



SailEast Crouch Regatta 2013 Report

The final regatta in the 2013 SailEast season brought the fleet to Burnham for the first weekend of Burnham Week, with two races scheduled for Saturday and one on Sunday run by the Burnham Joint Clubs Committee. Going in to the final regatta, the £1,000 Dolphin Sails prize for the overall winner was still up for grabs. The Crouch Yacht Club hosted the fleet party on Saturday night with band 'Sorted' and the prize giving after racing on Sunday afternoon.

Saturday morning dawned with light winds and heavy rain that proved to dominate the days racing. The first start was from the usual Burnham Week Pile House Line with a foul tide spinnaker start to the Inner Crouch before returning to Pinto then back out for triangles beyond shore ends, finishing at the Crouch Gate. A wind change at the Inner Crouch closed the fleet up and made for some interesting sailing.

Race 2 was started by the committee boat, Russ Cashel's 'Havana Papa', at the Crouch buoy, sending the fleet out toward Buxey 2 via Outer Crouch 3, 4 and 1 in the NE breeze, before heading back to the Pile House finish line.

Sunday's single race took place in much brighter conditions, again starting at the Pile House line. After a close fetch to Inner Crouch, a hitch back to Pinto was followed by a very long foul tide beat out to Outer Crouch 2 before returning through the Crouch Gate to finish at the Pile House.

Class 1 was dominated by Alan Bartlett's Humphreys 36 'Inn Spirit', winning both races on Saturday and placed second on Sunday, taking the overall Class win. Second in races 1 and 2 was Nick Redfern's Mount Gay 30 'Hot Doris' taking advantage of the shifty conditions to save her time on Richard Matthews 'Oystercatcher XXX'. Sunday's long foul tide beat and shy spinnaker finish was ideal for 'Oystercatcher XXX' who won race 3, giving her second in Class for the weekend ahead of 'Hot Doris' on countback. Michael Bradley was fourth in his newly acquired Elan 35 'Midnight Mojito'.

In Class 2, Duncan Haley's SJ320 'Double Trouble' got off to a flying start winning both Saturday races but had to retire after a collision with Tony & Chuffy Merewether's Sun Fast 3200 'Amazon' at the start on Sunday. 'Amazon' went on to win race 3, which with her fourth and second in races 1 and 2 was enough to win Class for the weekend. 'Double Trouble' was second with Frank Curtis and Carole Pickett's J95 'Just Is' taking third from Roger Noble's SJ320 'Quencher' on countback.

Class 3 saw battle renewed between Robert Leggett's Contessa 33 'Arctic Monkey' and Geoff Gritton's quarter tonner 'Panic'. However Matt Goodridge had an excellent overall win in the second race in his First 25 'Verve' to separate the others in the final standings. 'Panic' won the Class with wins in races 1 and 3. A retirement by 'Arctic Monkey' in race 3 gave 'Verve' a well-deserved second.



Class 4 was won by Julian Lord's Impala 'Scallywag' winning two of the three races ahead of Guy Warry's Limbo 6.6 'Blue Movie' who won race 1.

Overall, 'Inn Spirit', helmed by Ian Hart, won the Crouch Regatta for the second consecutive year scoring a first, fourth and second. 'Panic' put in a very consistent performance to finish second overall ahead of 'Amazon'.

SailEast 2013 Season Results

Following the Crouch Regatta, the SailEast 2013 results can now be revealed. In Class 1, Alan Bartlett's 'Inn Spirit' beat Richard Matthews 'Oystercatcher XXX' in to second place followed by David Pinner's X35 'Kiss'. Class 2 was won by Tony & Chuffy Merewether's Sun Fast 3200 'Amazon' followed by Bill Rees X-332 'Hysterix' and John & Jean Harding's First 36.7 'Bigwig 2'. In Class 3, Robert Leggett's Contessa 33 'Arctic Monkey' was able to hold off the challenge of Geoff Gritton's quarter tonner 'Panic' and Matt Goodridge's First 25 'Verve', finishing second and third respectively. Class 4 was again won by the Impala of Julian Lord, 'Scallywag', with Ed Harvey's J24 'Jinge' second and Tim Wood's Stella 'L'Etoile' third.

The SailEast Overall winner, winning the £1,000 Dolphin Sails voucher, is 'Oystercatcher XXX' on countback from 'Inn Spirit', with 'Scallywag' third.

The Club Team Trophy has been won by West Mersea Yacht Club (Oystercatcher XXX, Scallywag & Arctic Monkey). Second is Haven Ports Yacht Club (Kiss, Verve, Jinge), followed by Crouch Yacht Club (Inn Spirit, Amazon & Hot Doris).