

Hermitage Cup
Lagos Yacht Club - Fleet 501
Lagos, Nigeria
October 14-15, 2006

Course: LYC - Badagry Jetty - Back

October 14, 2006

10:15	No Wind (See photo page 1)
11:00	Scheduled Start – slightly delayed because of light wind. Don had promised wind – but killed the black cockerel instead of the white one. Decided to start as close to 11:00 as possible due to unfavourable tides. 2 Hobies and 7 Lightnings launched waiting for the 6 minute to start horn.
11:09	6 Minute Warning sounded
11:15	Race started.
11:50	We are last already! NO wind, strong tides – going nowhere quickly
12:15	Still last – went backward for a while, but now starting to inch forward,
12:30	FINALLY reached Tin Can Island
12:35	Passed T-63
12:47	Passed Sea School and T-58
Note the calm water – not much wind	
13:06	Passed T-57 and T-64 – now we are racing – of course you could walk faster then we are sailing.
13:08	Passed the Hobies
13:23	At the first village – started playing hopscotch with the Hobies
13:26	Both Hobies passed us
13:30	T-58 passed us
13:42	After hitting the shallows - We are now last again – Except for T-64 who is no where to be seen
14:15	Talked to Rescue Boat. They couldn't tell if we were sailing – or at anchor.
14:25	Slowly overtaking a canoe – who was paddling – no engine. A race at last!
14:38	Dropped Anchor – hoping the winds would pickup – they always pick up in the afternoon when it was sunny – well we could dream. Very peaceful and great to be outside Lagos. Took a nice dip in the water and ate lunch under the shade of a Bailey's umbrella.
14:45	T-58 Passed us – returning to LYC.
15:52	Decided to sail again – surely the wind was gong to pick up
16:27	Passed by T-63 – returning to LYC
16:49	Passed by T-57 – returning to LYC - maybe there is a pattern here
16:52	Passed Club 20.
17:20	Going backward. Dropped Anchor for the second time. Took another lovely dip in the cool water.
17:29	Started sailing again – Still very little wind.
17:59	Gave up and anchored again for the night

Enjoyed a cheese and bottle of sparkling wine looking at the beautiful sunset, who cares if the wind is light. Ate dinner and sipped red wine.

Got set up for the evening and settled down for some rest – The call to prayer at the mosque is the only sound other then the water lapping against the boat. At about 22:00 pm., the wind picks up – maybe there is hope!! A light shower falls and the winds die. Julian rigged up an umbrella and we remained dry. At about 23:00 we are approached by a boat. Instead of the feared "bad guys" – it was one man from the village asking if we are OK. Slept amazingly well – except for the buzz of mosquitoes, and the intermittent call to prayer – and oh yea, the snoring of the helm (of course the crew would never snore) all was quiet. I think there may have been another light shower. Too sleepy to care.

The next morning we were treated to a beautiful sunrise

October 15, 2006

07:29	And we are off for another day of sailing. We decided to sail for a while and then turn back realizing that unless we had force 6 winds – there was no way we would finish.
08:03	Passed Ibeshe. Wind much better – able to fly the spinnaker for a while. Gee that's better.
08:30	Passed T-41 headed back for an afternoon with his family. Now there are 2 Lightnings left!
08:47	Passed T-56. They were enjoying what seemed to be a lovely breakfast. When we asked if it was a sailing club or a picnic club – they answered in union – PICNIC. They were headed back so now all that is left is 2 Hobies and 1 Lightning.
09:30	Hobie 98582 treated us to some sort of dance. Free entertainment!!
09:40	Passed Hobie 98582. OK – they took a long cut around the bend – but we did pass them. Avy's Hobie (don't have his sail number) is quite a ways ahead of us.
09:45	Passed by Hobie 98582.
09:57	We passed them again. Wind is much better then yesterday – of course that isn't saying much.
10:10	Hobie 98582 passed us – we are last from now on.
11:00	Finally reached Agaja – the half way point. We decided to follow the lead of the other Lightnings and head back. Hobie 98582 did the same – Avy had long since disappeared around the bend to become the lone boat to finish the race.

Hobie Giving the Recue Boat a tow

12:05	Back to where we passed T-56 somewhere near Ibeshe. Wind continues to be nice – why wasn't this true on Saturday! Passed many National Geographic moments – Mongrove swamps, fisherman casting nets, ...
13:31	Passed Niger Dock. Back to the ships and chaos of Lagos Harbor
13:42	Passed the Sea School
14:16	Back at LYC. Even though we never made Badagary it was a wonderful – not to missed experience.