



Drowning in the Shanghai Cup?

Steve Cooper reports on the Shanghai & Nimrod Cups 2009

After what must have been a very difficult year for many companies and organisations it came as very little surprise that we were unable to secure a headline sponsor for this year's event.

However every cloud has a silver lining and we are indebted to Crofts Davies & Company for kindly donating this year's prizes. On behalf of everyone, thank you for your generosity. Fortunately our club has the resources to run a successful prestige event without a major sponsor. If Cowes can do it so can we!!

Entries for the Shanghai Cup, IRC class were down a little this year as unfortunately none of the Swansea boats felt they were able to take part. This did not detract from the enthusiasm of the local boats taking part and the racing this year was very competitive.

By the end of registration on the first Saturday we were able to form 4 teams consisting of three boats per team. We did in fact receive 13 entries in total and John Griffiths J80 *Mojo* kindly agreed to enter on her own to hunt down the individual prize. This was a little unfortunate as John was sporting a set of hi-tech Goacher sails for this year! Once again the Nimrod Cup for P.Y. class yachts was well supported with 11 entries, which included the Soling *Mashalia Mags* sailed by crew members of the Barry Life Boat. (The Soling is an ex-Olympic class keel boat, not a big dinghy as suggested by some.) *Courtier* made her traditional last minute dash back from distant cruising grounds in time for racing. There were a number of new boats taking part this year. Welcome to them, and thank you to those and our regulars for your continued support in this class. With race one (9 scheduled) starting on Sunday 6 September the weather systems looked ominously similar to last year, with the best breeze of the month on the first day, definitely Sports boat weather, with them taking the first three places in the IRC class (*Junior High*, *Purple Haze* & *Verve*). In P.Y. the smaller heavier displacement boats enjoyed the freshening breeze taking the first three places as well (*Moon Tide*, *Preceptor* & *Blue Clipper*).

From then onwards for the next three weekends someone turned the big fan off!! Races 5 and 8 were abandoned but both fleets enjoyed some good racing around laid courses on the second weekend and thanks to the race officer's perseverance.

Despite the frustrating winds the battle at all times in both fleets was very closely fought for team and individual trophies, with very few points separating the top places. There were a greater number of longer races this year and sailing over the tide in light winds quite often favours larger sail areas and longer water line lengths. In Nimrod class bucking that trend *Mashalia Mags* (smallest boat in class) pipped *Puckoon* (Beneteau First 31.7) into first place by two points, with *White Rose* (Sadler Starlight 35) in third. In the Shanghai Cup team event, the clear winners by the end of the event were:

1st with 7 points

Musketeer (Cork 1720) Duncan Symes & Ian Jones

Judgement Day (J109) Andrea & Jonathan Tithecott

Junior High (J80) Steve & Andrew Cooper

2nd with 12 points

Merlin (Cork 1720) Rob Derham

Purple Haze (J80) Scott Cole & Simon Thomas

Valkyrie (Dehler 36) Rob Freemantle

3rd with 15 points

Jack Hammer (J109) John Ballinger

Sleeper (Projection 920) Alan Shaft & Nick Hankins

G&T (Cork 1720) Roger Dunstan & Stuart Cook

In the Shanghai Cup for the individual prizes, final positions were undecided until the last race in the Bay on the final weekend and a shoot out ensued between *Musketeer*, *Merlin* and *Judgement Day*. *Purple Haze* threw a small spanner in their works by wining this race but in the end the old timers triumphed over the young guns and the final results were as follows:

1st 15 points, *Musketeer* (Cork 1720) Duncan Symes & Ian Jones

2nd 16 points *Merlin* (Cork 1720) Rob Derham

3rd 18 points *Judgement Day* (J109) Andrea & Jonathan Tithecott

Prize giving was held at a very well supported Gala Ball after racing, followed by excellent food, music, good company and dancing into the small hours. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the competitors for supporting the event. Finally, a big thank you to the race officer team, event organisers, the angling section for providing committee boats, our hard working bar staff and caterers.

The next event is the Frostbite Series, with racing every Sunday from 11 to 6 December, with prize giving and a Christmas Party on 12 December.

Many thanks to Neil Harding for his photos of action on the water and to Richard Powell for permission to use his photos of action off the water! Please visit the website at www.occasions-photography.com to view/purchase the images from the Black Tie dinner. Just hover over the Events tab and then click on CBYC 2009 Regatta. Log on using User ID CBYC2 and the password is REGATTA. Richard has also offered a 10% to all CBYC members for any new business involving portrait sessions, weddings or commercial photography.

