



CARDIFF BAY YACHT CLUB

Bear Essentials
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The sharp
end of the
Shanghai
Cup

Judgement Day

Photograph by Hilton Willott

Shanghai and Nimrod Cup 2010



This year Volvo Cars Cardiff sponsored the Shanghai and Nimrod Cup races. The partnership is promising as Roger Pugsley, Managing Director, is delighted to promote the return of Volvo to South Wales and to sponsor this particular event to celebrate Volvo's long association with the boating world through its RYA discount scheme.

In its 14th year, this prestigious sailing event has traditionally been held over four weekends during September. However, earlier this year, after consultation with many of the competitors and representatives from Swansea's racing fleet, it was decided that a change of format was well overdue. Our Principal Race Officer, David Cairncross, produced a bold plan to condense racing into two weekends. No easy task when taking into consideration our local tidal conditions as it meant we would have to complete eight races in the first weekend and three more the following Saturday. The plan was approved by all as it was felt that the shorter format would put less strain on skippers and crewing resources. Despite our PRO'S effort to implement an advance registration scheme we failed to attract the early entries that assist making events like this a lot easier to organise. However, they came through in the end and by registration on Friday September 10 we had 18 boats split into 6 teams for the Shanghai Cup and 9 for the Nimrod Cup. As the first weekend drew closer competitors began to arrive and a truly international flavour began to develop! 9 yachts came from Swansea and with the CBYC fleet returning from Cork and other parts of the globe. (*Purple Haze* & *Junior High* both



have high altitude towing records after returning from Lake Garda via the Austrian Alps) The newly crowned J109 European Champions *Blue Jay* with de-hospitalised skipper Greg Burgess graced our moorings. Local J109s *Jack Hammer*, *Judgement Day* and *Vriegelzeilig* with a truly international crew including J80 Italian National Championship crew Maris Lyons were ready for a class battle. *G&T* the Cork 1720

had just returned from the Dale Weekend with a class win and a cockpit full of prizes. GBR 470 squad sailor Nathan Bailey had borrowed a Laser SB3 to get involved with the action. Experienced campaigners *Musketeer* were breaking the Goachers out of the garage once again.



Sleeper had also achieved a remarkable finish to their under water appendages (Jonathan Tithecott please note) The Nimrod Cup Fleet were also in deep preparation and the weekend approached with anticipation. Saturday dawned with an early start essential to complete the 4 race schedule, starting with a round the cans passage race to Sully Bay followed by 2 races over laid windward-lee ward courses and a passage race back for Cardiff. A huge tide and



solid westerly breeze increased during the day and made for exhilarating and competitive sailing amongst all the classes. There were casualties at this early stage when a crew member with a head injury had to be taken to a waiting ambulance at Barry Dock with assistance from the mark layers R.I.B.

The passage race back returned the remaining crews safely to the Clubhouse for a well deserved hot meal and an evening of dancing to a local band. Well, I have to say, that the early start and demanding conditions had certainly taken its toll as far as the dancing

was concerned, although **G&T's** skipper made a good effort! Sunday's racing program followed the



same format and the strong tide made life difficult for the mark layers and our OOD Syd Thomas, many thanks to them for their perseverance. Once again, the racing was very close and it was some extremely tired crews that lined up for the last race from Sully Bay back to Cardiff. With eight races already in the bag for the first weekend there was still lot to play for at the top of the individual and team classes. **Blue Jay** and **Judgement Day** were almost inseparable in the IRC fleet and young gun Nathan Bailey was just ahead in Sports Boats. But



the Shanghai Cup is all about a team of 3 boats being able to sail as consistently as possible so there was still everything to play for the following weekend. Any one of at least 4 boats were still in contention for the Nimrod Cup for **Moontide**, **Gatsby**, **Off Beat** and **Wizard** it was still



game on. After returning to work for a well earned rest most crews were back again on Saturday the 18th for the final show down.



What a contrast with races 9 & 10 scheduled inside the barrage there was absolutely no wind, but a little breeze did fill in eventually to complete race 9 before our OOD



Nick Sawyer and mark layer Simon Thomas wisely decided to move races 10 & 11 outside. With a windward leeward course set both races were completed in a very pleasant breeze. After a tremendous battle at the top of the IRC fleet **Blue Jay** just beat **Judgement Day** into first by half a point with **Jack Hammer** another J109 coming home third. Once again



the tribal elders on **Musketeer** came through and sailed impeccably with three firsts, **Sceptre** was

second and **Junior High** third after some enthralling team racing against **G&T** and **Purple Haze**. The results were computed and **Musketeer**, **Judgement Day** and **Junior High** emerged victorious winners of the Shanghai Cup 2010 with 58.5 points. In 2nd place, with 76 points, were **Blue Jay**, **G&T** and **Purple Haze**. **Vrigielzeilig**, **Sceptre** and **Just in Time** were 3rd with 119 points. In the Nimrod Cup only 4 points separated the top three boats with **Moontide** 1st with 15 points, **Gatsby** 2nd with 16 points and **Offbeat** 3rd with 19 points. There were some very good battles lower down in the fleet and well done to all the competitors. With racing successfully completed the Gala Ball and prize giving got off to a great start on Saturday evening with Volvo Cars Cardiff MD, Roger Pugsley, presenting the prizes to the winning competitors and so with some impromptu cabaret from Jonathan Tithcott (sorry Andrea) and Greg Burgess & The Blue Jays the 2010 Shanghai and Nimrod Cup came to an end.

Thank you to our sponsors Volvo Cars Cardiff, our race officers, the skipper and crew of Phat Cat acting as committee boat for both weekends, to everyone who was involved in organising this year's event and to all the competitors. An extremely professional collection of photographs were taken during this event by Hilton Willott, who also took our front cover image, and Mark Furse, our grateful thanks go to them too. Please go to page 4 for further images.

