

## Royal Harwich Yacht Club 'Catch Me if you Can!' – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023

The first of these 2023 pursuit events, the third year of what is proving a popular three hours of sailing, took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> May in the Orwell and Stour. 19 boats had entered with 66 sailors afloat, ranging from 18 months old to a former Whitbread Round the World racer.

The club had switched from NHC to the new RYA YTC for 2023 but with only some of the fleet having obtained their certificates, this meant some judgement calls by the handicapping team.



*Allegro goose winging and Petra Ann – both in the Stour*

With a blustery NN Easterly of up to 20 knots the smallest boat was Merry J, an Achillies 24 but the first boat way was Columbine, a Leisure 27 who had three hours to stay ahead of the rest of the fleet. The fastest boat was Islay, a fully crewed Dehler 34 who started 41 minutes later while many of the fleet were just two up, and one, Gannett a Hanse 342, single handed, so opted for white sails only. We lost Clambake, an Oyster 26 as she left her berth when the engine failed but everyone else made it to the start, not always on time. Our starter Bob Portway did a great job of getting everyone away whilst also handling repeated requests for the course over the radio.

Kalabash, a Rival 36 sailed by 23-year-old Dan Patten with his father as crew started 15 minutes after the first boat and made excellent progress through the early starters to establish a lead she never relinquished, winning the 'I caught them' prize.

Morning Tide, a S&S34 and Nushaba, a Starlight 35 starting 24 and 26 minutes later respectively took up the chase of Kalabash and had a match race throughout the event. Nushaba was faster off the wind and got ahead on those legs, only to be overtaken again by Morning Cloud on the upwind legs. Morning Cloud was a few boat lengths ahead in second at the end.

Meribel a Hanse 311 was next with Entropy, a Corby 29 and one of the last starters very close at the 2pm finish time. Not much further back were Petra Ann and Islay (Dehler 34's) and Time Off II and Spree Three (Bavaria 37's).

In the club house the junior sailors had finished their Saturday session and were able to watch over half the fleet being tracked on the big screen – a trial that will be repeated.



*Islay chasing the pack as last starter.*

The SI's allow handicap adjustments so Kalabash will have a harsher one next time on the 10<sup>th</sup> June while some of the fleet will be given more time.

Sailing on 20 May:-

Allegro – Moody 31  
Calidris – HR31  
Clambake – Oyster 26  
Gannet – Hanse 342  
Islay – Dehler 34  
Lady of Deben – Nicholson 35  
Merry J - Achillies 24  
Nushaba – Starlight 35  
Reflection – Starlight 35  
Time Off II – Bavaria

Antea – Oceanis 423  
Columbine – Leisure 27  
Entropy – Corby 29  
Ice Blue 2 – Sun Odyssey 35  
Kalabash – Rival 36  
Meribel – Hanse 311  
Morning Tide – S&S 34  
Petra Ann – Dehler 34  
Spree Three – Bavaria 37