

Dear 36 sailor

I'm writing to remind you all to vote in **the survey of class opinion regarding carbon spars for 36's**. All of you who have registered boats in the class should have received a missive from the class association; if you have not please let me know. The issue is simply whether to relax the rules to allow composite (not necessarily carbon) spars. You may have strong views on this, or you may not, but this is the opportunity to have your say. There is also a copy of the **proposed amended 36 rules, with commentary regarding the changes** to look at.

There are, of course, pros and cons. Staying as we are is perhaps the more comfortable decision, and decent alloy spars are still available and easier to work with. But it does perhaps seem illogical that in the nearest we have to a free-design class, with almost no restrictions on design, rigs or materials, we limit mast material especially when carbon is not so easily available. For my part I would welcome freedom from the problems of corrosion in spars and stubs, but would probably only bother to change the spars on the largest of rigs.

I have heard from Graham Reeves, who is the main organiser for **the UK/US events scheduled for September 9th and 10th at Bournville, and the following weekend, the 16th and 17th at Gosport**. He is concerned that so far only two of our boats have let him know that they plan to sail. I'm at fault here, because I hadn't contacted him either, but I plan to do both weekends, as do Peter and Paul, and Graham. Jacque and Eric will race in the Gosport event. The UK/US is always a lot of fun, with some good racing as well, and our American visitors are charming and most friendly. I can recommend it to all of you, and encourage you to join in. Please let me or Graham Reeves know your intentions.

To finish here is the **36 club race report for last Saturday, the 24th June**. Sadly, holidays, work and incapacity accounted for quite a chunk of our normal fleet, and we only mustered five boats. The wind was quite blustery and the rain at the start made it seem more like September! But after a tricky beginning, we settled into some close racing. Graham and Ray (perhaps you will guess the rest....) made exactly the right rig decision, and sailed conservatively and well to trounce everyone else, with 18 points. There was some indecision in the rest of the fleet as to which rigs to use, some fitting No 3s, then changing up to No 1s, (spectacular) before making the right decision too late and going for No 2. By that time the Wyeth outfit were well in the lead. Jacque and Eric did well to accrue 14 points with a No 1 sail for some of the time, very nearly leading to a pitch-pole. Mervyn and Andy came in third with 13 points, and Peter and Paul had an unusually off-colour day, to finish fourth with only 5 points. Alex had rig problems and found his boat really difficult to sail successfully. This was a shame because he had already spent time on Friday mending his vane pin which had broken when sailing that morning.

Our next vane racing is A's, scheduled for the 9th of July, then again on the 16<sup>th</sup> followed by 36's on the 22nd. Hope to see you all there.

Mervyn