

## NUSC Race report by Chris Roberts, Hoopoe

Tide race: Saturday April 30th 2011

Weather hot and sunny with a stiff N.E. breeze

Course club line/No 1 P/Sewer P/No 1 P

Starters:

Dinghies: 2 Lasers. John and Paul

3 Cruisers

Hoopoe Chris Roberts

J Rider Roger Ayres

My Precious II Justin Harley

RHIB Safety Boat Michael Winterfeld + Nigel

With the wind conditions off the Pill being boisterous to say the least and cyclonic too, the first race of the season being slow to get under way, with the cruisers struggling to get all sail up in time for the start. Roger was sailing upriver trying to hoist his Genoa as the race was impeccably started by Carol Fradd. If Justin and I were close to the line at the start and sailing in the right direction, I think it was only luck.

Too windy for spinnaker when single handed, Justin and I goose winged out to the Docks entrance before running on a port tack out to No 1 on the Port side of the channel marks, avoiding an incoming tug and the Freya at the entrance. The dinghies took the starboard hand side and both made it to the No 1 mark before the cruisers. At this stage Roger was in sight and bearing down on Justin. Rounding the mark, it was a dead run down to the sewer against the tide. Not too uncomfortable as the wind was off the shore.

Again, the dinghies rounded the Sewer mark before the cruisers, John in the lead and separated from Paul by a few minutes and the Safety boat helmed by Michael and experienced crew Nigel in close attendance.

Of the cruisers, I rounded the mark first with Roger having caught Justin, but both a couple of minutes behind me. Sailing on port tack and carrying full sail and No 1, Hoopoe was overpowered and I tried to put in 2 reefs quickly, but failed as the bitter end of my roughly improvised outhaul became tangled in the reefing line and got drawn into the boom purchase with the reef line. Took 5 minute to sort it out while the other two overtook me, but Hoopoe was gracious enough to plod on with No 1 only and the helm tied.

All on port tack to start return to No. 1, I think nearly everyone just put in one starboard tack on the way back. Justin and I crossed track with me just ahead of him and on port tack while he closed the mark on starboard. As I came round onto my final stbd tack, the impeccably tied Bowline of my port Genoa sheet came undone and resulted (eventually) in my losing a couple more minutes as I first tied a long bowline which didn't allow me

to sheet in hard enough, and then changing to port tack again to re-tie a proper short bowline.

Once around No 1, Roger was well ahead, and Justin had put about 15 boat lengths on me again. Dinghies were nowhere to be seen (well ahead anyway.)

Now on a broad reach to the river entrance, I overhauled Justin for the final tacking up the river, where I think I gained a bit back on Roger too.

John in his laser was first up the river but stalled for ages mid river stuck in irons but eventually freed off to cross the line 1<sup>st</sup> followed by Roger, me, Justin and then Paul. With the new PY handicaps in place the final order became John, Justin, Paul, Roger and then me.

This was the first official dinghy race with the Cruisers and with a safety boat, and as Paul went into the water on multiple occasions in the high wind, probably we all appreciated their attendance.

Chris Roberts.