

## City Livery Yacht Club Annual Inter-Livery Regatta 2023

### – Report by Sarah Fraser

Getting to Cowes in no wind and drizzle did not put dampeners on the start of this event. On arrival we were warmly greeted by our fellow Liveryman and the skies cleared. Time for a quick drink onboard before we were off to the RORC for the welcome cocktail party and dinner. This was a great opportunity to meet the other competitors.

Sailing with me on **Crossbow**, a Dufour 36, were Mark and Melissa Ashcombe and Gordon Drury. Melissa is a Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. The other Shipwright yacht was **Fifa**, a Great Dane 28, owned and sailed by my son, James Fraser (Liveryman) and his friends, Aston McCarthy and Ed Kendall. The fleet consisted of 15 yachts of all types and sizes from an XOD, to out and out racing boats and several cruising boats, mine included.

Joining the Shipwrights in the fleet were the Leathersellers, the Butchers, the Carpenters, the Gunmakers, the Broderers, the Plumbers, the Innholders, the Blacksmiths, the Entrepreneurs and the Carmen. Nadine, the CLYC secretary is new to her job and did a terrific job getting us all together and organising everything.

Race Day – After a briefing at 0830 and a mass of activity in the marina, we were off to the start line. With 3 other regattas taking place in Cowes simultaneously, it was a little confusing to know exactly where we were meant to be and to avoid getting in the way of other fleets. The weather conditions were perfect – sunny, 15 knots of breeze from the North and flat seas. We're off! The Island Sailing Club set a super course in the Eastern Solent and after an hour and a half, we crossed the finish line. At this stage we had no idea how we had done as we were not sure of the handicap system and ratings that each yacht had. Time for lunch onboard and then we are off again for the second race. Similar course and this time a little more close action with other yachts rounding the marks. All very exciting! We crossed the finish line and headed back to the marina in good time for refreshments and sprucing up for the evening's events.

Prizegiving took place on the roof top of the Globe with super views across the Solent and where we watched 4 giant cruise ships steaming out of Southampton. Lots of clapping and cheers all round and sadly, but not unexpectedly, the Shipwrights did not finish on the podium! We were then off to the Royal London Yacht Club for a super dinner and speeches.

This was the third time I have sailed in this regatta. It is very relaxed and great fun, with the emphasis on the hospitality and camaraderie. Perhaps, if we could find some Shipwrights with racy boats, the Shipwrights might be in with a chance of winning the Lord Mayor's Trophy next year!

“Team Shipwrights” – James Fraser (Liveryman), Ed Kendall, Mark Ashcombe, Melissa Ashcombe (Court Assistant, Worshipful Company of Gardeners), Sarah Fraser (Court Assistant, Worshipful Company of Shipwrights), Gordon Drury and Aston McCarthy.



Shipwright Skippers - Sarah Fraser (Court Assistant) and James Fraser (Liveryman)



Sarah Fraser's yacht, *Crossbow*, a Dufour 36 Classic

James Fraser's yacht, *Fifa*, a 28' Great Dane.

