

19th July 2012 – Impala National Winners Party with Wight Vodka

Plymouth, England

Tight One Design racing was complemented onshore with Wight Vodka socials to make this year's Impala Nationals one to remember.

The Impala 28 class headed to Plymouth for three days of racing for its 2012 championships. 12 boats came from as far away as Chichester and Milford Haven to make up the biggest entry for many years. Day one saw a coastal race, taking the long way around the breakwater for three laps, while the following two days had four tight windward-leeward races each. Conditions were varied, but Plymouth Sound threw up some intriguing challenges in the form of challenging tides and quirky windshifts to keep the fleet close and on its toes.



Local boat Imelda put in a great performance - never dominating the races outright, but always climbing their way stealthily through the fleet, mercilessly picking off any boats ahead. Positions changed constantly throughout the races - one-design racing at its finest! Brixham boats Fearnought and Impulsive put in a good performance, always close to the top, while Zulu, Polly, Imptish and Jiminy Cricket swapped positions throughout each race of the series.

After three days of close racing, Robert Boalch and crew on Imelda took home the 2012 Impala Nationals trophy. Matt Dodd's Fearnought came in second overall, with Barney Smith's Imptish sailing a blinding final day to gain three places, taking third. Kevin Palfreeman's Zulu came fourth, and Ben Meakins and Adrian Cudmore in Polly were fifth.

Ben Meakins, the organiser of the Impala Nationals said "It's fantastic to have Ritu and Wight Vodka supporting this regatta. The teams thoroughly enjoyed the Wight Vodka cocktails and with the winning skipper and crew taking the custom Wight Vodka Regatta hats, it made for a very spirited weekend!"

About Impala Offshore One Design

The Hunter Impala was approved by the Offshore One Design Council in 1977, with David Thomas being the principal designer. The class has a solid following and participates in most of the prestigious races around the United Kingdom. To find out more about the Impala, please visit their website on www.impala28.co.uk.

About 50° North

50° North are the creators of Wight Vodka. The company's spirit and enthusiasm for the ocean, coupled with the centuries-old regatta traditions of the Isle of Wight (and of course a full appreciation of superior vodka!) culminated in the creation of the world's smoothest, 42% ABV potato-based vodka. One sip of Wight Vodka will make a believer out of the most discerning connoisseur, and the company welcomes your joining a unique and elite class. www.wightvodka.com. Tack & Gybe Responsibly.