

## **Daring Prizegiving 5.12.11**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tonight's prizegiving is unusual in 2 respects.

First, none of the prizewinners will be taking their trophies home! We have decided to refurbish and value them all.

Second, the script is usually prepared by Paul Miller – however his script never arrived so this has none of the authority or wit of Paul, as I have had to cobble it together this afternoon on the train from Dorset.

2011 included 81 races of which 74 were within the Season's Points. Generally, we had some very windy conditions and racing has been hugely competitive, in whichever part of the fleet you sailed.

The **Clare Lallow Trophy** is for the boat with the best points for the Season but failed to win a single race. Having a great start is good, but winning is about crossing the line ahead of the opposition. I will ask the crew of 46 of the 63 races that this boat entered to receive this trophy, as those three useless helms were Hamish Janson, George Dibben and myself.

The May series consisted of 11 races and the clear winner of the **Ian Mackinnon Cup** was Dynamite.

Dynamite also won the **Division Belle Trophy** for the best points in Cowes Week with 3 or more helms – in this case all 5 owners helmed – Anthony Balme, David Stride, Andrew Collins, Douglas Winton and Doug Harckham.

The **Novice Helmsman's Cup** was for the passage race from Seaview – the winner must not have won a Daring Trophy before. It was extremely wet and windy and I recall that automatic bailers made a big difference. The winner was Peter Haworth in Dolphin.

The **Ladies Race** was not in East Wight this year. 8 entered and it was pleasing that over half had not helmed before. The winner was Jane Peckham in Dauntless.

The **Youth Helm Challenge** was a new idea this year. There were 7 races and 10 youths (for which we very generously defined as under 36) took part. Josh Peckham was 2<sup>nd</sup> but the clear winner was James Hackman, for another bottle of champagne.

James was unanimously nominated by the Committee as the most improved young sailor and receives the **Demon Bowl**.

The **Ratsey and Laphorn Trophy** is awarded to the most improved yacht, having competed in a minimum of 30 races in both 2010 and 2011. Improving her points from 573 to 129, mainly with Steve Sleight at the helm, was Audax.

Audax also won the **Hugh Burnham Memorial Trophy** for the Talisker Solent Series run by the Squadron.

23 out of the 74 races for the Season fall in July. Had Audax not been over the line at the start of the last race in this series, they would have won. Instead winning by half a point for the **Dabchick Cup** was Decoy.

Decoy also won the HDYC **Chevrons Cup** which is awarded at a separate prizegiving.

Defender was the boat to beat in 2010. Jeremy Preston and Scott MacLeod came out strongly in June, not needing to enter the last race, to win the **June Decanters**.

Defender was also the clear winner of the **Halmatic Bell** for the September series.

There must be something about Decanters and Defender ..... because they also won the new Trophy very kindly presented by the RTYC and known as the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Decanters** for the Tuesday races of the Metre Regatta.

The **Cory Cup** was clinched by Defender flying under the flag of Lagos Yacht Club (each boat competes under the flag of a different club) – although not affecting the result there was an interesting squabble over the rules and Audax was disqualified for not flying the correct flags.

Defender also won the committee boat starts series known as the **Talisker Cowes Keelboat Championship**. That prizegiving was held at the end of the season but there were 22 races with Finesse in 4<sup>th</sup>, Audax just ahead, Damsel in 2<sup>nd</sup> and an easy win by Defender.

We move on to Dauntless. She was one of the originals built in 1961, won the Season's Points 9 times between 1965 and 2010 and then went through the D2 process with a new deck and hull being relaunched on 24<sup>th</sup> April this year. How would she fare? She came flying out of the yard winning her first 7 races so was the easy winner of the Spring Challenge over Easter.

At the end of May she won her first trophy, the stunning **John Dibben Memorial Trophy**.

Giles Peckham was tuning Dauntless's rig to perfection and with a very experienced team around him including Richard Acland and Jo Gillespie as occasional helms (as well as three youth helms) and a boat kitted out with the most ergonomic control lines, more was to follow. 19 boats turned out for a very windy weekend in early July which included our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sail Past, with the fleet (sort of) lined astern sailing past the Squadron for a salute by the Captain of H.M.S Daring and our own Admiral and Captain. There were 6 races and Dynamite, Defender and Decoy all had a first, but the winner of the prestigious **Stug Perry Challenge Cup** was Dauntless.

The Metre Regatta was hotly contested with 22 entries. Audax seemed to be the boat to beat but was literally match-raced out of the last race by Dauntless to take the title winning both the **Loup Garou Trophy** (that was awarded in July) and the **Metre Regatta Trophy**.

Cowes Week. Well as usual there were 8 trophies to be awarded. **AN Barlow Challenge Cup, Tom Thorneycroft Challenge Cup, Elliot Trophy, Jack Raymond Challenge Trophy, Williams Freeman Cup, Royal Cowes Town Regatta Challenge Cup, Basil de Ferranti Challenge Cup and Lloyds Bank Trophy**. I suspect it is quite unique in our 50 year history but Dauntless swept the board for a full house of 8 out of 8! For the record, Decoy was 4<sup>th</sup> with 44 points, Dolphin 3<sup>rd</sup> with 41, Defender 2<sup>nd</sup> with 17 and Dauntless 1<sup>st</sup> with 7 points, allowing for the one discard.

Not only did Dauntless therefore win the **Nick Adlington Memorial Trophy** for best overall points in Cowes Week, but also deservedly won both the White Group overall trophy and (most impressively and appropriately for our 50<sup>th</sup> year) the Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week overall trophy.

At the end of August we stayed in Cowes rather than travelling to East Wight and had a Jubilee Regatta with 18 boats out, with Defender close on the heels of the winner Dauntless for the **Patrick and Elsie Egan Trophy**.

The **Bitter Ends Cup** consisted of 11 races in April and October and it was particularly pleasing to see so many out in October with 21 entries. The only other boats to manage a race win were Audax and Finesse, leaving Dauntless the clear winner.

Dauntless also won the **CT Cayley Cup** (which is kept at RLYC) and the best boat in the Youth Helm Challenge for which a youth representative can collect the bottle of champagne.

Unsurprisingly Dauntless did quite well in the Season's Points for which there were 24 entries (18 of which entered more than 30 races). 3<sup>rd</sup> with 129 points was Audax, 2<sup>nd</sup> Defender with 91 and only just ahead with 79, the winner of the **Daring Class Challenge Bowl**, Dauntless.

It now gives me great pleasure in inviting our honoured guest Kaspar Stubenrauch, the President of the International 5.5m Class, to present a new trophy:

*This silver salver is being given by the International 5.5m Class on the occasion of the 50 year celebrations of the Daring Class. It is in memory of the boats that were the design base for the Darings (presumably "Vision" and "Vision II"), hence the name "**Vision Trophy**" (although to my embarrassment on collecting it from the jeweller I discovered that it has been incorrectly engraved as Viseon!). The prize shall be awarded annually to the Daring with an original hull (i.e. built before 2009) with the best Season's Points (under exactly the same conditions as the Daring Bowl).*

There is another new trophy this year and I will hand over to our Class Captain Carron Snagge:

*The **Darling Trophy** (a marine sculpture created by local artist and Dragon sailor, John Mellows) is to emphasise the importance of competing rather than winning. It is to be presented to the boat that starts more often than any other (as recorded in the Season's Points), irrespective of whether it finishes or not, or how well it does. In the event of a tie, other races outside the Season's Points shall be taken into account, and, if still a tie, at the discretion of the Committee. The 1st winner of the Darling Trophy with 65 starts is Audax.*

Finally (I hear you all say hurray) we come to the **Dropped 'Ollock**. Awarded for the "faux pas" of the season, this will be presented by the 2010 winner Jamie Clark:

*The photograph on the front cover of this year's AGM agenda and Captain's Report speaks a thousand words (Jamie was referring to Defiant submarining off Cowes Green on 17th July 2011). It gives me great pleasure in awarding the Dropped 'Ollock in our 50th year to our Admiral, Robin Aisher (Jamie presented the framed torn spinnaker from Loup Garou VIII which he had won in the 1980s).*

*Note: Prizes were presented by the Class Captain's wife, Mrs. Jenny Snagge. Script prepared and read by Malcolm Lofts (Hon Sec) at Royal Thames Yacht Club Prizegiving on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.*