

## **GBSA Pursuit racing – Second 2009 Series: Races 6 & 7 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

A fresh westerly blowing 12 to 16 knots greeted the Thursday night racers. Ian Campbell being away was not there to try and protect his lead. This though would not have been his ideal wind!

Simon Lovell, starting on a 4 minute handicap was easily able to cruise in first, though Tim Laine and Simon Gregory (both off 7 minutes) were rapidly closing the gap to come in second and third respectively.

The second race produced some very close racing at the front with Dennis White (3 minutes), Seb Lovell (4 minutes) and Simon Lovell (5 minutes) reaching the windward mark seconds behind each other. Denis who has had a few weeks lay off with a bad back, had used his low Guernsey cunning to help himself to a little advantage.....By the finish however the positions had reversed with Seb finishing a good second only yards behind his Dad with Denis following!

Simon Gregory and Tim (now both off 8 minutes) continued the duel of the big rigs with Simon Gregory taking fourth place from Tim's fifth. Jo Robinson (6 minutes) discovered that coming 6th is not all bad as she can now run the last race of the series off a lower handicap.

The last race of the second series will be particularly interesting as Ian, Seb and Simon are all on 16 points after discards, with Tim next closest on 19. Ian of course will be away. Seb will be starting on 5, Simon on 6 and Tim on 8. So there is everything to play for.

## **GBSA Course racing – Second 2009 Series: Races 7 & 8 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

The final pair of races for the GBSA's second course racing series of 2009 were held at Ladies Bay in a light north westerly force 2 to 3.

A two lap course was set, with a longish beat from Ladies Bay out to a buoy near the reef at the bay entrance. There followed a very broad reach down to a buoy near Rouse Pier, followed by a closer, but still broad, reach back to the start.

With a falling spring tide in the light wind, and a favourable wind bend near Rouse, competitors who tacked on the beat in the Rouse direction did better than those who headed out into the bay.

In race one Tim Laine, with his huge 10 metre sail, took first place, but Jo Robinson, with her 8.5 metre sail, was close on his heels. Simon Lovell sailed his Serenity on this occasion, and its turn of speed in light winds, even with a 7.4 metre sail, gained him a third place both races.

In race one a battle developed for fourth place between Graham Le Page, Denis White and Seb Lovell. Unfortunately Seb was over eager at the last gybe at Rouse, passed the wrong side of the buoy and had to go back around. Lightweight Le Page just held off heavyweight White to take fourth, with White fifth and Seb Lovell sixth.

The second race was won by Simon Gregory, who had arrived too late for race one. Jo Robinson had been well lined up for the start, but in waiting for the rabbit needed to put in a tack to stay behind the line, and did this just as the rabbit started his run. This cost her enough ground to put her out of contention for a place. Tim Laine took second, and Simon Lovell was third.

Only one point separated each of the top three places in the overall series. Laine had suffered in race 5 of the series because of confusion over the location of the windward mark. Unfortunately he could not discard this result because his two discards were needed to cover non-attendance in the previous week. In the event he still placed first in the series with 14 points. Jo Robinson was second with 15 points, and Simon Lovell third with 16. Despite missing four races, Simon Gregory took series fourth place with 21 points.