

# TCC Autumn Series 2019



Race Report : Series Race 1&2 ( 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019)

Course : Lady Isle (p)-Finish    Wind : WSW 15-20 knots

The TCC autumn series stuttered to a start due to a strong depression resulting in the Troon harbour masters office recording a sustained wind strength of 35 knots with gusts above 50 so racing was cancelled on 4<sup>th</sup> September as a result.



**Race two** was amalgamated with the annual RNLI Lady Isle fund raising race and was sailed in fantastic if challenging conditions with the remnants of Hurricane Dorian having blown through on Tuesday night before racing. 15-20 knots from the WSW remained as did the westerly 1.5-2m swell.

With the nights' drawing in a little all yachts started at 7pm from the usual Dolphin to Mill rock bouy start line. Storm, Crystal Clear and Hunters Moon started at the favoured windward end towards the harbour while Petra and Seascope kept a little clear of the congestion a little further down the line with Penn Player.

Storm who initially had 25 % of her head sail furled struggled for height off the line with Crystal Clear,( being helmed by John McGaughey making a cameo appearance for the night) matching her for pace but squeezing her into a lee-bow position 100m after the start. Storm opted to dip Crystal Clears transom after a period of beating together in the lively sea state no more than a metre or two apart.

Iain Gairn then decided to unfurl his headsail which later saw him cross Crystal Clears bow on starboard tack towards Lady Isle around 5 minutes later.

Storm with Iain Gairns at the helm shaved Lady Isle the closest and took the rewards of the shorter distance sailed and pulled away from pursuing Crystal Clear and Petra behind.



As these two boats rounds Lady Isle the sun set behind Arran silhouetting Penn Player who had to take a course further west than preferred due to a huge warp attached to a presumed Lobster pot. Andy McRoberts reported sailing on port for 4-5 minutes to get the a point where Penn Player could tack back onto starboard clear of the warp and start heading for Lady Isle

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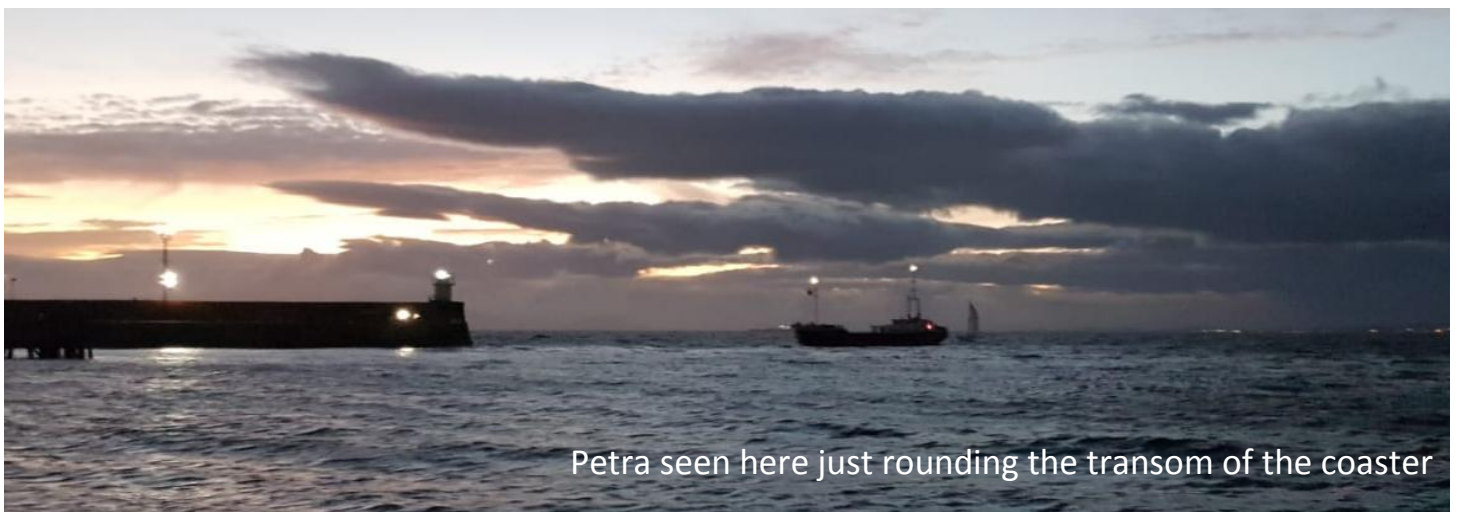


Further back one of Hunters Moon's crew were suffering in the sea state and despite their talisman Ian Douglas on board Seascope struggled to on the upwind leg against the lighter yachts.

Once all were clear of Lady Isle ( And all keels intact!) a very enjoyable sleigh ride back to the finish line at the harbour was had by all. Crystal Clear was the only yacht to fly a downwind sail but with some less experienced crew aboard opted for an asymmetric spinnaker. None the less this allowed her at times to surf well attained a top speed of 9.2 knots otg.



By 20:15 Storm was approaching the line and the harbour master closed the harbour due to an incoming coaster. This was pacing with Crystal Clear and resulted in her having to drop the kite and divert around the stern of the ship. Petra and crew punched n this opportunity and made significant gains finishing only 2 minutes behind Crystal Clear on the water allowing Gary Muir and crew to slip into 2<sup>nd</sup> place on corrected time by 9 seconds ahead of Crystal Clear in 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Petra seen here just rounding the transom of the coaster

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Hunters Moon snuck up the Troon harbour shore under the cover of dusk to take 4<sup>th</sup> with Seascape 5<sup>th</sup> and Penn Player 6<sup>th</sup>. All three finished within 3 minutes of one another on corrected time.

£10 pounds was levied from each skipper and the £60 donated via Lifeboat coxswain Joe Millar to the RNLI crew of the local station.

**Next race and final Wednesday of the season :  
Wednesday 18/09/2019; Late/Autumn Series , race 3:  
18.15 meet at TCC clubhouse as usual.**

