

5th Sept 2012 – Big Racing & Awesome Socials at Wight Vodka's RS Elite Nationals

Cowes, England

The RS Elite Class took another significant step forward with their 2012 National Championships, and Wight Vodka was proud to be the title sponsor. The largest fleet in the RS Elite's young history was peppered with hugely experienced names from across the small boat racing world including an Olympic Gold medalist and international & national champions. Hosted by the ultimately prestigious Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes and with the whole fleet based in the haven in front of the Castle, no-one will forget the setting.



From the moment RS Elite owner Charlie Egerton-Warburton of the RYS took on the role of event organiser, the event's success was assured. Charlie commented "my goal throughout has been to make it highly competitive with exceptional socials. I also wanted to include local companies and when I approached Wight Vodka to be headline sponsor because of their nautical ethos, appropriate local name and catchy slogan, they could not have been more enthusiastic. The prizes included fantastic trophies, countless bottles of Wight Vodka and highly sought-after Wight Vodka regatta caps for the winners. I am delighted with the result."

Conditions ranged dramatically over the four days of racing, from extreme winds to patchy breezes. In the end, the regatta belonged to Crauford McKeon, Paul Bowen and Rupert Harding on **Kandoo**, who deserved to lift the 2012 National Championship trophy after showing blistering pace across the wind range. Overall results were as follows:

- 1st Kandoo III** – Crauford McKeon, Paul Bowen, Rupert Harding 20pts
- 2nd Kin** – Tiffany Brien, Graham Bailey, Simon Brien 25pts
- 3rd Eloise** – Andy Jameson, James Grant, Lizzie Vickers 28pts
- 4th Kiss** – Martin Wadhams, Paul Fisk, Amanda Wadhams 32pts
- 5th Aeolus** – Jono, Lyn, David Brown 34pts
- 6th Pipefish** – Peter Lister, Pippa Wilson, David Hales 41pts

Martin Wadhams, one of the partners behind the very cool RS Sailing corporation, said "There is always a great spirit within the RS Elite Class so what more perfect partner for this exceptional event than Wight Vodka? Sipping Wight cocktails on the Royal Yacht Squadron's lawn with a great bunch of mates after one of my most exciting ever days of racing is a memory that will stay with me. The enthusiasm of all the sailors for the event and the Class was truly rewarding."

Ritu Manocha and Dan Hiza, the entrepreneurs behind 50° North and Wight Vodka, said "Being involved with the RS Elite Nationals was a complete joy! Charlie Egerton-Warburton, along with the Royal Yacht Squadron, organized and ran the regatta perfectly. Special thanks must also go to Julia Egerton-Warburton who selflessly tasted numerous Wight Vodka cocktail alternatives in pursuit of the perfect recipe for the event! With next year's Nationals due to be held in Northern Ireland in 2013, we'll find a way to be involved, as this is a great yacht class sailed by even classier people."

About RS Sailing

The RS sailboat range was launched in the mid 1990s by two gentleman with a passion for sailing and the ambition to use the latest design developments and technology to produce boats that would move the game forward. The range has steadily expanded and is now the fastest growing sailboat brand internationally. www.rssailing.com

About 50° North

50° North (the Isle of Wight's Latitude) 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. Remember, 'Tack & Gybe Responsibly'.