



The Royal BVI Yacht Club

## Mark Plaxton Wins Virgin Queen Pizza Pursuit Race!

Mark Plaxton and his team continued their winning sailing regatta form by winning the Virgin Queen Pizza Pursuit Race on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April. His own boat, Intac, was unavailable, so Plaxton and his team raced in a borrowed IC-24. Nevertheless, this did not prevent them from winning by a very narrow margin of six seconds over the second placed IC-24 helmed by visiting yachtsman Vladimir "Kuli" Kulinichenko. Third place in Racing Class was taken by Sorceress, the Tartan 10 skippered by Heath Copland.

In Cruising class, honours were taken by Jim Hoelter's yacht Nymph, with David Lake's yacht Wicked Winch taking second place.

In this Royal BVI Yacht Club first Pursuit Race of 2011, a shortened course was run owing to forecast light winds. In the event, winds of 14-16 knots made for a lively first part of the race. Starting downwind, Racing class sailed from Nanny Cay to Little Thatch Island and back. As ever, the winds at West End were highly unpredictable, with most yachts experiencing accidental tacks and gybes as the wind circulated in Soper's Hole. Cruising Class, also with a downwind start, raced from Nanny Cay to Dead Chest Island and back.

The number of entries this year was triple the number of entries in 2010, hopefully demonstrating a renewed interest in sailing races in the BVI. The free pizza for all participants at the end of racing probably helped as well!

The Royal BVI Yacht Club would like to thank Race sponsors Virgin Queen for providing prizes and free pizza for all the race participants. Thanks also to Nanny Cay Marina for hosting the prize-giving, and to race committee volunteers Jane Metcalf, Diane Kirk and Elizabeth Critchlow.

The next event is the 2-race series from Tortola to the Bitter End Yacht Club in Virgin Gorda on 7/8 May. This promises to be a terrific weekend, with races on both days, and a big party at BEYC on the Saturday evening. For more information please visit [www.royalbviyc.org](http://www.royalbviyc.org) or e-mail [sailing@royalbviyc.org](mailto:sailing@royalbviyc.org).

### Virgin Queen Pizza Pursuit Race Results in Full

#### Racing Class

1<sup>st</sup> Grey Ghost – Mark Plaxton  
2<sup>nd</sup> RIP - Vladimir "Kuli" Kulinichenko  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sorceress – Heath Copland  
4<sup>th</sup> Latitude 18 – Chris Haycraft  
5<sup>th</sup> Lime – Kevin Wrigley  
6<sup>th</sup> Luxury Girl – Phil Prevost  
DNF Shamwari – Becky Paul-Rowlette

#### Cruising Class

1<sup>st</sup> Nymph – Jim Hoelter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wicked Winch – David Lake