

# Sailing 20 February 2011

## Autumn Series Round 1

It was hot and there was only a light wind. This meant there was scrut floating up from the bottom. When the wind blew up it went away downwind but floated around all over when the wind died.

The first race took nearly 20 minutes due to the light wind so the course was shortened a bit which also took the start line away from the scrut at the end of the pond.

Harry is sailing Alinghi 75 this series and he won the first race, just beating Kevin Webb.

I tuned my sails during the break and then won the second race by a good margin. I nearly had to swap to 01 as the sail servo has stopped working when I tested the boat this morning. This was a new servo replacing one that gave problems a couple of weeks ago. Fortunately scrubbing the circuit board brought it back alive.

Kevin Whitehead won the third race, beating Harry into 2nd place. Gary Irwin led the fourth race all the way in a dying breeze.

At 3:30 there was almost no wind at all. A handful of boats went to the start line hoping for it to return but movement was fitfull. After waiting for 15 minutes races 5 and 6 were cancelled.

As long as 4 races are completed the scores will be counted with the results scaled upwards. With 4 completed and one dropped the results are scaled by 5 / 3.

This gave Harry the top score of 6 points, Kevin Webb scored 10 for 2nd place and Kevin Whitehead and I scored the same with 11 points for 3rd equal.

Quite a nice days sailing while the wind lasted. There are still plenty of race days left for this series.

## State of the Pond

Carol took some Wai Care readings today. The SG is back up to 1.020 which is good for keeping the growth of the weed down.

From Carol:

Results today show that pH has neutralised at 7, the phosphate level has dropped to 0.025 so fertiliser is flushed out. However, nitrite has gone up from 0.3 to 1.5 and nitrate from 0 to 2. This is perhaps because the rotting vegetation that's floating on the surface has broken down to the stage where nitrates are being released back into the water. Also oxygen saturation has dropped from 70% to 65%, as decay sucks out the oxygen. Water clarity has dropped way down from visibility to 50cm or more in January to now 27cm as a result of the floating debris breaking down to small particles.

However, nobody picked up much weed by comparison with the past - only buoys, other boats and the bottom!

## Other News:



Neil managed to get his boat stuck on the final buoy when sailing race 4. With just the last leg to the finish and up among the top 3 he had to watch the fleet sail past, taking a wide berth to avoid tangling with him.

Eventually a line had to be sailed out and his boat

brought in still tangled with the buoy.

## Next Week(s):

**February 27: Autumn Series 2**

**Families in Parks 3pm**

**March 6: Aggregate Match Series 4**

**New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron**

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