

Fisherrow Yacht Club Regatta 2021

Fisherrow held their annual yacht regatta over the weekend 21 and 22 August. After weeks of glorious weather and perfect sailing wind conditions the two day event was, by contrast, wet and windless on Saturday. Sunday's race was initially hampered by thick fog but a breeze blew in and the yachts sailed.

Former club commodore Mark McClelland, said: "Heavy rain and light winds greeted competitors in Fisherrow Yacht Club's annual regatta this Saturday, which was rather a shock to the system after all the sunny weather we have been enjoying. The race organiser, Commodore Alison Holstead managed to squeeze in two races before the wind abandoned the race course completely leaving David Banks, racing on yacht "Swirley", in pole position with two wins out of two.

The after race BBQ was conducted, by necessity, under a marquee and the club enjoyed having their bar open for the first time since Covid restrictions were relaxed.

Sunday brought a thick haar on the water and a lifeless wind as the boats motored out of the harbour on the rising tide. Visibility was down to 100 yards or less and it was impossible to see the harbour or beach from just offshore. Luckily by start time the haar had been blown further up the Forth towards the bridges by a lovely breeze from the North East bringing perfect sailing conditions. Race one saw Swirley stretch her long legs again winning by over 4 minutes over the hour long race, but in races 2 and 3 yacht "Deantoun" helmed by Stuart MacDonald and yacht "Rebel Rebel" helmed by Mark McClelland managed to keep in touch with Swirley pushing her hard right until the line with less than a minute separating the three boats each time. Swirley, just back from seven weeks cruising the West of Scotland, prevailed with a full house of 5 firsts, Deantoun came second recording 3 seconds on the Sunday and yacht "Sulamar" raced singlehandedly by skipper Dennis Walton came third overall.

Yacht "Firecracker" enjoyed her first ever regatta with new skippers Thoren Ferguson and Paul Hay, their highlight was dominating a very congested and exciting startline in the final race, well done to them and well done to the event organisers for a great weekend's racing."

The clear overall winner was yacht Swirley skippered by David Banks , second Deantoun skippered by Stuart McDonald and third was Sulamar, skippered by Dennis Walton.

Social Secretary, Barbara Robertson, who coordinated the after race BBQ commented that it was so nice to have members back in the club rooms after a year and half of restrictions.

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Picture: FYC Regatta 2021 prizes: Left to right Rory Banks, Swirley Crew; David Banks, Swirley Skipper; Stuart McDonald, Deantoun, Skipper; Alison Holstead, FYC Commodore; Dennis Walton, Sulamar Skipper. Photo credit: Barbara Robertson