

Race Report

Menace , Swallow , Pania , Pez Espada , Gecko ad Valhalla were greeted with a light North Easterly and strong Spring Tides for the 2pm start of the RNLI Pennant Races on Sunday.

2 courses were set to allow both the more experienced and short handed or less experienced Cruisers to enjoy themselves with the longer race being out to Haile Sand along the edge of the TSS and the shorter course turning back at 2C.

Most boats had a good start on the gun with Valhalla taking an early lead but Menace chose to head towards the middle of the river on a port tack heading for the strong spring tide to carry them down to 4a Clee Ness which paid as they were able to lay the mark easing sheets when they got closer where other boats had to tack to make the starboard rounding.

A tight reach with the spinnaker up enabled Menace to gain some distance over the chasing fleet as the boats headed towards No 4 before dropping and then continuing on port tack up towards 2C with Valhalla , Pania and Gecko in close pursuit.

Valhalla was the first of the short handed boats to reach 2C before rounding to starboard and heading back to the finish at No7 Middle via 4 and 4A.

Pania followed to finish about 10 minutes behind Valhalla.

Menace and Gecko remained the 2 boats doing the longer course and Menace were able to negotiate around the Tetney Monobuoy restricted zone before hardening up to lay 2B and then Haile Sand on the same tack ; going round Haile Sand 15 minutes before low water.

A quick spinnaker hoist and gybe put Menace on the way home via 2B , 4 under a tight kite reach and a short beat up to 4A Clee Ness before a tight white sails reach back to the finish at No 7 Middle in just under 3.5 hours.

Martyn West on Gecko with just 2 crew struggled to make it upwind before the tide started to turn and chose to retire concerned about penning in.

Commercial traffic priorities made it a long wait for 9 boats out , some racing and some cruising but great to see more numbers out.

Well done to everyone but to Menace and Valhalla for their respective class wins.

Phil Nickells – Race Officer

