

### **GBSA Pursuit racing – Second 2009 Series: Races 2 & 3 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Ben Creasey and Richard Klein joined in the fun this week, giving 10 starters for the two races.

Ben started with a prodigy but realised the error of his ways in the light wind, and changed to an IMCO for the second race.

The wind was North East at 7 to 10 knots decreasing, and a triangular course was set giving a broad reach, a run, and a beat, with 3 laps. In the light wind this seemed to favour the early starters. "Chill" put up his 10.5m sail and with his low handicap pulled off two first places. Even so, higher handicaps "Yo Yo", "Sebby" and "Gardenory" moved up through the fleet to leave many in their wake.

In the second race the first three, Chill, Sebby and Ben, were all within seconds of each other.

"Sli 1" proved that harness lines are a must..... but that sailing without them is a fantastic workout even if you end up a sweaty last....which he did. However sailing inside the boom was definitely good survival training and might come in useful later.

### **GBSA Course racing – Second 2009 Series: Races 3 & 4 Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

In quite wintry temperatures and heavy rain showers, eight competitors rigged up at Ladies Bay for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> course races of the series. Simon "Gardenory" Gregory arrived in time to make nine starters for the second race.

Forecasters had been predicting 18 knot winds from the sou-sou-west, but only managed to get the direction approximately right. The actual wind was patchy, varying from little more than a force 1 at times, then producing gusts well into 4 at others. There were also a good variety of wind shifts and bends, particularly in the region of the upwind buoy.

The course start was from a buoy near the entrance to Tiger Bay, with a reach against the falling spring tide down to the "Christmas Pudding" buoy near Ammareurs, followed by a broad reach across Ladies Bay and a second broad reach back to the start. In the conditions, each race was of 1 2/3 laps, finishing at Ladies Bay.

It's tempting to say that placings were determined to a large extent by who got the best gusts and most favourable tides. However Jo "Yo-Yo" Robinson achieved two good first places, so either she was extraordinarily lucky or extraordinarily skilful - probably the latter.

In race one Simon “Sli 1” Lovell got a good start, but in approaching the windward buoy took an off the wind course, presumably to get out of the tide. This proved the wrong tactic and lost him several places. Jo had acted as “rabbit” for the gate start, and her start on port was obviously a good one, since she established a long lead which nobody was able to challenge. Nigel “the Tractor” Gale was ploughing a great furrow until the second beat when he fell foul of a wind shift which took him up towards Rouse, and cost him several places. Graham “Gram Fly” Le Page found himself in a comfortable second, with Seb “Sebby” Lovell third.

There were more upsets in the second race. Gardenory put up his usual large sail, but was still unable to dislodge Jo from first place, and had to be content with second. It was Sebby’s turn to fall foul of the fickle winds, which put him out of contention for a place. Lightweight “Gram Fly” was well set for the third place, but dropped his sail, which allowed heavyweight “the Tractor” to come through to take third.