A boat PRACC 2 at Rotherham Model Yacht Club Saturday 22 April 2017

by Peter Cogill

Twelve A boats from as far as Poole and Bristol met at Rotherham to sail in the 2nd national PRACC of the season. The wind was forecast to be 8 to 10mph mainly northerly, but came and went, and shifted as the clouds passed across; this caused Brian Quinn, the Race Officer, to frequently shift marks and change the course.

In the first race Peter Wiles (59, sailing a Sweet 9 design from Poole RYC) started at the port end of the start line followed by Dave Stewart (10,2 Minstral, Ashton Keys MYC) and Darin Ballington (98, Sword, Manor Park MYC). Dave (12) and Darin (98) tacked in shore where there was more wind, Bob Connor (05, Sweet 9, Woodspring MSC) got a good start at the starboard end and rounded the windward mark first followed by Darin Ballington, Peter Wiles (59) and Dave Stewart. Darin sailed lower and faster on the run to take the lead by the leeward mark. On the second lap Peter followed Darin round the windward mark, the wind dropped and left the rest of the fleet drifting to it. At the finish Darin (98) won from Peter (59) followed by Bob Pearson (140, Sweet 9, Gosport MYBC) and 4th Damian Ackroyd (101, Sir Percy, Leeds Bradford MYC).

In the second race Darin (98) got a good start in the middle of the line and tacked immediately onto port clearing Peter (59) who started at the port end, but Bill Green (45, Sword, Bournville RS & MBC) who was just behind Darin, had to tack. Approaching the windward mark on port Darin laid the windward mark on one tack and was first round, then Peter (59) and Bill (45). On the run down Peter caught Darin who was able to retain his position at the leeward mark, they were followed by Bill. On the second lap the sun came out the wind eased, Darin Ballington retained his lead from Peter Wiles with Bob Connor (05) sailing into third, and that was the finishing order.

With a new windward mark set further west, Race 3 started with Darin (98)at the port, Peter (59) in the middle and Bill (45) at the starboard ends of the line, all tacked onto port; the wind shifted as the boats neared the windward mark forcing several to pinch, and Graham Tite (91, Sweet 9, Birmingham MYC) who was in the lead, unable to lay the mark, Peter (59) rounded first. Darin (98) wins from Peter (59) and Bob (05).

In Race 4 David Thomas (61, Gun Boat, Rotherham MYC) got a good start, Peter (59) was involved in an incident and did a turn. David approached the mark just behind Dave (12), but had do a turn so Bob Pearson (140) rounded ahead in second. Peter (59) had a good run and had the lead at the leeward mark ahead of Bob (12) and Darin (98) who had made a number of places. Bob (12) nearly caught Peter (59) on the line with Darin (98) third.

With a new start line and more breeze for Race 5, Darin was on the port end with the majority of the fleet. Bill (45) approached the mark in the lead on the port lay-line, followed by Peter (59) and Bob (140). Darin (98) had gained the lead by the leeward mark from Peter (59) and after a quick lap Darin had a good lead with a gagle of boats fighting for 3rd place. After a much faster race, Darin (98) won again from Peter (59), Bill (45) and Bob (12).

In race 6 Peter (59) leads at the windward mark from Darin (98), Dave (12) and Damian (101). At the finish Bob (12) is third ahead of Richard Aucott (36, Sweet 9, Sedgemoor MBC).

At the windward mark in race 7, Peter (59) leads from Richard (36), Bob (140) and Dave (12). Darin (98) makes progress and passes Dave (12) on the second beat, and in shifting breeze squeezes round the mark in third, At the finish Peter (59) has a good lead from Richard (36), Darin (98) and Dave (12).

In Race 8, Peter (59) first at the windward mark, Bob (05) arrives on starboard ahead of Darin (98), who overtakes Bob by the wing mark, then takes the lead and Darin takes a penalty turn back to third. On the second beat Darin (98) gets back to 2nd, David (61) has a good beat and rounds in 4th behind Dave (12) At the finish Peter (59) wins from, Darin, Dave and David.

Darin makes a good start at the pin end followed by Bob (05), Peter (59) and Dave (12). Darin leads at the mark from Peter and Graham (91) and Dave (12). By the leeward mark Graham has dropped back and David (61) is fourth. At the windward mark Bill (45) nips into 3rd inside Dave (12). At the finish Darin (98) and Peter (59) have a big lead from Richard (36) and Bill (45).

After the break for lunch the win shifted in race 10 to turn the leeward mark reach into a beat; Darin (98) had a big lead but on the final beat Peter (59) got a big shift which helped him nearly catch Darin, they were followed by Bill (45) and Dave (12).

In race 11 the boats starting at the port end gained with Bob (140) leading from David (61) and Bill (45), Bob missed the wing mark and David lead from Peter (59) and Darin (98). Darin went wide down the run to take the lead at the leeward mark. The wind dropped and shifted, Darin had to tack for the in-shore mark but the boats behind easily laid it. On the second lap Darin followed Peter (59) round the leeward mark and this time easily laid the inshore mark, the wind dropped right off Peter came inshore and lost the wind while Darin stayed out and took the lead. Richard (36) passed Peter who managed to retake second by the finish.

Broken clouds came over and the breeze picked up for race 12, Darin (98) nipped in at the windward mark but due to a late header he touched it, so Peter (59) lead from Darin (98) and Bob (140), but Darin lead at the leeward mark. Darin finished first from Peter, Richard (36) and Bob (140).

David (61) started race 13 at the port end with Peter (59) in more wind at the starboard end. Peter was first round the mark then Darin and David. Bob (140) passed David on the reach. Bob (05) was gaining ground and finished third behind Peter and Darin, with Sam Gill (38, Sweet 6, Rotherham MYC) fourth.

Light wind for race 14 with a broad reach for the new wing mark. as the wind dropped at the start, boats rafted up at the port mark, but Darin got the new wind first and rounded the windward mark followed by Peter, Bill and Damian. In shifting wind, half way up the final beat Bill was catching up Peter who was well ahead of Darin, but Peter (59) won from Darin (68), Bill (45) and Damian (101).

Half way up the race 15 beat the wind filled in and the Bob (140) then Bill (45) and Dave (12) who were inshore, gained with a lift on starboard, Bill rounded the mark before the boats further out gained as the wind shifted back and increased Darin (98) coming in on port was caught tacking by Dave (12) and Bob (05) was able to sail into second. On the second beat Bob was involved in an incident and lost 4 places, in shifting wind Dave who was ahead, and Bob had a tacking battle with Bob rounding the mark followed by Peter (59) who was in lead by the wing mark, and Darin came through from 7th to 5th, then up the beat Darin (98) tacked offshore before coming in on port got to 3rd behind Peter (59) first Richard (36) second.

Peter broke a shroud in a collision before the race, but managed re-rig it ready for the delayed start, after a general recall. David (61) and Sam (38) got a good start at the port end; Darin (98) rounded the mark first followed by David (61)who had done a turn, and Dave (12). By the leeward mark Peter (59) was up to 4th, and they finished in that order.

In the final and 17th race the wind shifted to give a reaching start with boats coming from different directions Peter (59) rounded first from Bob (05), Darin (98) and David (61). It was a beat to the wing mark. Bob did a turn. At the leeward mark the wind filled from the original direction, Peter (59 and Darin (98) were well clear of Bill (45) and David (61)

Overall Darin Ballington and Peter Wiles both sailed well with Darin finished first, one point ahead of Peter with Dave Stewart (12) third.

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| **Skipper** | **Sail #** | **Club/City** | **Hull** | **Score** |
| **Darin Ballington** | **98** | **Manor Park SC** | **Sword** | **19** |
| **Peter Wiles** | **59** | **Poole RYC** | **Sweet 9** | **20** |
| **Bob Pearson** | **140** | **Gosport MYBC** | **Sweet 9** | **75** |
| **Damian Ackroyd** | **101** | **Leeds & Bradford MYC** | **Sir Percy** | **108** |
| **Bob Conner** | **05** | **Woodspring MSC** | **Sweet 9** | **74** |
| **David Thomas** | **61** | **Rotherham MYC** | **Gun Boat** | **78** |