

Wednesday Evening Series Race 4

A pleasant balmy summers evening with favourable tides for the 4th Wednesday evening race and steak and ale pie with all the trimmings on the racers menu !

What more could the 14 skippers and crews want as they turned up for another midweek evening of fun and excitement on the river, followed by hospitable company, good beer and a well prepared supper in the clubhouse. Well some wind would help !

On arrival any slight sea breeze was countered by the prevailing south westerly with competitors expecting a drifting match. Not so, the land breeze took over and by the start a F1-2 westerly allowed for a downwind start with plenty of practice on trimming the kite whilst helms struggled to find clear air.

Musical Express started well but struggled to keep clear air with the bigger yachts coming from behind. Whistle faired slightly better by choosing the north side of the river but the first 4 boats were very close on rounding Buoy 31 with Wild Rover (MG 346) taking the lead. The course was then a reach to buoy 30 and another run to buoy 26 and 25 before the beat back to the line. After hitting buoy 31 Reefer fell behind Musical after completing her 360 turn but soon regained her position by buoy 26.

With a fair tide beat there were few changes at the front of the fleet but there were the usual battles going on behind the leaders. Water Rat (Squib) sailed well finishing 2nd place overall with the usual consistent performance from Mr Chips. Line honours went to Wild Rover but Reefer was the 1st cruiser on handicap by 14 seconds.

Crew of the day must go to James on Wild Rover (Sadler 32) who went up the mast to free a jammed spinnaker halliard although they were forced to retire. It was also good to see the Bolton family back on the water racing in their new acquisition Valkyrie. With 4 Dehler 34's racing we only need another one or two for a separate fleet !