

Catch Me If You Can! 13 July 2024

The third event of this year took place on Saturday 13th July. Twelve boats had entered but two withdrew, whilst Havoc joined in on the day, starting slightly later than she should have.

Our Starter, Tim Archer set up a dead run start into the tide, with Ardroyal first away and Jameerah being the last.

The forecast was for 12-18 knots WNW but your scribe, sailing on Flirt, which had just been returned to the water after gearbox problems, was without a 'scareometer' or any working wind instruments, so can't confirm.

Ardroyal and Havoc were being sailed single handed, while Flirt and Casbah were just two up. Columbine enjoyed a roly first leg under spinnaker, looking like a crash gybe would happen at any minute, while Firefly was best starter a mere 5 seconds late.

The course took the fleet down to Shotley Horse and then up the Stour, doing a loop, and then back into the Orwell. With plenty of downwind legs it looked to be a day that would favour the symmetrical spinnaker, which was partly the case, but the white sail boats still did well, with boat hooks used along with conventional poles to hold out genoas.

Three boats sailed their own courses, with Reflection having Lazy Days following, missing the loop and Columbine mixed up the turning mark, so for the second event running we had another variation of 'short courses'.

As the fleet started to converge at 4pm Ardroyal was first round Shotley Horse, followed by Flirt, Casbah, Clamabake and Havoc. Ardroyal and Flirt had to tack in the harbour whilst Casbah just managed to hold a single tack which proved decisive in allowing her through to the front. It was a position she held all the way to the 4.30 finish, although the following four boats would have been able to capitalise if there had been a significant header.

At the 4.30 finish Casbah had edged ahead of Flirt, with Ardroyal, Clambake and Havoc all in close company near Colimer. Firefly, Jameerah and KindaBlue were next up but still a bit below Colimer.

The next event is the regatta on 10th August.

Please see photo's taken below



Jameerah in the Stour



Ardroyal Harwich Yacht Club



Casbah hunting down the fleet



Columbine in the Stour