

In what has been described by some as an appalling travesty of the racing rules, SSC's Topper bash has once again taken place on New Years day. And as in previous years and despite many complaints, Jim Shipp joined the OOD team and might have been overheard to mutter that people must 'be confusing him with someone who gives a ****'. The event was loosely based upon something like team racing though there seemed to be very little visible teamwork which was not surprising given the demeanour of some of the younger racers. Serves them right. Some of us were baby sitting the night before and didn't have an opportunity to go to a knees up - mumble, grumble ..

Right - not babysitting the night before

The OOD team with a fine disregard for tradition (not to say honesty) awarded prizes in a particularly random fashion. Tim A (Red Team) was awarded 'best pirate' for interfering not only with everyone in the Blue Team but most people in the Red Team as well. Fortunately, as Tim had left before the prizegiving took place (just because it was his birthday), the OOD team, full of seasonal good cheer, decided to drink his bottle of wine as a sort of consolation prize.

Tom D's true name has been withheld to protect his parents but we can reveal that he was awarded two prizes - the first was for demonstrating significant Topper skills in capsizing his boat whilst not actually moving - showing clearly the value of being in an RYA Squad and the second but perhaps more valued award being the gullibility cup for allowing a member of the opposition to sneak up, detach his boom, clout him on the head with it and tow him backwards at some speed. It should be noted that even with these setbacks, Mr D's team won the team award which only goes to show that it must all have been part of a cunning plan ..



A 'cunning plan' or just demeanour?

The younger members of the Red Team all received prizes though at least one of them pointed out that Tom D was not quick to open his prizes for the general consumption of his team mates. Given the Red Team's success, it's scarcely worth noting that the teams handicap, ~~Brian~~ one adult johnny-come-lately was mentioned in despatches ... the citation reads that he did *'show less than ideal tactical awareness of team racing in that he did, whilst impeding the Blue Team, manage to lose two places, his mainsheet and get his painter struck up his daggerboard slot ...*



Left - ... less than ideal tactical awareness ...

Whilst the Red Team had swept the prize board, a special award was reserved for Blue Team member Liz K, the most obvious victim of piracy (or sabotage) in that she managed to sail around and come ashore without knowing that her rudder blade was completely detached from the stock. This reporter can only assume that a pirate in the Red Team, armed with two 10 mm spanners, removed the rudder bolt whilst Ms K's attention was engaged elsewhere. Anyone finding the missing nut and bolt is asked to return it to:-

Ms L K, 23 Letsby Avenue, Tillit, Herts.

The OOD team did, in a moment of unusual honesty, recognise that Bath Endecatt (the well known typing error) outsailed everybody on the day and therefore had 10 points deducted from her final score - quite right too.



... interfering with everyone ...

Everyone racing including those that moaned when they didn't get a prize would like to thank the people that supported the day including the OOD team, Bob on Safety and Karen who did sterling work keeping all fed and watered - sausage rolls, mince pies, mulled something or other - delish!



Blue Team tactics



An act of piracy