

Poole Yacht Racing Association



To and From Yarmouth – 9th/10th June 2018 - Sponsored by Poole it.



A strong fleet of over 20 boats gathered in Poole Bay for the first passage race of the season to Yarmouth with all 5 classes represented including the multihull 'Smithy' volunteering to be committee boat for the weekend.

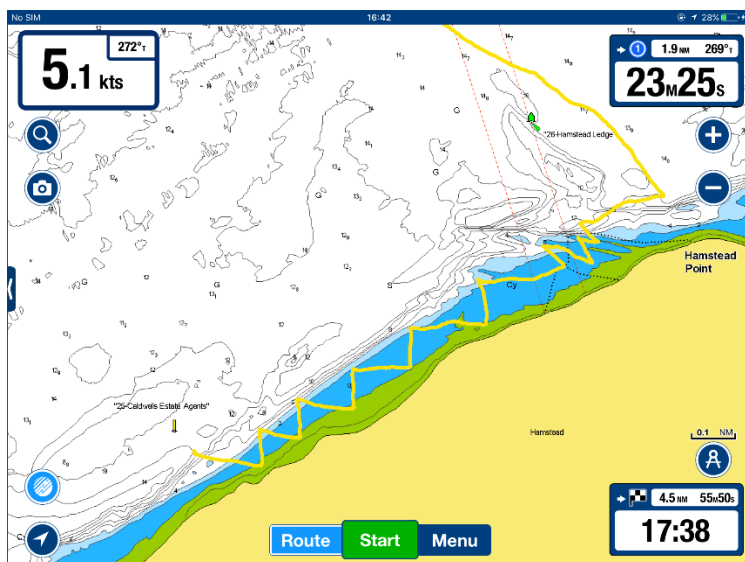
The forecast proved to be wrong again but with a most favourable SE breeze allowing a fast passage across the Poole and Christchurch Bays and through Hurst under the tide to finish at Black Rock in approximately 2 hours



Single hander, Rod Harris in Shed of Arjuna, a Pogo 2, found time, even at 7knots, to photograph and video our association Captain's Beneteau 'Fraid S'eau; who returned the compliment.

The evening rendezvous at the elegant Royal Solent YC proved a great success with 100 strong crew from both the PYRA membership and a rally of Class 3 boats from Poole YC meeting for our traditional Rum Tot and Loyal Toast at 1800. This was followed by an evening meal and quiz session with all appreciative of the quality, service and efforts of the Club to make a splendid occasion.

Sunday morning the breeze had backed NE and although lighter was sufficient to set a windward leg to Hamstead Ledge, albeit against strong ebb. Rod Harris's plot shows the course required short tacking close inshore. At 1005 Dream On and QT got away on port tacks inshore and soon pulled away from the rest of the Class and particularly the shorthanded Class 4's, some of whom soon decided to retire as the breeze fell further. Classes 1 and 2 starting at 1010 soon caught and passed the smaller yachts and many eventually made the windward mark. However at 24' 'Dream On' the smallest boat in the fleet fell short of the mark and struggled tirelessly against the tide until eventually retiring too, but 'QT' and 'Shed' tacked further inshore right up the Hamstead Point and passed the mark to fly their kites to Berthon on the mainland shore.



With the wind dropping to just a few knots others either retired or required considerable perseverance to pass the Point, avoiding the few rocks, and allow sufficient leeway to pass the mark. Only a few made it successfully, including Brendon Bell in Vento Novo, a Dehler 29 and 'Fraid S'eau who both ran down under spinnaker down to Berthon. After passing NE shingles 'Fraid S'eau under the last of the tide and with only zephyrs to find now 'Fraid S'eau retired after the passing mark and passed the Dehler in the Bay still doggedly determined to finish in the flat sea.

The Results:- Some incredibly close results, with first place in class 4 being decided by 1 second, and a draw for second place in class 1!! Such a shame the wind didn't hold up for the way home, but it was nice to see the island shore in such close proximity!!

<https://www.pyra.org.uk/sailing/2018-results/2018-results-passage-series-a/>