

AYC Training & Annual Shakedown Event 2011 16 & 17 April 2011

Three generations triumph at AYC!

With weather especially ordered in for the event, the sun was beating down without a breath of wind for both training and race day. Saturday, saw 10 trainees being put through their paces by the safety and assessment teams, practising their flag procedures, MOB and overtaking manoeuvres, following a morning in the classroom. Some, like well known Paul Hastings, were re-training and brushing up on the new rules for 2011, but even Paul commented that he had learnt a few new things and that it was a worthwhile exercise. Returning A Team Mark & Odette Priestley failed to make the start of the practical session on the Saturday, after spending the week setting up son Daniel's outfit, as well as their own, but were put through their paces by SEPA's powerboat assessor Sharon Atlee prior to starting the race on Sunday. Engine problems prevented them getting off the slipway for the practical, although they attended the theory session on safety, scrutineering & launching procedures, along with the others. Theory demonstrations and slides were presented to highlight the expectations required during the practical elements of the training by the OOD, all under the watchful eye of the Club's Training Officer – John Gore.

Brian Peedell (ORDA's powerboat assessor) along with wife Pat gave a talk on boat set up, trim and navigation, together with the importance of crew communication & testing, all useful but sometimes forgotten information, that can make all the difference between winning or losing!

When the day of the race dawned, the organisers could hardly believe the weather was still holding; with 11 entrants on the starting line, the first of the Powerboat 2011 racing concepts got underway. Brought in by Rob McCarthy to help with dwindling fields, Powerboat 2011 is basically a powerboat event that anyone from any class can enter. Once the entries are in, class divides are made up depending on the dynamics of the field but are roughly based on up to 100hp, up to 200hp and over 200hp.

Bob's idea is to encourage more boats to enter with the emphasis on racing against each other, rather than on a specific class.



As the boats raced down from the muster area, it was once again the Midas Cat of John Hedges & Martin Warren who roared into the lead, closest to the shore. Martin had specifically requested at Drivers Briefing that they be allowed to be positioned furthest away from the Start Boat, as the Midas does have a tendency to do twice the race course distance as she rounds the buoys!

As the larger boats began to wind up, by the time the fleet turned Mark 2, the tangerine boat of Neil & Jason Jackson – NWJ Services – had shot into the lead, flying down the back strait to the East Blyth Channel Mark, closely pursued by the 2010 National Champion winning boat of Circle Express and newcomers C77 Graham Reeder and Andrew Fitzgerald, with Paul Hastings in his Hastings Design race boat in hot pursuit. Despite warnings at the briefing about the infamous tanker washes that ‘hover’ inconspicuously around this area, the crews had trouble spotting the incoming wave configurations as the sun was glimmering on the water, making it difficult to read. Lap 2 saw the Navigator of C77 – newbie Andrew Fitzgerald – go swimming at the East Blyth, the only foot out of place the team had made that weekend! This beautifully prepared outfit of Graham Reeder has been immaculately put together and the pair were organised, paperwork ready and punctual for training and briefings throughout the weekend. (I can predict they will be an organisers ‘dream team’ for 2011)

Back to the race, and the following team of Paul Hastings and Stuart Dick in the infamous RENEGADE of Boatmad, put their knowledge of MOB into practise by stopping to assist and shield until the rescue boat arrived on the scene, earning him The Steve Baker Challenge Trophy for the best sportsmanship award, as he jeopardised his challenge on the leaders. After a quick check over by the Event Doctor, Andy got back into the boat and continued with the race for the experience.

The two A boats just behind, were battling it out with the lead boat in B Class; experienced driver Sharon Atlee who has downsized her 20’ Tintorera to a 90 Yam - in preparation perhaps for an assault on the 3B Worlds this year in Torquay? – took out geriatric sister Sheena for spin to remind her of the old times! Dubbed ‘Grey Hair Racing’ by the OOD at Prize Giving, they eventually notched up first place, despite Sheena’s request for a stenna chairlift to be fitted to get her in and out of the seat, should she ever be daft enough to go again!

Daniel Priestley and his newly trained Navigator Ash Jennings In A17 drove a sterling first couple of laps to shake off the competition of Mum & Dad in their tandem 18’ Phantom. Seventeen year old Daniel encompasses the spirit of the old OCR with his enthusiasm and ‘foot flat to the floor’ tactics! Mark & Odette in their tandem seated A boat were unable to keep up with their son, prompting Mark to throw down the gauntlet for the next race. The husband & wife team had had their engine problems over the weekend and will I am sure be pushing harder, hot on the heels of the leading A boats in Plymouth in a few weeks time.

Meanwhile, the three other 3B contenders were battling it out behind; veteran driver Graham Atlee who took out the newly trained Natalie Hedges as his navigator in the 16 Phantom B27, to notch up 2nd place. Natalie was thrilled to be taking part in her first race alongside Dad John in the Midas – *and they say powerboat racing is not in the blood!* I remember racing alongside John’s Father Terry, but I’m not telling you how many years ago that was!

The new team of Neil Ives and Carl Andrews in B52 were hot on their heels in their first race and although Carl seemed a little nervous following the training from the day before he soon settled down to enjoy his first experience of a complete race and I sure will not be so daunted at the prospect of the next one. The team also took the Concourse d'Elegance Trophy for the best prepared boat, as judged by the Scrutineers.



Back in the driving seat – after a long lay off with an injured leg – Ashley has relegated Adrian to the back seat for this season. Again a strong contender for the 3B World Championships in Torquay in September, this beautiful boat has attracted sponsorship this year and has been renamed DIGITAL CLARITY for the 2011 season. In anecdotal fashion after the race Adrian, who has fitted a new tank in the nose of the boat, was reported as saying to Ashleigh when they hit the tanker wash ‘Keep your foot down – I’ve put more weight in the front!’ Ashleigh said she did as he said, closed her eyes and prayed he was right! He was. Dads always are.

Back to the front contenders and newly acquired navigator George Butler was having the time of his life in the back seat of Brian Peedell’s C13 CIRCLE EXPRESS. George had only come down to watch the race and was quickly nabbed by Brian who, without navigator for the season, was relieved to find someone to jump in the back at the last minute. Driving the winning B class boat last season at the Shakedown, George certainly had to use every navigational skill in the book to keep up with the whereabouts of NWJ SERVICES. These two teams swapped the lead several times, making an exciting race for the spectators, overtaking on both the straits and turn marks – all closely observing the new overtaking rule for 2011 of course!

Finally, Brian and George took first over the line honours a mere 8 seconds ahead of the brothers Neil and Jason Jackson in second place. Third place went to Paul Hastings and Stuart Dick in RENEGADE, who failed to make up the lost time incurred when they stopped at East Blyth. **Full race results are shown below.**

A big thank-you to all the members of AYC and SEPA who helped to make the weekend a success; well done to all the new trainees and to those who have re-trained and I hope you all go on to have a safe and successful racing season in 2011.

For those of you who have not yet entered for the next race at Plymouth – go on, get that entry form in now – you know you want to.....

See you on the circuit!

Allhallows Shakedown Powerboat 2011 Club
17th April 2011

Pos.	Boat No.	Boat Name	Driver	Navigator	Hull Model Engine	Finishing Time
1	C13	CIRCLE EXPRESS	Brian Peedell	George Butler	Mannerfelt 24 Optimax 200 XS	33.56 9 Laps
2	926	NWJ SERVICES	Neil Jackson	Jason Jackson	Phantom 21 Mercury XR2	34.04 9 Laps
3	33	RENEGADE	Paul Hastings	Stuart Dick	Hastings Design 19 Evinrude 150 HO	34.52 8 Laps
4	A17	PRIESTLEY RACING	Daniel Priestley	Ash Jennings	Phantom 19 Yamaha 130 hp	35.49 8 Laps
5	A16	GILBERT RACING	Mark Priestley	Odette Priestley	Phantom 18 Yamaha 130 hp	37.52 8 Laps
6	B28	TINTORERA RACING	Sharon Atlee	Sheena Williams	Tintorera 20 Yamaha 90	34.48 7 Laps
7	B27	RAW EDGE RACING	Graham Atlee	Natalie Hedges	Phantom 16 Yamaha 90	36.10 7 Laps
8	B52	BLITZ RACING	Neil Ives	Carl Andrews	Barracuda 18 Yamaha 90	38.29 7 Laps
9	B92	DIGITAL CLARITY	Ashleigh Foulser	Adrian Foulser	Backdraft 22 Yamaha 90	34.08 6 Laps
10	C77	ANNAB	Graham Reeder	Andrew Fitzgerald	Mannerfelt 24 Mercury XR2	34.12 5 Laps
Retd	40	MWA	John Hedges	Martin Warren	Campbell Midas Cat 27 Mercury 280	Retired