



The Royal BVI Yacht Club

Race Reports – Royal BVI Yacht Club Guy Eldridge Memorial Race and Manhattan Yacht Club Trophy Challenge

23rd July 2011: Colin Rathbun and Lime won the 2011 Guy Eldridge Memorial Race, and the Royal BVI Yacht Club won back the Manhattan Challenge Trophy from the West End Yacht Club.

The Guy Eldridge Memorial Race started during heavy winds and led to an eventful start. Unfortunately a crew member on Luxury Girl (which belonged to Guy Eldridge) was injured during the start sequence and the boat had to retire. The remaining competitors were able to weather the squall, and after 30 minutes the winds had dropped to normal.

The fleet sailed from Nanny Cay, around Dead Chest and into Great Harbour at Peter Island. Line honours went to Reba (Jon Charlton) but this was a handicap race Lime were fast enough to push Reba into second place. The IC24 KATS boat helmed by Jason Putley was third. In further drama, Sorceress was unable to drop her Spinnaker, and had to cross the finish line with it acting as a wind-anchor. Eventually the sail was released when race officer Todd Patterson went on board and climbed the mast to release it.

Once in Great Harbour, the sailors assembled at the sponsor's venue Oceans 7, and after lunch the Annual challenge race between West End Yacht Club (the "Loyals" and the 2010 holders) and the Royal BVI Yacht Club (The "Royals") commenced. This year it involved four laps in Great Harbour of relay racers in Optimist Dinghies. Each team had two children and two adults, and since Optimists are designed for small children the adults racing them looked hilarious! Darren Fry, racing for the Royals, sank during his lap and had to be towed back to the shore. Not before he had managed to pull his sunken boat alongside a moored yacht, whose owners kindly gave him a beer!

Coming into the final lap there was still everything to play for, but the Loyals were half a lap behind. Kevin Wrigley, racing for the Loyals, took the opportunity to slow the Royals by boarding their boat and capsizing it! The favour was immediately returned, and eventually the Royals righted their boat and got to shore first. Thus the 2011 challenge was won by the Royal BVI Yacht Club, for the third time in the last four years.

Both Yacht Clubs would like to thank the event sponsors – Oceans 7 and Ticos. Thanks also to the Race Committee volunteers of Jane Metcalf, Kara Phillips, Todd Patterson and Dick Schoonover. A fun time was had by all and everyone is already looking forward to next year's event.



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Race Results:

Guy Eldridge Memorial Race:

1 st Lime	Colin Rathbun
2 nd Reba	Jon Charlton
3 rd Nanny Cay KATS	Jason Putley
4 th Sorceress	Heath Copland
5 th SeaBiscuit	Martin Van Houten
DNS Luxury Girl	Guy Phoenix

Manhattan Trophy:

Winners 2011: Royal BVI Yacht Club

Note to Editors:

If you would like high resolution photographs of the event, please e-mail sailing@royalbviyc.org or visit our website at www.royalbviyc.org.