

Sent Fri 1/1/2016

From: Stuart Walker
Subject: 62nd Ice Bowl - 2016

For the 62nd time - a fleet (actually 3 fleets - Solings, J-22's, and, for the first time, Lasers (on a but slightly shorter course) - raced up the Severn and around St Helena's Island (the Solings clockwise and the J-22's counterclockwise!!!) on New Year's Day on the course laid out by Stu Walker in 1955!

The 28 boat total fleet and the three classes were both records.

Stu Walker won the Soling race - for the 34th time in 59 tries - and will have even less difficulty in maintaining his pledge to go into his grave having won more than 50% of the Ice Bowl races. While beating up the river in the 15-18 knot NWesterly, he had a close fight with the winner of the last two races, Tom Price, and with Andy Dize, both of whom were periodically ahead.

But he was 150 feet ahead of Joe Van Gieson as the fleet entered Round Bay and in the open water shot away to a 200 yard lead - which he maintained to the finish. Henry Thomas, with Mary Sophia Smith on the spinnaker sheets, moved thru the fleet downwind to finish second (and win the Sam Merrick Trophy) and Paul Schoene, in a Soling for the first time, was an impressive third.

Early contender, Tom Price, who had dropped to last while recovering an overboard crew, caught the final three on the run home to finish 4th. That Final Three (including two other early contenders, finished overlapped: Joe Van Gieson, 5th, had suffered from a jammed spi pole bracket that prevented jibing, Andy Dize, 6th, was delayed by a series of misadventures, and Howard Vickery, was slowed by the most original of sailing sins- running aground.

Oh, how pleased I was to have had a recently revived, taut ship and a great crew!

1. USA 839 Stu Walker, Bruce Empey, Owen Empey
2. USA 852 Henry Thomas, Mary Sophia Smith, Joe Hidalgo
3. USA 788 Dave Schoene, Lauren Schoene, Mike Udell
4. USA 799 Tom Price, Susan Taylor, John Sowieski
5. USA 828 Joe Van Gieson,
6. USA 798 Andy Dize,
7. USA 835 Howard Vickery, Gary Greenwood,

Please send notice of missing and/or incorrect crew names to me and to Matias (se address above)

Stu