

Solent Sunbeam Dainty Dish - Friday 28 July 2023 - Results

1	V26	Danny	Roger Wickens
2	V47	Kitty	Simon Perkins
3	V24	Fay	Tom & William Reid
4	V68	Sky	Ollie Gilchrist & Beckie Wickens
5	V12	Argosy	James and Sam Axtell
6	V36	Melody	John & Petra Tanner
7	V25	Query	Tim Hill
8	V65	Alchemy	Jerry & Tamsin Saunders, Jacqueline Evans
9	V72	Serendipity	Adrian & Nikki Edwards
10	V67	Misty	Simon Patterson
11	V1	Dainty	Peter Nicholson, Mike Hollis
12	V33	Symphony	Jill Robinson, Rupert & Jenny Eastwood, Viv & Anna Williams
13	V13	Bryony	William Bodey
14	V71	Tiffany	David and Alexandra Grylls
15	V28	Why	Robert Eggleton, Georgina Eggleton
RTD	V32	Holly	Martin & Vicky Jones

The 2023 Dainty Dish race was sailed on the Friday before Cowes Week. This was a day later than planned and used the contingency day that has traditionally been built into the Dainty Dish race date to allow forecast heavy weather to be managed. An unhealthy early start time was set, with a race briefing at the club at 0700 with the objective of an 0800 start time and it is to the fleet's credit (and possibly the attractive tide direction available only earlier in the morning) that crews gathered on time at the club. A breach of class etiquette was avoided by a short wait while William Bodey retrieved his trousers and the 16 boats started pretty much on time. Gayle Palmer had kindly come down to the club to run the ferry boat and Viv and Anna Williams acted as baggage, start and escort boat. Together with Tom and Lindy Reid's RIB, they both provided a reassuring presence during the crossing.

The wind was Southwesterly, with the end of an ebb tide helping the fleet down to the harbour entrance in fairly quick time. At the Bar Beacon the choice was to tack and take a course slightly north of the rumb line, or to continue south towards darker cloud and possibly more wind and tide. It appeared that this latter course was the correct one with most of the early finishers in this group. The Hayling Bay slop was in fine form requiring a careful balance between height and speed but the sea smoothed out slightly as boats progressed through the forts and into the slight shelter from the island. Whilst its direction was fairly constant, the wind had a few soft spots in it, which kept crews on their toes as they adjusted sails accordingly. Once through the forts, the course to Castle Point continued as a beat, mainly on port, but needing enough sailing on the other tack to keep the fleet interested. For once, the whole fleet crossed the proper finishing line, although sadly Holly, crewed by some younger members from the club, lost a good finishing position by sailing south of the orange mooring buoys and had to retire. It was good to see some new names at the front of the fleet with Kitty and Fay keeping Danny honest all the way to the finish.

Fleet and baggage arrived in good time to allow sailors and their partners to enjoy pre dinner drinks at the Royal London YC, which hosted the subsequent Dainty Dish dinner. A short prize giving plus some thank-you presents preceeded a special presentation to Jerry Saunders, recognising all his work on the Centenary celebrations which the class had enjoyed during 2023. A hearty round of the Sunbeam song, led by our Class Commodore, closed the evening.

