

2014 MYA IOM Tri Services Regatta Report

Saturday & Sunday 6th and 7th September 2014

Once again members of the Tri Services and their guests got together at Gosport Sailing Club for their annual IOM regatta. Over the years the Tri Services regatta has become known as the friendly championships as during the 11 years of its existence not one protest has reached the committee room. All differences of opinion have been settled on the water in a friendly and sometimes not so friendly manner. Unfortunately due to many reasons, apologies for absence were received from 6 of our members and so only 12 boats came to the start line.

Following the Annual AGM on Saturday morning, the competitors were greeted with practically no wind and Race Officer Bill Green and his Assistant Race Officer Paul Edwards, set a course on the large lake which was suitable to all, however by the fifth race several of the competitors were suffering with weed on their keels and it became a case of – no weed your up front – weed you were at the back! Such was the case that some competitors were able to bring their boats ashore to get rid of the weed and still managed to finish well, as the other competitors also encountered weed further on in the race.

After race 5, Bill decided that it would be best for us to move to the small lake as this was weed free. Only one problem, there was even less wind on the small lake, undeterred, racing resumed and from the start of the event favourite John Cleave, sailing a Britpop, started to establish his dominance along with John Taylor sailing his new Rubix design. Other good performances were from Martin Dovey, our MYA guest skipper, sailing his own design D2S and Roy Stevens sailing his Pikanto. Mention must also be made of Mike Nichols sailing his home built boat who achieved a creditable fourth at the end of day one.

So the scene was set, with the Navy team of John Cleave, John Taylor and Roy Stevens returning first, second and third places at the end of day 1, and the Army team of Vinnie Zammit (6th) Mike Chamberlain (7th) and Lester Gilbert (9th) having a lot to do on day 2.

Mention must be made of Mike Chamberlain who after purchasing some boat polish from the 'Pound Shop' found that it reacted with salt water and formed a crocodile like skin on the bottom of his boat – so much for this 'go faster' solution ! Jackie tells me that Mick was up on Saturday night till 3am, rubbing his boat down trying to get the polish off!

Day 2 dawned, the sun came out, the temperature rose and the wind speed dropped! which made setting of the courses very difficult for Bill and Paul, who needed to keep changing the course due to the variable wind conditions. Prior to lunch it blew in one direction and after lunch it blew in the opposite direction – that is if you can call it blowing at 0 to 3 mph !

Once again John Cleave and John Taylor continued to dominate the racing. Unfortunately Roy Stevens was taken ill on the Saturday evening so was unable to compete on the Sunday, this left Mike Nichols to take his place in the RAF team.

At last Mick Chamberlain started to come into his own with better results, due to his smoother bottom, as did Lester Gilbert winning 4 of the day's races. The other great improver on the day was Chaz Jordan who was consistently placed in the top half of the fleet. Mention must be made of Merv Smith, who had to retire on Saturday due to problems with his boat, he returned to sail on Sunday and despite still having problems insisted in carrying on regardless – Well Done Merv.!

Although the small lake had no weed whatsoever, newly elected Club Commodore and Secretary Vinnie Zammit, on two occasions, managed to collect on his keel two dog poo bags, luckily enough they were empty! But this did result in him coming last in both of the races.

Despite the lack of wind, credit must go to the Race Team of Bill and Paul as 30 races were completed over the two days.

I hate to say it but well done to the Navy Team. You were genuinely the best team on the day, AGAIN! Next year is another year.

This report cannot be completed without giving a very big Thank-You to the committee and members of Gosport Sailing Club, who as always made us feel very welcome. In particular thanks must go to Jacque Cook for all of her help prior to and during our event.

At the end of the day the Vice Commodore of Gosport Sailing Club, John Storey, kindly agreed to present the trophies to the winners.

This regatta was a very enjoyable event mostly due to the excellent facilities provided by the Gosport sailing Club, the great restaurant providing a wonderful breakfast and other delicious food throughout the day, and of course the warm weather enjoyed particularly by the spectators.

Make a note of Saturday & Sunday October 10th and 11th 2015 which is the date set for the Tri Services regatta next year – we look forward to seeing you all again and don't forget to canvas for new members to our Association.

Vinnie Zammit

Commodore/Secretary TSRSA