

THAMES SAILING CLUB

The first match of this club came off with great success on Saturday, March the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were nine entries, out of which the following seven started:- Argo, Mr James Hoare; Gnat, Mr CM Cottam; Amy, Messrs. Simpson and Selby; Daisy, Mr HH Harrison; Reckless, Messrs. Price and Barton; Little Ank, Messrs. EE and A Haes; Lurline, Messrs. TE and CF Graham. The course being about from 200 yards above Kingston Bridge to a flag-boat moored a little below Messenger's Ait, the wind at the time being nearly due North, and consequently up the river. The boats had to leave Kingston Bridge, run up and round the flag-boat at Messenger's, tack down to Kingston, round the flags, and then run up and finish at Messenger's Ait, which occupied one hour and a half. There was a strong steam down, although being sufficiently counteracted by the wind to enable the boats to overrun it. An excellent start was effected, and the Gnat took the lead, the Little Ank being the second to get off, but only to be very soon overhauled by the Amy, who drew steadily ahead. The Daisy took a long time getting up her topsail, and thus did not effect quite such a good start as the others. The Amy still continued to lead the way, closely followed by the Gnat, the Reckless being third. They continued to this order reaching the turning flags, when a foul occurred, owing to the Reckless not giving sufficient room for the Gnat to round the flags, thus compelling her to pass on the wrong side, and carry away her topsail shed. This brought the Gnat into the third place, which she maintained steadily throughout, though clipped in her wings, as the damage could not be repaired. All the time the Amy was steadily increasing her lead, which she maintained to the end, winning easily, the others coming in the following order, viz., Reckless, Gnat, Daisy, Lurline, Argo, Little Ank.

The members dined together at the Antelope, Surbiton, after the match, when the prizes were presented. The first, being a cup, given by the commodore, Mr FJB Beckford, went to the Amy; and the second, a compass, given by the club, fell to the lot of the Reckless. After the match other gentlemen were balloted for and elected as members of the club, and several donations for prizes towards future matches, and especially for the one to take place below bridge, were offered. – Field.

Exclusive of the above, the following craft belong to the club: Helen and Midge, Mr FJB Beckford; Spray, Mr WG Bellairs; Shadow, MR CM Cottam; Happy Thought, Messrs. AT Simpson and EB Selby; Thalatta and Merlin, Mr L Shadwel; Lily, Mr V Wing; Pervit, Mr A Manning.