

## NUSC RACE REPORT – by Chris Roberts, Hoopoe

The view from behind

Knickertwister Spring 1 May 3rd 2011 - Weather bright sun, Wind E f4/5

Sea state calm/moderate.

Course Sewer (P) No1 (P) Club line start and finish.

Starters:

2x Lasers        John Stokes and his son Stephen

Div 1 starters

Sprack...        Archie

J Rider...       Roger

Hoopoe...       Chris

Panacea...       Ian

Maybe...       Ray

Genghis Khan    Tony

Div 2 starters

My Precious II   Justin

Riz'nshine       Andrew

Alex

A good gathering at the start in a good breeze, not too much close sailing on the start line as everyone felt their way into a new season. Race Officer Jim Cross made a timely professional start at 19.00. The fleet was split at the start by a ship (BRAVERY) coming down the river just a couple of minutes before the start. We believe that some may have been inconvenienced by the Freya coming out shortly afterwards too.

Archie and Justin on the club side of the bank and Chris, Ray and Roger on the opposite bank, making a good(ish) start. All boats on port tack or goose winged to the docks entrance with the wind only slightly off the club bank. Most of the leading boats tucked into the port bank to avoid tide, and lost a little wind, those in the river proper gained wind, but lost against the tide. At this point the Lasers tucked into the East bank to make their way inshore out of tide. Once clear of the point, the wind strengthened as the boats reached away toward no 4 before turning to a dead run to the sewer. Tactics varied here, some opting for a dead run, others tacking slightly to fill foresails. Archie and Roger enjoyed a tussle to get the best wind, with Archie preventing Rogers J24 from overtaking by tactical manoeuvring. Archie had some problems here, sailing alone he was depending upon string to hold the helm while he made some forward rigging adjustments.

Apparently the string was too slippery and his course became erratic for a couple of minutes while Roger took advantage and finally passed him..... for a short period!

Looking behind, Ray (Maybe) and Justin (My Precious) were not too far behind, perhaps just a couple of minutes, with Ian who hadn't had a good start closing on them. Closing Sewer, the two Lasers which had been sailing closer inshore from the West Usk lighthouse, suddenly appeared and took the buoy a couple of minutes ahead of Archie ahead of Roger by ½ minute and Chris a minute behind them. Everyone hardened onto a Port Tack, and on this beat slowly made some ground on the Lasers.

Carefully choosing the moment, most boats managed to put in just a single tack to the No 1. With the breeze filling most boats were well heeled by now, and I have never seen Sprack (without crew) so “not upright”. Round No1 onto a starboard reach John in his Laser was off on a high speed plane with Archie in hot pursuit .... Much more comfortable says Mrs Roberts. Very quickly into the river where most boats finishing at the turn of the tide still had a good breeze. A quick look behind showed that Ian Donovan had caught Maybee and Justin at No1. No resting on Laurels, we needed to complete the river part of the course with a minimum of Tacks. Managed 5 and well pleased.

A great evening out.