

Spring Series Race 9 17 June 2017

The eight boats which came out to compete in the final race of the Spring Series were surprised to find a fresher wind than they had experienced in the harbour and several made changes to their selected sails. A competitive start saw *Cold Steel* with her nose in front of *Icon* with *Samaki* being a little tardy. The faster boats, *Cold Steel* and *Icon*, pulled away on the reach to the Bell Buoy and so began the tussle they would continue throughout the race. *Skywalker* led the trailing bunch of *Teemane*, *Masquerade*, *Rampage*, *Serenade of Parkstone* and *Samaki*. The boats turned against the wind to head for Sandsend leaving two options, either stay out at sea and punch the tide or come in and risk losing wind. The inner route proved the better with *Cold Steel* still holding off *Icon*. *Skywalker* retained her 3rd place and *Samaki* gained three places by taking the inner route. *Rampage* attempted to stay just inside *Masquerade* at the buoy but this resulted in her hitting the buoy and having to complete a penalty turn. The fleet completed the lap in the same order and finished the race after a short lap off the pier ends with *Cold Steel* just beating *Icon*, followed by *Skywalker*, *Teemane*, *Samaki*, *Masquerade*, *Rampage* and finally *Serenade of Parkstone*. Application of the handicaps, however, changed the final order.

Result: Class A 1st *Cold Steel* (Colin Dey, Keith Gowland and Nigel Jarvis), 2nd *Icon* (Neil and Lorraine Williamson), 3rd *Teemane* (Mike and Marilyn Dixon). Class B 1st *Skywalker* (Peter Brown), 2nd *Rampage* (Derek Wright and Paul Scaife), 3rd *Serenade of Parkstone* (Chris Hamlett and Les Franks).