

## Daring Prizegiving 9.12.13

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having had several consecutive years of exceptionally strong winds throughout most of the sailing season, it was a delight to have a wonderful summer when it has been warm with fair winds. This did however mean more races were cancelled. Potentially there were 86 races of which 16 were cancelled and 4 did not form part of the Season's Points. Overall numbers were down by 6 with only 18 boats competing in 2013 but the number of boats entering over 30 races was 13 which is identical to 2012.

I will start with Dolphin. Our Class Captain had his most successful year winning a number of trophies:

- He won the June series to win the **June Decanters**.
- In July, finishing only just ahead of Darling he picked up the Household Division Yacht Club's **Chevrons Cup**.
- Earlier in July Dolphin won the Cowes Classics Week for the third time – over those 4 days we had some champagne sailing with the results decided in the last 20 metres of the last race and overall Dauntless was 3<sup>rd</sup>, Audax 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dolphin 1<sup>st</sup>. The winner of Cowes Classics Week receives the **Loup Garou Trophy** which was awarded in July and we now present the **Metre Regatta Trophy**.
- Dolphin also had a cracking start to Cowes Week winning the first Saturday for the **AW Barlow Challenge Cup**.
- **The Ratsey and Laphorn Trophy** is for the most improved yacht with a minimum of 30 starts in both 2012 and 2013. This was closely fought with Derring Do on 140 points trailing behind Double Knot on 142 points but the clear winner on 161 points was Dolphin.

Audax in the oldest of the regularly competing boats, so it has been great to see her doing so well, particularly when she won our longest series, being 18 races in July for the **Dabchick Cup**. Then with Richard Baggett at the helm Audax won the 6 races for the prestigious **Stug Perry Challenge Cup**.

Proving that consistency with good results but not necessarily winning races can win prizes, it is pleasing that the **Hugh Burnham Memorial Trophy** for the Squadron's Solent Series was won this year by Darling.

The **Division Belle Trophy** is awarded to the best boat in Cowes Week with 3 or more helms. Winning this for the 5<sup>th</sup> time is Dynamite helmed by 4 of their 5 owners being Anthony Balme, Andrew Collins, Doug Harckham and David Stride.

Turning to the **Ladies Trophy**, in 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Cassie Pegna, in 2<sup>nd</sup> Jane Lofts and only a couple boat lengths ahead and winning for the 7<sup>th</sup> time - Jane Peckham.

The **Novice Helmsman's Cup** was this year run on the way back to the moorings, after the second committee boat start on a Saturday in August. 3<sup>rd</sup> was Antoni von Planta, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan O'Connor and with her skills honed from the Ladies Race and only in her 3<sup>rd</sup> ever race on the helm, the winner was Jane Lofts.

The **Demon Trophy** is awarded to the most improved young sailor and this year goes to one of the crews of Streak – Jemima Lofts.

The **Clare Lallow Trophy** is for the yacht with the best overall points but without a single win. Now, after 178 consecutive races without winning and with just 4 races left in the season, Streak had this sewn up to win for the 3<sup>rd</sup> successive year and then Hamish Jansen spoilt it all by taking line honours! So the winner this year lying 8<sup>th</sup> overall for the season is Defiant with 2 of the founder members of the Daring Class - Charles Perry, Robin Aisher and their team.

We now turn to Dauntless.

- Once again she had a flying start to the season with 3 straight wins for the Spring Challenge (keeper prizes were awarded that April weekend) and when added to the good results in October she wins the '**Bitter Ends' Cup** for the 7 races in April and October.
- With 3 straight wins in the May Bank Holiday Dauntless receives the beautiful **John Dibben Memorial Trophy**.
- Then with Giles Peckham at the helm, she had a truly superb Cowes Week. Dauntless usually finished a couple of minutes ahead of all the opposition, picking up:
  - the **Tom Thornycroft Challenge Cup** on Sunday
  - the **Williams Freeman Cup** on Wednesday
  - the **Royal Cowes Town Regatta Challenge Cup** on Thursday
  - the **Basil de Ferranti Challenge Cup** on Friday
  - and finally, the **Lloyds Bank Trophy** on Saturday.
  - Overall for Cowes Week the results were in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 26 points was Defender, in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 19 points Decoy and with just 7 points and winning the **Nick Adlington Memorial Trophy** was Dauntless.
- In June, Giles also won the **Cory Cup** under the flag of the Royal London Yacht Club.

I turn to Defender, mainly with Jeremy Preston at the helm. This has been another very successful season.

- They won the **Ian Mackinnon Cup** for the 11 races in the May Series.
- The **Halmatic Bell** for the 11 races in the September series.
- The Daring Regatta with 4 firsts out of 6 races to win the **Patrick and Elsie Egan Trophy**.
- Then they picked up the 2 trophies which are kept at the Royal London Yacht Club being the magnificent **C.T. Cayley Cup** for their Solent Series and the **Elliot Trophy** for the Monday of Cowes Week.
- The **Cowes Keelboat Championship** (for which there was a separate prizegiving at the end of season) consisted of 17 committee boat start races, with 4 discards. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Dreamer with 63 points, Double Knot was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 59 points and the clear winner was Defender on 23 points.
- The **Darling Trophy** is awarded to the yacht entering the most races in the season. This was very tight with Derring Do in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 51 starts, Dynamite in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 53 starts and missing only 11 races the winner with 55 starts was Defender.
- The **Vision Trophy** is awarded to a pre-2009 boat with the best Season's Points and that was Defender.
- The clear winner of the **Daring Class Challenge Bowl** was Defender with 89 points, in 2<sup>nd</sup> was Dynamite on 134 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Dauntless on 177. Defender has won this trophy for an extraordinary 6 out of the last 8 years. Well done Defender! Well done Jeremy!

For the record there were two trophies that were not awarded this year: the **Jack Raymond Challenge Trophy** for the Tuesday of Cowes Week and the **Royal Thames 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Decanters**.

Although no prizes are to be presented tonight I would like to confirm for the record the winners of some of the Club's **Solent Series**. Dolphin won the Cowes Corinthian, Damsel won the Royal Corinthian and Dauntless won both the Island Sailing Club and the Royal Thames.

Finally, the presentation of the **Dropped 'Ollock**. This is awarded each year for the most amusing racing incident. Sadly David Christie is not here to nominate his successor but I am delighted to be able to hand over the microphone to his widow Diana to make this award.

Cowes Week generated some interesting incidents (all of which are captured for posterity on the new livestream coverage):

On the Friday the first spinnaker to be hoisted at the start belonged to Audax, who proved once again that they have perfected the art of flying the spinnaker horizontally! Audax what is the photo worth?

On the Thursday Defender was misled by a tall crew member as to whether the Inner Distance Mark is relevant for the finishing line and, in the indecision, not only did she see six Darings sail past her in the last 30 seconds but she then rammed the mark itself! Again I have the photo Defender.

However, on the Monday Dick Johnson of the excellent Cowes Week Radio watched the start keenly, reporting: "that is an interesting sight – one of the Darings has a crew member right on the bow, a technique often used in dinghies and planing Sportsboats but not a technique I have seen before on a boat like a Daring." And moments later he said "there is an individual recall – was she over the line?" Clearly in the view of the crew member whose head had been positioned between the forestay and bow, this Daring was definitely not "on course side" as they carried on without turning back. Indeed they won by a considerable margin, only to discover that they were indeed OCS by at least 2 feet with the crew member's head well over the line. This was an unfortunate misjudgement as, had they won that day, at the end of Cowes Week they would have had a better score than the Squib Lady Penelope and won not only the White Group but also the Aberdeen Asset Management overall prize!

Accordingly the Dropped 'Ollock (also known this year as the Specsavers Award) goes to ... Jane Peckham.

*Note: prizes were presented by Pippa Lower (wife of the Commanding Officer of HMS Dragon); the script was prepared and read by Malcolm Lofts (Hon. Secretary) at the Royal Thames Yacht Club Prizegiving on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013.*