

Yateley Offshore Sailing Club

Round the Island Estimated-Time Trial August 2018

After weather forecasts that were very favourable a week before the event and then, 2 days later, they were threatening storms, it was with great relief to read the forecasts issued on Wednesday 8th August which predicted almost ideal conditions for the full round the island course. It was then felt reasonable that confirmation could be given to all of the 12 yacht entrants for the full event round the island.

The entrants were Nefertari, China Girl, Minke, Buddle, Serene, Adat and Gilliatt from YOSC together with Danu, Pagetal, Kik, Private Affair and Lacewing from GCCC.

On Saturday morning 11th August 2108, 11 yachts gathered just off the start line close to 11.00hrs (*Note all the number 11's, Ed*) in readiness for the initial short leg between Bembridge tidal gauge and Bembridge Ledge Buoy. Lacewing had intended to enter the time trial but due to stormy conditions on Friday was unable to make the start line in time.

Serene with Nefertari in the background at the Bembridge start line.

Albeit that the initial leg between Bembridge tidal gauge and Bembridge Ledge was the shortest of the event it proved a little difficult to predict. During this leg the wind picked up a little and as a consequence many yachts arrived at Bembridge Ledge earlier than their predicted times. First to arrive at Bembridge Ledge were yachts Kik and Gilliatt. Kik had made much better progress than her predicted time.



The second and fairly long leg between Bembridge Ledge and St Catherine's Point required many yachts to make numerous tack manoeuvres as the wind was generally "on the nose" of the direct route. Despite the tacking requirements most yachts made fairly reasonable predictions for the 14 M (direct) leg. The exception being

Buddle who arrived much earlier than her predicted time. That said Buddle had had some problems. When sailing the previous day Buddle had torn her genoa and as a consequence was undertaking the Wight Trophy using a storm jib.

During the long leg to St Catherine's the sky darkened and rain threatened. Time to ensure all crew were wearing their waterproofs. Fortunately the rain was light and soon passed.

Kik was the first yacht to pass St Catherine's Point with an arrival time of 1332. A whole gaggle of yachts reached St Catherine's just before 1400. Making up the rear was Buddle under storm jib arriving at 1458. Despite the storm jib limitations the Buddle arrival time was just over an hour quicker than her projected time. Good



news for the Buddle crew was that they now had a fighting chance of making Lymington in time for dinner. Well done to the crew for keeping to the task despite the sail restrictions.

Once round St Catherine's Point sailing was a delight. Wind on the beam and positive tidal flow saw many yachts achieving speeds over the ground of circa 10Kts.

Serene off St Catherine's Point.



Minke making good progress off Brighstone Bay

The good sailing winds south of the Isle of Wight resulted in many yachts arriving at the Needles Channel between 1515 and 1615. This was well in advance of an eastward Solent tidal flow. The result being that yachts had now to battle against a tidal flow of circa 3 kn. This final leg sailing was downwind. Wind against tide produced some very bumpy conditions.



The eventual winner Danu approaching Bridge Buoy

The first yacht to finish the course was Kik arriving off Hurst at 1622 closely followed by Gilliatt at 1632.

Buddle, however, had the last laugh arriving at the Needle Channel at 1739. Just in time to experience a positive tidal flow to the finish line. Buddle's Needle Channel last leg sail took just 32 mins whereas most of the other earlier arriving yachts took over an hour.

Interestingly both Kik's and Gilliatt's actual times for the final leg were 1hr 10mins.

Unfortunately Gilliat lost points by generally arriving a little after her forecast arrival times. Kik on the other hand lost points by generally arriving a little earlier than her predicted times.

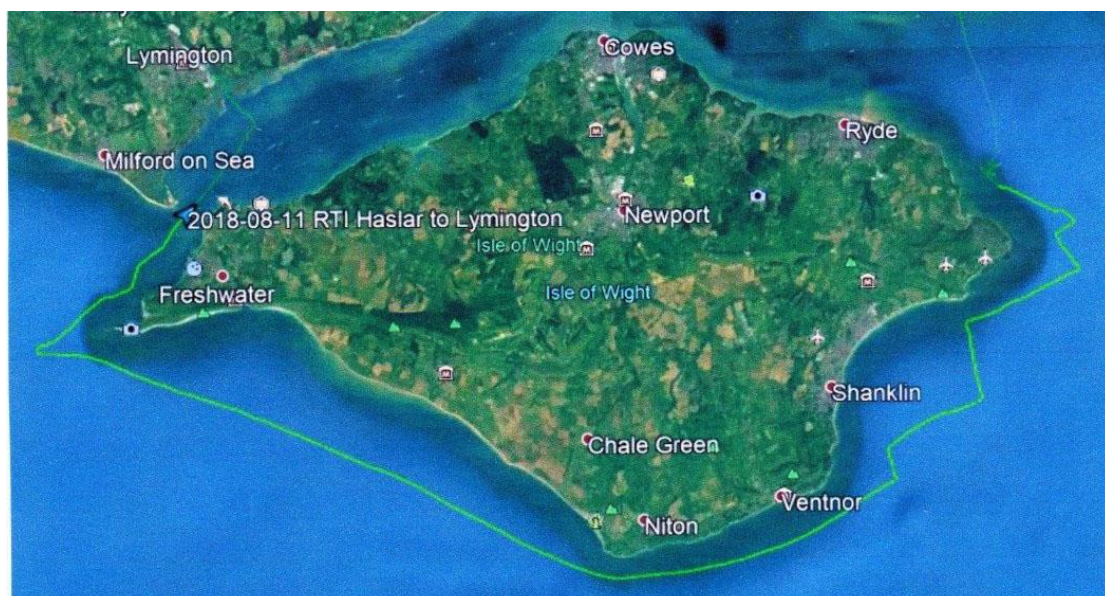
Yacht Danu produced some fairly good predictions for most of the legs. Her greatest leg error was recording 8 minutes too early when arriving at St Catherine's point. Danu's overall score was just 15 points. Serene was close behind with a score of 16 points. These scores placed Danu in overall first place with Serene a very close second.

Adat had fairly consistent leg scores with two legs predicted too early and two legs predicted too late. Albeit in all cases actual times were not too far from those estimated.

Minke got caught out by the increased wind on the first leg arriving 28 minutes too early. The long legs were, however, well judged. There was also possibly an under estimation of the negative Needles Channel tidal flow as the final leg took longer than that estimated.

GCCC yachts Pagetal and Private Affair had fairly consistent scores, both yachts being only a little out with their times on many of the legs. Pagetal tended to over-estimate the leg times by generally arriving quicker than those estimated. Private Affair had both under and over estimations for her legs.

China Girl had the leading score at the end of the St Catherine's to Bridge Buoy leg. She however, arrived at the finish line 13 minutes later than the predicted time. This pushed her into third place overall.



China Girl's Wight Trophy track

All yachts arrived safely at Dan Bran pontoon in Lymington in time for the after event dinner at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club. Good that the crew of Lacewing were also able to attend the dinner. Must say that the food and service at the Royal Lymington were excellent.



Chris Wright presenting Serene skipper Jim Fayers with the Island Cup for the best YOSC score



Ian Booker presenting the Wight Trophy to Danu skipper Andrew Barlow for the best overall YOSC/GCCC score

A summary of the scores are as follows (the lower the better):-

Nefertari	42
China Girl	20
Buddle	81
Minke	64
Serene	16
Adat	51
Gilliatt	55
Danu	15
Pagetal	39
Kik	37
Private Affair	50

Many thanks to event attendees as all contributed to a very enjoyable weekend. Much appreciation is given to John Vahgatsi for his radio coordination of the leg times.

Well done to Wight Trophy winner Andrew Barlow and the crew of Danu for achieving the lowest overall score. Ditto to Jim Fayers and the Serene crew for achieving the best YOSC score. Very much hope that both Andrew and Jim will be able to defend their awards at next year's Wight Trophy time trial.

Regards

Ian Booker