

## YW 14FT DAYBOAT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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The YW 14ft DAYBOAT national championship held on May 25th-June 1st was hosted in grand style by Thornbury SC on the River Severn.

The Severn provided strong tidal conditions and varying winds, but did not detract from hard, keen racing. However, it certainly added a new dimension for some of the visiting helmsmen. Angle of approach to a mark proved the name of the game on more than one occasion, demonstrated clearly by cadet Geoffrey Dixon sailing 'Dipper' in the Long Distance Race when half the fleet were swept past the mark and a good many others barely stemming the tidal stream. Apart from winning the Long Distance Race Dixon also won the cadet's race, and the Marlow Rope for the best placed first timer in the points series.

The host club put in a commendable performance with Tony and Barbara Bowden in 'Pluto II' winning the Husband and Wife and the Married Couple trophies. Edmund Grace, who attended the first Dayboat nationals at Weston-super-Mare in 1957 - now President of Thornbury SC - brought in consistently good results and Vice-Commodore Sid Booy's won the crew's race. The Leat brothers, Brian and Barry in 'Kiwi' and 'Laurus II' were always there and brought in fifth and sixth overall. However, it was Brian Mardon in 'Skeena' who was Thornbury SC's big hope to challenge for the championship and indeed he did win the last points race, but broken booms in two races proved too much of a handicap.

The real question was - could David Williams in his brand-new glassfibre simulated clinker boat 'Huggy Bare' topple his fellow Poole YC member Richard Cake sailing 'Instant Sunshine' from his championship throne which he has held for the last four years? The question was left unanswered right up to the last race with honours even, but the strong flood was Richard's undoing and as a premature starter he had a formidable task to get back across the line and get back in contention. He put in an effort worthy of a champion, passing 30 boats but despite the race running full distance was never a serious threat to Williams. Poole's lady sailor Sue Clayton sailing 'Spanker' won the Ladies Race and also The Petticoat Plate for best placed lady. Dick Hanson of Tamar RSC won the Graham Penny trophy for the best aggregate result over a two year period outside the prizewinners. These results combined with Philip Heydon's 'Attishoo' from Torpoint SC and Tony Cole in 'Debonair' from Gravesend SC retaining the Tanner's Tradition and Brixham Trophy respectively, gave a good spread of trophies through the various clubs attending.

The spirit of the week was demonstrated by Tim Parkinson from Thornbury SC sailing 'Avocet' whose rudder was carried away in the final race. Parkinson then proceeded to sail the next two rounds in a good blow and heavy swell with no rudder at all - for which he was awarded the coveted seamanship trophy.

Ray Dixon  
Dayboat Assoc. Sec.