

Autumn Race 6 – The penultimate event of the season.

Grey skies looked foreboding but the rain held off and the wind hung in for a good day on the water. A good group met back on the deck after the race to discuss the merits or not of the day's sail and possibly lynch the person who writes these reports. Course 13 with three times to Berrys gave the Blue Division a long race in wind conditions which were nowhere near those predicted. Luckily White only had to negotiate the windless bit between Goat and Balls head twice. For once the wind at the Berrys mark was better than the wind along the Goat shore on the approach to it.

Solitude led the Blue fleet away at the start but were soon caught by Soundtrack. Velocity and Solitude made a concerted effort to gain an advantage with a kite. The fleet gathered in the lee at Goat before Soundtrack and then Solitude made a break on the others. The wider berth along the Goat shore seemed marginally better. After a long reach to Spectacle the fleet had a snappy spinnaker run up the Drummoyne shore. Soundtrack stretched their lead on the next two laps keeping ahead of Solitude which used their asymmetrical kite at every possible opportunity. Eggshells, Velocity, Blue Chip, Forte Forever, Speedwell and Starelan kept together and challenged each other for positions throughout the race as the wind conditions favoured either the boats at the head or at the rear of the group.

Again the Trackies were victorious on the water and in Top Yacht with Velocity and Eggshells racing through the computer for second and third.

In Green/White Highland Ghost hit the line ahead of the others. Flukey wind conditions especially near Goat on the work (??) to Berrys gave Flair the edge. On the way back to Spectacle Paca pulled away from the Spooks. This pattern remained for the remainder of the race. At the end it was the 70s Fashionable Pants from Sir Frank, Kerry, Al and James and then Ardrossan Castle.

By the second and third lap the inflatable mark at Berrys had felt overworked and was last seen lying flat on the water having a nice rest. Hopefully it was recovered



Next Saturday in the true ANZAC tradition is the final race of the 2014 – 2015 Season. The Flair re-enactment of the landing on the GFS pontoon generally went un-noticed as we farewelled one of the F-crew after the race as he left for Gallipoli.