



# Salcombe Yawl

2nd May Open 2015



We may have had flukey winds which made racing engaging, frustrating and tiring but when the sun came out on Monday afternoon it made for a great prize-giving and some of us got to enjoy a lovely drink on our clubs amazing patio, as Will and Mark discovered, How many bottles of Prosecco ?

Salcombe Yawl Modern Fleet  
1st Yawl 159 Dan and Gail Bridger  
2nd Yawl 183 Will Henderson and Tristan Stone  
3rd Yawl 154 Graham and Molly Pike

Salcombe Yawl Classic Fleet  
1st Yawl 150 Jon and Clare Lewis  
2nd Yawl 132 Anthony and Alyson Lofts  
3rd Yawl 19 John Smithers and Peter Hughes



31 Yawls registered for this years late May Open, an increase on last year when we had 28. I felt the racing was very tight at times, not all strung out, which made for lots of high-energy concentration moments. There were no gear failures or accidents that I heard about which is good, just one or two little bruising. I think the fact we had to employ count-back again shows the tightness within certain sections of the fleets. I did notice a few Yawls missing on Monday mornings race out of both fleets, hmmm, I will say no more. I have posted the manually adjusted results on the Yawl website as the computer can't yet do count-back. [www.syoa.co.uk](http://www.syoa.co.uk)

Salcombe Yacht Club hosted a Salcombe Yawl Open meeting over the Whitsun Weekend. Winds were light and variable, and generally coming from the southern sector of the compass. On Saturday, Race Officer Geof Gilson set the classic Salcombe course to Blackstone, Gerston, Blackstone and Crossways on a light and variable southerly breeze, on an ebb tide.



After rounding Blackstone the 15 strong Modern Yawl fleet bunched up as it passed the Portlemouth shore, with the critical point of the race being when Dan and Gail Bridger and Andrew Squire and Sue O'Brien, held on the Fisherman's side before crossing to Snapes Point, this allowed them to build up a considerable lead, which was only closed by Will Henderson and Tristan Stone at the

finishing line. Sunday morning dawned with a light southerly breeze. Race Officer Norman Brown took the fleet to the new M mark at the entrance of the



harbour, in a race which was made more interesting by the Classic Fleet feeding in from a shortened beat to Blackstone, allowing all 70 boats to join the melee in Yalton Creek

The father and daughter team of Graham and Molly Pike held their nerve and made the most of the conditions to take first place from Dan and Gail, chased home by the ubiquitous Will Henderson and Tristan Stone.

A more solid breeze set in for the afternoon was more to the liking of the heavier teams of Gibbens and Reed and Greening and Galvin, who arrived in the pole positions at the Blackstone mark. Some eyebrows had been raised when the course was set



leaving the Crossways mark both to port and to starboard at different stages of the race and when the Yawl fleets and the Solo Fleets converged in opposite directions Greening had to duck four Solos, which let Bridger through.

Meanwhile Gibbens and Reed, who appeared to be on a horizon job, were caught and passed by the Pikes. So the scene was set on Monday morning for a showdown between the Pikes and the Bridgers. The Bridgers made the better start and making good progress along the Portlemouth shore. The Pikes made a recovery through the fleet and by the return from Gerston were up to third place, one place behind the Bridgers who were trailing Henderson and Stone, however as the wind filled in from the Salcombe shore, the Pikes were rolled by Malcolm Squire and the Whitehouses. The Bridger's second place was then sufficient to see them win the event for the third time.

The Classic Yawl Fleet saw three new teams out on the water amongst the fifteen starters, but it was the old hands that came to the fore. Jon and Clare Lewis, sporting a new suit of sails, opened their account with a first place on Saturday afternoon from Anthony and Alyson Lofts. This running order was repeated for the Sunday morning race, which was delayed by a general recall, allowing the Classic fleet to have a close race with the Modern boats for a change. It was another ex-Alec Stone boat that came to the fore on the breezier Sunday afternoon, when Rob Henderson and Izzy Allerston raised their game to take the win, with the Lofts recording their third second place of the weekend.

So, once again, there was everything to play in the final race play off between the Lewis' and the Lofts', it therefore came as a surprise when John Smithers and Peter Hughes found a return to form to take the final race by a large margin, which secured them third place overall. The Lewis' secured a popular overall win, from the Lofts' which was decided on count-back. David Greening

We could do with one or two more Yawls for the Fowey Open, so why not just say "yep we are going", its not too late. It is promising to be a lot of fun and its not that far to go. The list so fare;

Scud & Wendy Y169  
Galvins Y99  
Andersons Y93  
Greenings Y177  
Woody Y97  
Lewis Y150  
Squire Y166  
Stirling & Swarder Y74  
Bridgers Y159  
Jephcotts Y148  
Dobson Y112  
Whitehouse Y171  
Ralston Y168  
Greehill Y138

Your committee met at the weekend missing out on some valuable time at the bar. Things that were discussed, and will be implemented before SYC Regatta are - we will be doing a Buddy Check on the Fleet - you will all be issued with check sheet and a Yawl to check. This is good for business, its about keeping us safe and fair and competitive. On the list will be; have you been weighed in the last five years, black bands, signed off sails and all the rest of the stuff you need in your Yawl.

We had a new recruit in the YC this weekend joining the familiar crew



Sophie Wood, well done you will now be able to keep your dad in new sails.

Im very happy to welcome some new members to our little jolly group.  
Robin Cross Y103  
Philip King  
Leo/Orwin Murray Y134  
Miles Kennedy Y78  
Chris Seares  
So please introduce yourselves and make them welcome.

I will put it out there again - new blood, new thoughts and new energy needed to replace me as Chairman - don't be shy I know you are out there somewhere.

As you know sailing a Yawl is a glamorous pursuit and we have lots of



ladies in our fleet who help with that, one of our ladies got a little award for being seen adding a little lip gloss on the start line.

A most excellent Chairmans drinks on Saturday evening in the Map Room well done to those who came bad luck to those who did not, we wear very well looked after by the YC teem, you can't beat a collective of Yawl owners and free drink.

Well thats it from me, the next Yawl Mini Series races are on, this Saturday and next as part of club racing.

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