew Reed made a clean break, and the main



competition was for second place, with Will Henderson and Tristan making a good recovery to nick second place from Ian Southworth and Tim Fells.

Ian and Dawn Savell secured the Classic win from Simon and Nicki Dobson. The race after lunch was the most challenging, by the time of the starts; the fleets had to beat into a Spring ebb tide, with an increasing breeze that would reach a solid force 6 by the final lap.

Once again Simon Gibbens and Andrew Reed led around Blackstone pursued by David Greening and Stephen Galvin, who eventually gave



way to Dan Bridger and David Jayne followed by Henderson. This was enough to secure Gibbens and Reed the meeting.



In the Classic fleet there was much excitement, when series leaders Simon and Nicki Dobson succumbed to the increasing breeze, with a capsize, which allowed Andrew Wood



and class Chairman Andrew Stirling to take the win.

More benign conditions on Monday saw the fleets make their way up to Millbay, with a shortened beat due to

the excessive swell from the previous night's storm.

This presented a most interesting challenge, since whilst the fastest route back through the harbour would be obvious had the fleet gone to the more usual Blackstone mark, the best route from Millbay created some interesting routing decisions.

Southworth and Fells took the initial lead of the Modern fleet, but chose to gybe straight into the Spring Ebb tide,



whilst Henderson and Greening headed straight for the Portlemouth shore, crossed before Smalls Cove to feed in with a healthy lead on the pursuing pack. Henderson then gave a master class in routing around the tidal gates of the harbour, whilst Mike Webster and Sue Proudfoot pulled through to second place, showing excellent speed across Wide-Gates. The Classic Fleet saw its fourth different winner of the weekend, with Guy Rigby and Tom Crampton-Smith taking the race from the Wood Stirling combo.

So the overall winners of the Classic Fleet were decided by a last race count-back, with Simon and Nicki taking the trophy, as well as an early nomination for the Capsize Belt.

### Results

Salcombe Yawl Modern Fleet.

1st: Y172 Simon Gibbens and Andrew Reed.

2nd: Y183 Will Henderson and Tristan Stone.

3rd: Y163 Michael Webster and Sue Proudfoot.

Salcombe Yawl Classic Fleet.

1st: Y112 Simon and Nicki Dobson.

2nd: Y140 Ian and Dawn Savell.

3rd: Y74 Andrew Wood and Andrew Stirling.



Prizes were also given to those who got a ducking, David for falling over backwards when his toe straps parted company, and Simon and Nicky



Dobson who capsized on the way to the finishing line.

We also had a dismasting when a shackle gave way on a jib shroud on Muffin.

A big thanks to the rescue teams who were pretty busy this weekend.

Some interesting running repairs on Y47, Woody climbing the mast before



the second race on Sunday very precarious.

A quick word on the Fowey trip. The Royal Fowey Yacht Club are not used to our style of entering an Open on the night before. They are chasing, so please will you fill in the entry form and pay as soon as you can. Its on the Yawl website, its really very easy. If you need to borrow a trailer please let me know so I can start a list.

The next Open is just around the corner hardly time to allow my back to recover, I had not realised crewing was such hard work, Woody saying Hike, Leeward, Middle, Hike now. So I salute all the Yawl crews.

See you on the water soon.

Andrew Y74

Thank you to David Greening for his words on the racing and thank you to Christine Sworder for her photos.