

Whitsun with MOCRA

We had some great sailing over all 3 days having just 3 entries which we believe was due to the Covid knock on effect, entries were, *PERSUASION* (Simon Barnes), *ORIGAMI* (Nick Wood) and *TRIASSIC* (Nigel Stevens) and all were racing using the MOCRA (Multihull Offshore Cruising and Racing Association) rating system with *ORIGAMI* and *TRIASSIC* being the same make and model and similar ratings albeit *TRIASSIC* gives *ORIGAMI* c. 28 seconds an hour for some reason. *PERSUASION* gives a massive 3 minutes 21 seconds an hour to *ORIGAMI* and 2 minutes 53 seconds an hour to *TRIASSIC* which was to be a major factor this regatta especially as all races were between 3 and 4 hours long and all our sailing speeds are so similar.

Day 1: This saw a rather interesting upwind start from the RBYC line in 8-10 knots of breeze with *TRIASSIC* calling Starboard on *ORIGAMI* where upon *ORIGAMI* hooked a mooring by the end of the RBYC pontoon which slowed down their progress somewhat initially. The beat up to Greenward had some big wind shifts and if you were caught on the wrong side of one being a foul tide beat you were suitably punished. Heading down the roach *PERSUASION* and *ORIGAMI* were alongside each other with code zero's flying and both doing 17 - 18 knots which would have made a cracking photo! After this we had a long beat all the way to Sunken Buxey where we all agreed on VHF to reduce the last lap to be sure of making the bar in reasonable time. At the finish *PERSUASION* had line honours and *TRIASSIC* beat *ORIGAMI* over the line by 15 seconds to the great delight of *TRIASSIC* as something they had been trying to do for sometime. The corrected times based on our ratings saw *ORIGAMI* First, *TRIASSIC* second by 1 minute 35 seconds and *PERSUASION* 3rd by 7 minutes 33 seconds and was to be similar for the rest of the regatta.

Day 2: Another upwind start from the RBYC line in 8-10 knots of breeze and a 24 mile course. *PERSUASION* nailed the start as both *ORIGAMI* and *TRIASSIC* found themselves in a light wind patch some way from the line.

The race was very similar to day one with some long foul tide beats which kept the crew reasonably warm ! On the run home due to the angles we sail we had to sail in between a few other fleets which made it rather interesting and we no doubt surprised one or two people picking our way through at speed. *ORIGAMI* finally took *PERSUASION* to get line honours by 6 seconds as both found themselves at rather deep angles close to the RBYC pontoon in the lee of the shore. The corrected times similar to day one with *ORIGAMI* beating *TRIASSIC* by 6 minutes 23 seconds and *PERSUASION* by 10 minutes 45 seconds.

Day 3: Slightly fresher breeze at 10+ knots and another upwind start from the RBYC line and a 24 mile course, the first 40 minutes or so was in slack water so we were able to use the whole river. *ORIGAMI* and *TRIASSIC* started on Starboard and *PERSUASION* had to tack for *ORIGAMI* and *PERSUASION* took the lead before the start of the moorings, another quick sail into the Roach which always adds an interesting leg on our way out of the river. We came across 15 or so kayakers as we approached Roach buoy which must have been a great view for them as we passed quite close. Our crews were kept nice and warm again following a couple of long beats using Inner Crouch and Outer Crouch 3 as a loop. *PERSUASION* rounded the last windward mark with a good lead and on the sail home in glorious sunshine *ORIGAMI* as always narrowed the distance dramatically to see *PERSUASION* take line honours followed by *ORIGAMI* and *TRIASSIC*. Corrected times saw *ORIGAMI* win by 11 minutes 14 seconds to *PERSUASION* with *TRIASSIC* 3rd by 1 minutes 48 seconds.

All in all a great weekends sailing with some good social distanced beers on the balcony which saw the RBYC at it's best and now, for us, it is to focus on the planning of the MOCRA Nationals during the Bank Holiday weekend of Burnham Week where hopefully we will have a lot more multihulls in the river.

Simon Barnes
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