

**Nigerian Nationals  
Lagos Yacht Club – Fleet 510  
Offshore Lagos, Nigeria  
May 28–29, 2016**

POS	SAIL#	BOAT NAME	HELM	CREW	CREW
1	15461	Orieoda	Mike Barnes	Lanre Mabawonku	Ogunibiyi Olubusayo Olaide
2	15274	Now Now	Julian Calvin	David Kruyt	Lynn Obray
3	15326	Mystique	Greg Williams	Mark Coakley	Emmanuel Izilein



After much anticipation, the Nigerian Lightning National Championship Regatta was held during the last weekend in May. Three prior National Champions have departed Lagos in the last two years, so the field was wide open, and the competition was fierce. Registration opened on Friday evening, May 27, with fifteen boats registered for the two days of racing.

The month of May can bring regular rains to Lagos, so with all eyes on the weather radar, we proceeded with Saturday's planned schedule of five races, including a race from the yacht club to our committee boat offshore, 3.5 miles away. Winds were moderate at 14-16 knots, with swells large enough to keep even the more seasoned crews interested. Three windward/leeward races were sailed offshore before we finished with a race back to the harbour, finishing at the yacht club. The day ended with dinner and drinks, and the usual post-race analyses and alibis.

The plan for Sunday was to race inside the harbour, but, with the sailors still buzzing about Saturday's perfect conditions offshore, the racers decided by unanimous vote to return to the open seas for the final day of racing. The swells were even bigger on Sunday, and once again the first race was from the yacht club to the offshore committee boat. We had sailed one windward/leeward course offshore, when the skies began to darken and the race committee wisely decided to send the fleet home with a final race back to the club. A total of eight races were flawlessly completed over the two days of competition.

But the moderate to strong winds and heavy seas did exact their toll. The fleet experienced one broken mast and three capsize by the end of the two-day contest, not to mention the innumerable bruises, blisters, and sore muscles.

In the end, the results could not have been closer. As expected, the fleet was very competitive, with a tie for the top honour having to be decided by the best result in the final race. Third through fifth positions were separated by only 3 points.

Congratulations to the winners, and to the entire fleet for an extremely exciting and competitive two days of sailing. And many thanks go to the Class Reps Bill LeRoux, Edwin Visser, and Dan Cox for organising the event, to our sponsor Heineken for their gracious support, and a very special thanks to the OOD Richard Wilmott and assistant OOD Dave Obray and their team of helpers on the Committee and rescue boats. They all did a flawless job!