



RYYC Regatta 2008

Sunday 10th August

"Wind's starting to pick up a bit..." says helmsman to terror stricken crew.

"Should we really be out here?" asked the loyal and noble crewman.

"Probably not..." was the response from the back of the boat "...but that's our warning signal, best look lively! Have you repaired the tear in the spinnaker yet?"

'Testing and challenging' were 2 words used to describe the conditions on the first day of racing for the 151st RYYC Regatta (amongst other slightly less polite terms!) PRO Peter Crooks set a course, anchoring the committee boat near number 4, using number 7 as the windward mark, and watched the fleet disappear across the bay under force 6/7 winds and big seas.



A strong fleet of 6 squibs hit the start line well with *Ghost* taking the early lead at the windward mark from *aLCHEMY* and *Perkers*. *Perkers* took the lead as *Ghost* sailed an unfortunate leg after spotting the leeward mark too late and putting a tear in the spinnaker. *Ghost* closed the gap but soon saw winners *Perkers* move away again on the spinnaker leg with the boat spinnaker-less! In race 2 the fleet again hit the line well and *Ghost* rounded the windward mark first. Some careful spinnaker work allowed *Ghost* to hold the lead to the end of the race with *aLCHEMY* crossing the line in 2nd ahead of *Perkers*.

Monday 12th August

With a south-westerly force 3-4 wind, Brid bay was at its best for racing today. The race team set a line near buoy number 4 in the west of the bay and set the fleet out across the bay.

The class enjoyed 2 great windward / leeward races across the bay to windward mark U, made even better by some close racing. In race 3 the whole fleet got good clean starts and *Ghost* led from *aLCHEMY* around the 1st windward mark, with all 6 boats only separated by about a minute. *Perkers* also joined in the scrap but couldn't catch the 2 lead boats and the top three stayed the same to the end of the race. At the finish even the last 2 boats were still battling over their positions right across the line with *Seahorse* just beating *Jetstream*. Race 4 was an even closer affair. *Seahorse* managed to claim the best start, getting clear air at a good pace. Again all 6 boats were close at the 1st windward mark with *Seahorse* and *Perkers* in hot pursuit of *Ghost*. At the 2nd windward mark *Seahorse* looked to have stolen the lead but a sneaky tack allowed *Ghost* to just hold their lead to the end of the race.



Tuesday 13th August

Rain, wind, a bit more rain and a 60° windshift...not what you would call a great day on the water! The race committee set a line just south of number 9 buoy with a windward leg out towards U, all the boats had to do was find it! And with 2 trophies to be decided on today's results, all was to play for with 3 boats in contention. Again a

competitive start saw all 6 boats hit the line cleanly for race 5, with *Perkers* clearing the line closest to the pin end. As *Ghost* and *aLCHEMY* headed out on starboard tack towards the left-hand side of the beat, they caught the wind shift first and rounded the windward mark in 1st and 2nd. This left the remaining 4 boats all in a scrap for 3rd place and when the fleet crossed the finishing line it was *Perkers* who claimed the place. This left Gerard Dyson and Adam Saltonstall in *Ghost*, 840, crowned North of England Champions 2008. Race 6 also saw some hard fought battles, although *Ghost* again managed to break clear of the fleet and take a big lead early in the first lap. *Perkers*, *aLCHEMY*, *Jetstream* and *Seahorse* all held 2nd place for a time each but after 'meeting' with another fleet on starboard on the penultimate lap, *Perkers* lost out to *aLCHEMY* in the battle for 2nd and took 3rd in the race.



Wednesday 13th August

'Shifty' could be used to describe today's wind conditions, but much less refined terms were used by most of the helms on the water! With a line set from U in the middle of the bay, the class started their first race with 8 as the windward mark.

Yet again the squib class showed their abilities with cracking starts in both races, leaving the races wide open all the way to the first windward marks. In race 7 *Ghost* took an early lead, although *Seahorse*, *aLCHEMY* and *Perkers* all battled to claim the lead.

However *Ghost* hung on to keep hold of first place. In race 8 the wind had shifted to blow from the East and 9 was used for the windward mark. After a very close start *Perkers* took advantage as the wind shifted even further round to the north, allowing them to lay the mark much earlier than everyone else anticipated. As they rounded in 1st, *Ghost*, *Seahorse* and *aLCHEMY* all gave chase but couldn't close the gap enough, allowing *Perkers* to take their 2nd win of the week.



Thursday 14th August

PRO Peter Crooks took the fleet out to Number 4 as the start and leeward mark today with the wind coming straight off the land. This could only mean 1 thing...lots of shifts as the wind whistles down the seafront!

Another close start saw *Ghost* OCS and both *Perkers* and *Jetstream* squeezed out at the pin end. As the boats rounded the windward mark it was *aLCHEMY* who led from *Perkers* and *Seahorse*. Several places were changed during the course of the following spinnaker leg with *Ghost* taking 2 places and *aLCHEMY* dropping back to 2nd. On the following leg *Ghost* stole another position leaving *Jetstream* to battle with *aLCHEMY* for 3rd place. As the fleet continued around the course the fleet became more spread out meaning *Perkers* claimed the race win with *Ghost* 2nd and *aLCHEMY* 3rd.



Friday 15th August

Increasing wind in the afternoon provided excellent racing for the fleet with racing set from a line at 9 and a triangular course around 6 and 4.

Another tight start saw the fleet jostling for position at the pin end of the line as the boats readied themselves to head out to number 6 on the wind. With *Ghost*, *Threadbare* and *Perkers* heading up the right-hand side of the beat and *Seahorse*, *aLCHEMY* and *Jetstream* heading left, all boats had a good chance of rounding the



windward mark first. *Seahorse* came over from the left and crossed ahead of *Ghost* leaving a 200-yard sprint to the mark which *Ghost* won by a couple of boat lengths. This left *Perkers*, *Jetstream*, *aLCHEMY* and *Seahorse* all battling over 2nd and 3rd place. By the end of the race several positions had been exchanged but *Ghost* took the race win from *Perkers* in 2nd and *Jetstream* in 3rd.

Overall Results

Rank	Boat	Helm	Crew	Sail No	Pts
1st	Ghost	Gerard Dyson	Adam Saltonstall	840	11
2nd	Perkers	Neil Orum	Tony Saltonstall	12	19
3rd	aLCHEMY	Jonny Copsey	Bob Smales	800 (805)	25
4th	Jetstream	Derek Higgins	Sean Clarkson	588 (811)	39
5th	Seahorse	Tony Edwards	John	41	42
6th	Threadbare	Tim Jones	Lynn Jones	772	47

Report by Adam Saltonstall

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