

June 2013

## Spinnaker Auspicious: 2K Team Racing at Cowes

2K Team Racing is an international sport growing rapidly in Europe. The principles behind it are simple; 2 teams, 4 keelboats, racing around a short course with the last boat loses. The racing is close, tactical and adrenaline fueled. It also truly international with teams from Italy, France, Monaco, Belgium, Germany and Netherlands all competing.

As current UK team racing champions the Spinnaker Auspicious team thought they would try their hands at this type of competition at the end of August in Cowes, racing in Sonars. The event attracted some of the most talented young sailors in the UK with teams representing clubs including The Royal Thames, Serpentine and Itchenor.

On Saturday racing was underway promptly in champagne sailing conditions, 8-12 knts northerly and bright sunshine.

The course was placed opposite the Island Sailing Club, by the breakwater between the small boat channel and the shore, making the course particularly interesting.

Competition was fierce and exciting, with races turning inside out multiple times. The concept of last boat loses means that it is not about sailing away in first but making sure that your team mate is not in last by frequently having to recycle back to pull out a big move.

There was never a dull moment as even a 1,2 lead could be overhauled on the long final run to the finish if an effective double cover could be established. In fact many of races were decided by last-ditch moves right on the finish line.

After a long day of racing, completing 3 full round robins, all the sailors came off the water with the conclusion that it was one of the best days racing they had done. The Island Sailing Club then hosted the competitors for dinner and drinks in a relaxed and enjoyable setting overlooking the Solent, followed by further late night antics at The Pier view.

Sunday presented lighter westerly winds which meant that boat handling and crew work become the deciding factor between the teams. Sailing the Sonars under just jibs and mains necessitates handling them similar way to a Firefly and all the practice the Spinnaker team had put in at the club paid dividends as despite not being keelboats sailors the team held their own at close quarters.

With further two round robins completed on Sunday, the finals results saw a compelling victory for the Spinnaker team winning 12 out of 15 races with the Royal Thames 2<sup>nd</sup> with 6 race wins.?

A huge thanks to Island sailing club, Penny Carter, and the umpire team for hosting a brilliant event.

Thanks also to the continued support of Spinnaker SC. Expect to see us back on the water soon at Spinnaker as we commence winter training again in anticipation to battling for a third successive win at the UKTRA championships.

If anyone would like to get involved in team racing at the club we would be happy to help with training. Please contact [samlittlejohn@live.com](mailto:samlittlejohn@live.com)

Lastly if you would like to find out more about 2K team racing or want to have a go check out:

[www..2kteamracing.co.uk](http://www..2kteamracing.co.uk)

