

## The Scottish Islands Peaks Race 2011



The above shows Oban Sound just before 1pm on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> as the last few boats collect their runners after they have run six miles round the hills in the background. Despite the inauspicious date, the overnight rain has stopped and there is a good wind as the above boats chase the leaders already stretching out towards the first stop at Salen. (See below; These boats at least had dodged the ferry).



The boats then put their runners ashore at Salen for the first run over Ben More and Back before setting out in the evening for the long sail down to Craighouse on Jura. The wind held up through the night and there was enough for the leading boats to stem the tide in darkness through the Sound of Luing with some of the craftier ones skipping round to the West of Scarba and coming through the Corrievreckan to arrive at Craighouse in the early hours of the morning. The order of the boats often changes after each run and so interest is maintained through the night over the 53 miles to Craighouse as teams with the faster runners are caught once again by teams with the faster boats (or more cunning tactics).

Navigation through these rock-strewn waters is so much easier these days for modern boats with moving displays of charts and GPS position by the helm but real hazards still remain as the grand old America's Cup contender Sceptre demonstrated when she ran onto Goat rock in the dark whilst taking in sail prior to entering Craighouse Bay. She damaged her rudder but after the run, her Youth Team from Glenalmond were able to continue on their other boat Blue Damsel.



The next leg from Craighouse to Lamlash is round the Mull of Kintyre with its fierce tides and overfalls but the wind stayed favourable and despite being All Rounders, Patrick Bird's Arcona 400 Sea Fever set a new record of 8h 47m 48s even beating the multihulls. The leading boats were reaching Lamlash throughout the afternoon and evening of Saturday more than 24 hrs earlier than in last year's slow race). Many teams had to run Goat Fell in the dark before setting out for the finish at Troon. But in Class 1 the leading multihulls Gordon Baird's 50ft cat Obedient (32h 46m 44s) and Steven Garrett's Trimaran Blue Chip finished in the same order in which they had left Oban less than a day and a half earlier.





Class 2 for fast cruiser racer yachts was won by Richard Robert's Dorothea in 36hr 56m 53s closely followed by Colin Craig's Bequia in 37h 40m 48s, Class 3 for the cruisers was won by Matt Simms in his North 26 Quay Marinas in a time of 39h 41m 58s followed by Andrew MacArthur in Lammergeyer in 42h 03m 12s. The All Rounders winners were Alan Rankin's team in Spray in a time of 38h 26m 38s followed by Tim Hill's Army Training Regiment team in Gael Force 39h 40m 13s. The Youth Team winners were Lomond School in Snowbird of Rhu in 38h 21m 38s who just scraped in ahead of a joint team from Fettes and Loretto less than three minutes behind!

That last fight to the finish illustrates the keen competition with which the race is fought out both on the water and in the hills. Positions change on the running legs and even small adjustments can have big effects on the long sailing legs, just as bold decisions like which side of Scarba and even Jura to take can win or lose positions.

This year was quite a contrast to last year's rowing epic, and it is perhaps the extreme variability of the weather which makes the race addictive. Just as every

dog has its day, so does every boat and one year the conditions will be ideal for your boat and your team. So the sooner you get started, the sooner that day will come.....will we see you next year?

More details, blogs and videos of the event are available on the website at <http://www.scottishislandsspeaksrace.com/>.

## 2011 SIPR Results

BOAT NAME	TYPE	SKIPPER	O.A. SAILING TIME	O.A. RUNNING TIME	OVERALL TIME
<b>CLASS 1</b>					
Obedient	Catamaran	Gordon Baird	21:36:57	11:09:47	32:46:44
Blue Chip	F28 Tri	Steve Garrett	24:20:12	10:16:25	34:36:37
<b>CLASS 2</b>					
Dorothea	Halberge Rassy 372	Richard Roberts	26:38:17	10:18:36	36:56:53
Bequia	X412	Colin Craig Donald	23:48:37	13:52:11	37:40:48
Sandpiper of Lorne	Compass 47	MacKenzie	26:45:40	11:21:55	38:07:35
<b>CLASS 3</b>					
Quay Marinas	North 26	Matt Simms	26:00:02	13:41:56	39:41:58
Lammergeyer	Impala	Andrew McArthur	26:04:34	15:58:38	42:03:12
Marisca	Contessa 32	Alastair Pugh	26:37:23	15:59:05	42:36:28
<b>ALL ROUNDERS</b>					
Spray	F27 Tri	Alan Rankin	23:06:37	15:29:51	38:36:28
Gael Force	Cruiser	Tim Hill	24:13:57	15:26:16	39:40:13
Sea Fever	Arcona 400	Patrick Bird	23:09:17	20:24:08	43:33:25
<b>YOUTH TEAMS</b>					
Snowbird of Rhu	Bowman 40	Lomond School	25:57:26	12:24:02	38:21:28
Matata	Swan 48	Fettes/Loretto	24:55:27	13:28:46	38:24:13
Sceptre/Blue Damsel	1958 Americas Cup	Glenalmond	58:02:11	13:42:49	71:45:00

**Curly Mills**