Sailing 21 June 2015

Winter Series 5

With storms, snow, rain and floods all week the day opened calm and bright. There was some showers in the morning but the afternoon had a good sailing breeze for the racing.

It was a day of boat failures today. I couldn't get club boat 19 to work this morning so I took Savannah 64 which hadn't been used for a while. Ian Bergquist had a broken wire on the 55 he had brought along and had to go home to get his other 55.

The dredge had moved to the North which gave a bit more room. It was moored by wire lines to the banks. Garry's boat went out of control and ran into the wire both before racing and during race 1. He took it home to work on the problem.

In the first race I took an early lead with Tom Clark just behind me. We kept it close around most of the course but eventually Tom got away while I made a bad mark rounding and John Macaulay and some others nearly caught me. Tom's boat failed after this race. He took 96 for a couple of races but left early to start repairs on his boat.

Race 2, handicap start, had Carol pass the leading boats quite early to establish a good sized lead for the first lap. But she was being chased down, initially by John(photo below), but he stalled in a tack to the line and Neil Purcell went past to be 2nd behind Carol.

Several boats did not complete the race. Mike McCaw took my backup number 1 for some racing.

Race 3 was Bruce Watson all the way with a large lead. Kevin Webb did catch up somewhat with a couple of legs to go, but Bruce raced away again for the win.

In race 4 I made a great start, on time right by the mark. I worked the shifts to take a good sized lead at the first mark and increased the lead on every leg. Ian Bergquist also managed to get away from the bunch, which was led by John.

Race 5 had Bruce taking another lead with Kevin geting 2nd. Neil and another boat collided and locked and drifted to shore eventually. Mike (in old 1) and Brian Stiff locked mast heads and drifted downwind into the mooring wires where they were stuck out of reach.

We started race 6, divisional start, without Mike and Brian. Carol took and early lead again. This time it was the B division: Terry O'Neill, Neil and Peter Andrews that hounded her. Kevin caught up with this bunch and at the finish these 5 boats were within just a couple of boat lengths with Carol taking her second win by a nose.

I was top boat for the day with 12 points, John Macaulay had 16 for 2nd and Kevin Webb was 3rd with 17. Kevin still holds the series lead with Neil Purcell hanging on to 2nd while I move up the 3rd place.

Seventeen members raced at one time or another and we had rather a short start line. Rather too many collisions and failures but a good days sailing on the year's shortest day.

Returning to the problem of the boats still stuck out of reach we managed to free them by releasing one of the lines and Kevin and Mike hauling on the other to get some slack and then releasing it to give sufficient slack for the two to drift over it.

B and C Division Match Race Cup

The B and C division Match Race Cups were proposed by Mike McCaw at the last AGM and passed. We had the first races in these series today with Terry O'Neil and Ian Bergquist in the B division semi-final and Mike McCaw and Trevor Shoebridge in the C division semi-final.

Mike borrowed Carol's boat for the race as he hasn't completed repairs on his own boat yet. Mike made the best of the start on starboard while Trevor tacked away to port and went into lighter winds. Mike held the lead through to take the first win in best-of-3 series.

In the B division race, just as the count down went to zero Terry caught Ian in a port-starboard incident (photo left), the resulting penalty turn put Terry in a handy position. Though Ian was catching Terry towards the end of the race Terry held on for the win.

Next Week(s):

June 28: Winter Series 6
July 5: Aggregate Match Race 7
July 12: Winter Series FINAL