

# It'll be alright on the Night



It all came together at this year's Dinghy show where all of the publicity, the Henri Lloyd competition, new Rooster deck mould and the Woman's hour ensured that there was a never ending supply of visitors to the stand. With 2 fabulous boats to show off what the Streaker has to offer there was never a quiet moment. This is the first show that I have been involved with but I got the real sense that visitors felt that they had found the boat that they had been looking for. With an impressive 26 visitors keen to have a test sail things are looking rosy for the class.

The occasion gave us the opportunity to make inroads into rebuilding the class database by meeting existing members, renewing memberships and enrolling some new members too. Nick and Ian worked tirelessly all weekend with laptop and printer whirring when not dealing with enquiries about Streakers. Large quantities of Alan's excellent reworked year book accompanying the renewals too.



There were too many high points to single out any one in particular, however the visit to the stand and entry to the "Name a Streaker" competition by Paul Goodison must be right up there. We got the photos to prove it too.



The Name a Streaker competition attracted 117 entries (all clean) and very creative too. Unfortunately when I accosted Ben Ainslie with an entry form and the quip that he would look nice in some Henri Lloyd gear he had a sense of humour failure but did say "Nice try". Shame really because that would have been a good name had he given me the opportunity to tell him about the competition. With that attitude that guy will never win anything.

The winning name was won by James Brotherston who came up with "The Golden Behind" He will now be suitably equipped with some quality Henri Lloyd kit. Unfortunately not a Streaker sailor.....yet.

Fortunately we had some very understanding neighbours who didn't mind the "office" spilling over into their stand somewhat.

An enthusiastic team of female Streaker sailors ran the stand for the two “Woman’s hour” sessions, the intention being that they could represent the feminine side of Streaker sailing. Although this was a move designed to make the stand female friendly many male visitors took the blindest bit of notice and continued their onslaught of the stand. And as for the Mother’s day chocolates ..... well, not too many were left after the men rejoined the stand.



What have we learnt? Well, that pre-publicity in the press and internet is absolutely vital. Also a well lit and well located stand, prominent signing and fun (not gimmicky) reasons to visit the stand eg: the “Name a Streaker” competition. Having a sufficient number of Streaker sailors to man the stand at all times. Of course not forgetting quality boats displayed well with good space around them. At the end of the weekend Cathie made a very powerful observation that there were a significant number of serious enquiries made by parents looking for a suitable boat for their post Topper children to go club racing. This is a group of regular club racers that are not up to RYA squad standard and therefore cannot see the Laser 4.7 as a stepping stone to anywhere.

Ian Bradley and I used our lunch break (yeah, yeah, we were so busy the rest of the time) to sneak around and check out the dream location for Dinghy Show 2009. We found it! I just hope that the organisers will give it to us – I have already put in the request. And yes, you guessed it - 2009 Streaker stand will be bigger and better, brighter and ..... we will need more volunteers. Please do let me know now if you would like to assist on next year’s stand – I am starting the list.

