



White Heather powers through squall to victory



White Heather

CONGRATULATIONS to RSYC member Lionel Miller and his crew for their success on the 39-year old Swan 38, *White Heather* at Lendy Cowes Week.

They were competing in the final race on Saturday.

They took the lead from the start in the race, and remained at the head

Said Lionel : "Regrettably Janet Miller was still incapacitated with her broken arm. But skipper David Miller enlisted two of his sailing friends to cover her roles. We were also fortunate to find RSYC Sailing Secretary Mark Oliver was available.

:The Easterly downwind start was in 10 knots with lightweight spinnaker.

"White Heather immediately lead the fleet including several higher rated boats..

"The wind was building during the second downwind leg with a very dark line squall cloud approaching fast. We dropped the spinnaker early and reached to the mark as the 37 knot squall hit us. Fortunately we use a small jib which coped well

and powered us up the long beat towards the Lepe shore.

"However chaos reigned nearby, a Fastnet entrant had their genoa luff ripped out of the forestay Tufluff . Urgent replacement required! Also a Redwings mast was broken. On the reach to Gurnard the wind suddenly dropped back to 10 knots ,so a quick hoist of the pink asymmetric then a gybe to the RYS finish line and a 1st place gun! Now the nail biting wait for the lower rated boats to finish. No need to worry, we won by 21 minutes on corrected time!

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We have now won a Cowes Week race in each of the last six years.

"Many thanks from Janet and Lionel Miller to crew David Miller, Matt Pimm, Roger Lamont, Anya and Chris Turner, Isobel Yeo and Mark Oliver."



The crew