

Travellers Trophy 2022 at BRSC, 28th May 2022



The Scow Travellers' Trophy kicked off in fine style at the end of May, courtesy of Beaulieu River Sailing Club. The thirty competitors were welcomed by plenty of sun, a light Northerly wind and an ebbing tide to send them on their way from Factory Field to Needs Ore. Competitors from Lymington and Keyhaven complimented the usual Beaulieu fleet in this annual 'Down the River Race'.

The wind was fluky and very light at the start which meant that the fleet spread out quite quickly on the short beat to 'A', the only mark of this totally unique course that travels from one end of The Beaulieu River to the other.



As the scows then bore off to race the length of Beaulieu River, the usual close battles that are characterised by Scow racing took place throughout the fleet. Despite there being no marks to round, it was a hugely tactical race as the racers (and in some cases 'cruisers') fought to keep their boats in the small pockets of breeze that filtered around the course,

whilst trying to sail the shortest possible course around the many twists and turns of the river.

The lead group of four or five boats soon split from the rest of the pack, with Jay Devonshire nosing ahead of a few close rivals that included Charles Nicholson in his brand new John Claridge boat, Tubby. The Traveller entrants didn't get off to the best of starts (maybe local knowledge pays!), but they slowly started to fight their way through the fleet, with Allan Hill leading the way and heading up the second group of scows.

The rest of the fleet was so evenly matched and at times there were six or seven scows abreast of each other as they squeezed past Bucklers Hard. With a light following wind up until the final turn to port after Gins Farm, there were few opportunities to escape one's immediate opposition, resulting in a very close fought race from first to last.

By Gins the wind was filling in nicely and the decision was which side of the pontoon to go. Staying on the river side ensured a more consistent wind, a stronger tide, but also a longer route. The bank side had the risk of the wind being blanketed by the moored yachts. Jay and Richard Chitty opted for the inside track, which left Charles Nicholson no choice but to remain on the river side of the pontoon, in the hope that he could snatch the win. The inside track paid off which gave Jay and Richard an increased lead over Charles. Jay crossed the finishing line in first place, 10 secs ahead of Richard. Charles Nicholson came in 3rd to round off the podium places.

Meanwhile, Allan Hill at the helm of Coracle had stretched out his lead amongst the Travellers Trophy competitors, cementing his first place in the Traveller Trophy Beaulieu leg, very closely followed by John Evans in Scorchin and David and Kate Carslaw in Zephyrus.

The rest of the fleet was not far behind and it must have made a wonderful sight for those waiting at Needs Ore to see so many scows all reaching down from Gins. There was an even more wonderful sight at the club house where Gillian Devonshire, Sarah Karsten and Miranda Knowles had laid on an excellent spread of savouries and cakes for those who had not brought a picnic.

Our thanks also go to the Race Officer James McGill, the starting team of Ginna Gayner and Gerry Marling-Roberts, and the safety boat crews of Sam van Holthe, Peter & Angela Broomfield, Vova Karavan, Simon Gibbs, Oli & Sophie Stanley, and to Victoria Bonham Carter for organising everyone so well.



We now look forward to the Keyhaven Leg of the Traveller's Trophy. Another very special venue on this fun little circuit.

RESULTS

- 1st Allan Hill**
- 2nd John Evans**
- 3rd David Carslaw**
- 4th Philip Gossage**
- 5th Jo Edwards**