

Sailing 24 August 2014

Spring Series round 4

It was truly a spring day today: blue sky and warm sun, but it was another day of light winds.

The Electrons had a very slow start but in the middle of the day there was a nice breeze that finished off the Electrons and gave us hope for good sailing. The first 3 races were mostly sailed in adequate wind, but it died away after 3pm and we managed to only sail two races in the last hour and overran the 4pm end by a few minutes.

The best 4 races of the 5 will be scored and then this increased by the average for those to give a final score scaled up to 5 races of 6.

Neil is still having trouble with his rudder and he took Savannah 96 for the racing. Sam Lomax raced 85 with us but he had trouble with his radio cutting out and in the final race wound up on the far shore.

In race 1 the wind was light at the start and many of the boats stalled. I managed to catch a gust and sailed past most of the fleet. I soon took the lead and stepped away with Bruce Watson chasing we two got into a different wind pattern. At the final mark Bruce was on my transom and picked a better track to the finish 1st. Peter Andrews led the rest to get 3rd.

In race 2, a scratch race, it was John Macaulay that sailed into the lead with Bruce and Neil Purcell, with 96, chasing. John won by quite a margin, Bruce 2nd, Neil 3rd.

Race 3 had Carol Bergquist and Brian Stiff taking a good lead from their handicap start. I was able to work through the fleet and passed Brian but Carol was too far ahead to catch and she took the win. At the final mark Brian had taken the inside overlap and we were side by side to the finish, Brian getting to it a couple of inches ahead for 2nd place.

The course was shortened for Race 4 to avoid the far corner which was now a dead spot. It started just after 3pm but the winds went very light and switched during the race from SW to NE and somewhat between. I managed to keep moving and took the lead and eventually the win. Kevin Webb, Bruce and Ian Bergquist formed a break away group and finished in that order.

That race had taken about 40 minutes and it was certain we wouldn't complete 6 races but we started race 5 in the hope of finishing it. It is required to complete 4 races so racing was not abandoned even if race 5 did not finish.

At the start of race 5, a scratch race, Kevin stalled and was last away. The wind died and the whole fleet stalled in the first leg. Kevin picked up a wind at the rear and sailed through to take the lead at the first mark with Bruce close behind and Ian, having gone out to the middle of the pond, closing in (photo below).



In very light winds Bruce took the lead from Kevin. John Hinton was having problems with his boat and he took mine while I reefed. He brought it up to 3rd on the wing windward leg. These 3 being side by side on the downwind. Going through the line to the 2nd lap Bruce led but went to the left end, along with Ian, and they ran out of wind with the whole fleet passing them led by Kevin and John Hinton. Terry O'Neil caught these two and they sailed away. Bruce and Ian worked their way from last places to catch the leaders and in the last leg to the finish Bruce snatched 3rd place from John Hinton.

Bruce and I were top score on 10 with Kevin 3rd on 11 points. No divisional race today.

Toot the Tug

I had brought Toot to the pond today in case light winds left boats stranded. It was called into play, first for a soccer ball that rolled into the pond. Several boats tried playing football with it but it simply rolled along the topsides. After a few passes Toot managed to push it within reach of the pole.



A small electric speed boat was also rescued.

Next Week(s):

August 31: Spring Series 5

September 7: Fathers Day – Fun Day

September 14: Aggregate FINAL

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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