

Autumn Series Race 8 Sunday 8th October 2017

Nine boats came out to compete in the penultimate race of the 2017 sailing season. There was a light northerly wind and a large swell but this did not spoil the enthusiasm of the crews as they jostled for position at the start. *Icon* misjudged her start all together and was still returning to the starting area as the starting signal was called. *Cold Steel* was just slightly too keen and she also had to return to the starting side of the line in order to start legally. This left *Antix* with limited competition and she took advantage of her clear air, reaching the turning mark with a good lead and had a rapid spinnaker hoist. *Icon* rapidly recovered from her delayed start and soon got back to second place while *Cold Steel* struggled to pass the slower boats but eventually established third place. *Skywalker* and *Tiger Rag* both tried their spinnakers but a gust laid *Skywalker* on her ear. *Masquerade* was keeping up a good pace and it was a while before *Cold Steel* passed her. The fleet completed several short circuits not far from the harbour entrance. Class A finished in the order *Antix*, *Icon* and *Cold Steel* and Class B in the order *Skywalker*, *Masquerade*, *Rampage*, *Tiger Rag*, *Serenade of Parkstone* and *Bamboozle* but the handicap adjusted the final order.

Result: Class A, 1st *Antix* (John Allen and Sandy Ransom), 2nd *Icon* (Neil and Lorraine Williamson), 3rd *Cold Steel* (Colin Dey, Keith Gowland and Nigel Jarvis). Class B, 1st *Skywalker* (Peter Brown), 2nd *Tiger Rag* (George and Nat Drake), 3rd *Masquerade* (David Miller).