

How Close is Close

We all have been in a situation at one time or another where there is only inches between us and another boat. Take for example the start of a race. If you are not close to other boats you are not in a good position for starting. How often are you in that same situation at the weather mark, the leeward mark or especially at the finish.

I want to take you to the 2006 National Regatta and show you what close really is.

Genoa Gold

| Race | Name | Time | Finish | Total | Time Difference | |
|------------|---------------|---------|--------|-------|-------------------------|---|
| Race One | Pete Harper | 32:00 | 1 | 1 | 10 seconds | |
| | David Hayslip | 32:10 | 2 | 2 | | |
| Race Two | David Hayslip | 53:03 | 1 | 3 | 7 seconds | |
| | Pete Harper | 53:10 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Race Three | Pete Harper | 1:22:51 | 1 | 4 | 3 minutes 24 seconds | |
| | David Hayslip | 1:26:25 | 3 | 6 | | |
| Race Four | Pete Harper | 34:52 | 1 | 5 | 53 seconds | |
| | David Hayslip | 35:47 | 2 | 8 | | |
| Race Five | David Hayslip | 1:14:18 | 1 | 9 | 22 seconds | |
| | Pete Harper | 1:14:40 | 2 | 7 | | |
| Race Six | David Hayslip | 32:49 | 2 | 11 | 1 second | Both boats were over early and David also did a 720. |
| | Pete Harper | 32:50 | 3 | 10 | | |
| Race Seven | David Hayslip | 43:59 | 1 | 12 | 1 minute 57 seconds | Pete lost his rudder at the last leeward mark and 5 boats passed him. |
| | Pete Harper | 45:56 | 6 | 16 | | |

Spinnaker Gold

| Race | Name | Time | Finish | Total | Time Difference |
|------------|---------------|---------|--------|-------|------------------------|
| Race One | Pete Harper | 54:50 | 1 | 1 | 10 seconds |
| | David Hayslip | 55:00 | 2 | 2 | |
| Race Two | Pete Harper | 1:07:42 | 1 | 2 | 3 minutes 4 seconds |
| | David Hayslip | 1:10:46 | 2 | 4 | |
| Race Three | David Hayslip | 1:03:41 | 1 | 5 | 10 seconds |
| | Pete Harper | 1:03:51 | 2 | 4 | |
| Race Four | Pete Harper | 36:41 | 1 | 5 | 43 seconds |
| | David Hayslip | 37:24 | 2 | 7 | |

This was the closest racing regatta I have ever witnessed. From the very beginning both boats were out front and ahead of the pack by the time they reached the weather mark. Then it was a jockey for position on the down wind leg. Then tack, tack, tack back to the finish line where the committee boat was set up in the middle of the race course. Notice that the finish times reflect whether it was a once around or two around the race course.

Gene Ferguson, #160 **Bulletproof**