



# CARDIFF BAY YACHT CLUB

BEAR ESSENTIALS

OCTOBER 2008

EDITION 7

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

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**SHANGHAI & NIMROD CUPS 2008**  
Read Steve Cooper's report over the page



# Shanghai and Nimrod Cups 2008 – a great success for Sailing Secretary, Steve Cooper

With less than three weeks to the first race of the Series we were delighted to welcome onboard this year's event sponsor, the Cardiff Marine Group. They produced a very generous package at short notice tribute must go to their team, together with our Bear Essentials Editors, Jane and John, for producing everything we needed in time for the registration evening on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Weather-wise, August was an appalling month, with worries that some of our regular visitors and competitors might not be able to arrive in time. Nimrod Cup entrant Steve Parker's *Courtier* had been weather-bound in Brest but made it back in time for Race Two, and several IRC yachts had taken part in Falmouth Week. However, by registration we had 19 entries in the Shanghai Cup, formed into six three-boat teams. Six boats made it from Swansea, and thank you to them for their continued support. Unfortunately, we did not have enough entries for a seventh team, but *Forward Thinking* very kindly agreed to enter on her own to pursue the best individual boat award. Thank you to Steve Nicholls and his crew for their sporting perseverance. The Nimrod Cup received 6 entries, which was a little disappointing after last years entry, but there was some good racing in the fleet.



Sunday dawned and our PRO, David Cairncross, set an around the cans course in the Bristol

Channel in a cracking breeze. The asymmetric spinnaker sports boats were in their element on the



long tight reach from Cardiff Spit to Diffuser and consequently took the first four places in Race One. As the week progressed the Indian summer that the weather forecasters had failed to predict arrived. High pressure was building and light winds and sunshine were on the way. This weather trend was to continue for all three remaining weekends. Three windward leeward races were scheduled for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> around a laid course in the Channel. The combination of tide, very light winds and a wide range of craft with differing performances proved very challenging for our Race Officers David Cairncross and Syd Thomas. Thanks to them, and to the competitors' perseverance, three races were completed and the larger yachts with long waterline lengths and more sail area started to come into their own in these conditions.

"Soul Night" beckoned in the club house and nearly eighty crew members enjoyed a hot buffet and danced the night away to the music of the excellent "Mojo Soul Band."



Sunday's long low water race (Race Five) proved to be one of mixed fortunes for some competitors. Once again very light winds and a brisk tide did not favour those who got off to a good start down the Channel, because the tide stalled them at Lavernock Spit while the main part of the fleet caught up. The lead changed many times during this race, but the

vigilant wind spotters came home first. We did not think the winds could get any lighter, but they did, and unfortunately Races Six and Seven were abandoned on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. However, most of the competitors enjoyed the sunshine whilst anchored off Penarth during the morning, hopefully waiting for the breeze that never did fill in. Games of eye spy ensued with some of the more civilised yachts sharing the contents of their wine cabinets with the smaller boats. After lunch in the club house the fleet re-grouped for the only Bay race of the event. Again there was no wind, but our good-humoured competitors decided that a re-enactment of the "Battle of Trafalgar" would while the afternoon



away and buckets of water, rather than canons with live ammunition, were employed! Once again Saturday ended with a very well

supported social evening accompanied by good food from our caterers and dancing until the small hours with music from the "Elastic Band." Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> saw an early start for an around the cans race in the Channel. A light wind and strong tide were the order of the day and the teams with the most consistent performance in very difficult conditions were beginning to emerge at the top of the leader board. By Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Race Nine, the final race of the series, there was still everything to play for, and for some teams in the Shanghai Cup, and it had to be sailed out to the end.

In the Nimrod Cup, *Papillon* was in very strong contention for first place with an almost perfect score line, but the other boats still had to battle it out for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. The



long Channel race got underway at 10:00, again in a very light wind and a strong tide. For some the race ended very early, since unfortunately *Sleeper* hooked an early mark

**Sleeper**



with her rudder and *Molly* got swept past the wrong side of the "Rannie" by the ebbing tide. By the time the fleet reached Lavernock Spit the

**Molly**



wind had disappeared for a while and anchoring in the tide was essential until it returned. The race continued well into the

afternoon, with the lead constantly changing hands in the

**Musketeer**



fickle wind. After almost seven hours of racing only one boat managed to complete the race within the time limit. Well done

**Musketeer,**

this was your finest hour!!!! With the Gala Ball and Presentation Evening due to start at 19:30, the remaining competitors beat a hasty retreat by internal combustion engine back to harbour. After an excellent dinner, Drew MacDonald of the Cardiff Marine Group thanked the competitors and those involved with organising this year's event and then presented the prizes to the winning teams.

There were also some farewell awards. James Dwyer is returning to Australia after six years in Cardiff. He has had a remarkable 2008 season sailing J80s, which have included, Spi-Quest, Kiel Week, J80 Worlds Kiel and Cowes Week. Good luck to him and I understand he may be back for the cricket next July!



**Red Sky**

Ashley Barker (J80 *Chilli Jam*) and his family are emigrating to New Zealand soon and again we wish them well. *Chilli Jam* was the best placed Cardiff boat in June's National

**Chilli Jam**



Sports Boat Championship held in Plymouth. The evening continued with dancing to the "P R Band" and for the "James Bonds" amongst us a Casino was available downstairs. On behalf of Cardiff Bay Yacht Club, I would like to thank our sponsors, the Cardiff Marine Group, for the magnificent prizes and support and wish them every success with their new business ventures in Cardiff Bay. Our thanks go to: our Race Officers, David Cairncross and Syd Thomas, who had quite a stressful month having to contend with light winds and not always ideal tides; the protest committee formed by our good friends from Cardiff Yacht Club for their patience and diligence; to Jane Hall for coordinating all the information with our sponsors and her help with the social program; to Amanda Tristram for her help with the registration evening; to John Mead and Jerry Cross of ITV Wales for media coverage; to the Training School and Scot Cole for providing RIBs during the event and to the volunteers who drove the boats and laid the marks; to John and Jo Griffiths for providing the motor cruiser *Business* for committee boat duties; to our caterers, Sue Jones, for the fine food and to our hard working bar staff. But most of all, our thanks to all the competitors for supporting the 2008 Shanghai and Nimrod Cups.

**Shanghai Cup Team Prizes**

**First Place, Team B**

<i>Blue Jay</i>	J109	Greg Burgess
<i>G&amp;T</i>	Cork 1720	Roger Dunstan/Nick Sawyer
<i>Naida</i>	Contessa 33	Carl Mallory

**Second Place, Team C**

<i>Red Skye</i>	J80	James Dwyer
<i>Purple Haze</i>	J80	Scott Cole & Simon Thomas
<i>As If By Magic</i>	First 34.7	Timon Robson

**Third Place, Team A**

<i>Merlin</i>	Cork 1720	Rob Derham
<i>Jack Hammer</i>	J109	John Ballinger
<i>Sleeper</i>	Projection 920	Alan Shaft & Nick Hankins

**Shanghai Cup, Best Individual Boat**

<i>Red Skye</i>	J80	James Dwyer
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**Nimrod Cup**

1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Papillon</i>	Aphrodite 101	Graeme Page
2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Moon Tide</i>	Hunter Horizon 30	Phil Bradley
3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Hong Kong Phooey</i>	Hunter 707	Richard Rose

Our congratulations to all the prize winners.

By the time you read this newsletter the Frostbite Series will be underway. We recommend that you visit our website at [www.cbyc.co.uk](http://www.cbyc.co.uk) for the very latest up-to-the-minute details regarding Notice of Race, entry fees etc Steve Cooper, Sailing Secretary [s.cooper364@btinternet.com](mailto:s.cooper364@btinternet.com)