

The conditions were perfect for this race. No, not the wind, but the fact that (for me) it had an "after breakfast" start and I had a whole day free of interruptions!

Although the course was not the most difficult, I could see that it was going to be a close race for that very reason.

The start was uneventful, except for the few who went off for an early BBQ, and I soon settled down to sailing a tight line whilst keeping an eye on maduro. To my surprise, we quickly took up the 1 and 2 spots!

Other boats were very close, so the positions jumped about dramatically as the server fought to sort out the milliseconds of difference.

Maduro and I fought off each other right round the course. Every angle had to be perfect to stop him getting a jump on me. My experience in the Practice Races (thanks RC :) proved very useful for calculating turns quickly.

The last leg proved to be the decider. I had maduro on my outside and was ready if he decided to tack early. The turn went as I had planned and I was heading for home, when suddenly I noticed Sassy had appeared by my side! He was sailing a broader angle so, although faster, would hit the line much further up. I was not unduly worried until I realised that he could tack at the last second and might cross the line in front!

He did tack at the last moment but his surprise win was not to be. His brave effort cost him performance which lost him places.

Maduro and I went on to take the win and 2nd, to be joined on the podium by bonknhoot in 3rd, after a very exciting and competitive race.

My thanks to the organisers and all who took part.

Danny / February 2015