

Sailing 28 February 2016

Autumn Series 3

There was almost no wind in the morning, and not much in the afternoon. What there was seemed to be created by thermals and so shifted around. A fairly short course was set for the North-Easterly but this was adjusted and shortened as the wind went first more Easterly and then Northerly.

I had got a good start in race 1 and was first around the top mark but a couple of mistakes let Bruce Watson and Kevin Webb through.

Race 2, with a handicap start, had the whole fleet (except me) bunched at the first mark (see photo below) with no wind. Jim Keogh was first to get away but Carol Bergquist soon took the lead around the rest of the first lap. But it was a 2 lap race and Bruce grabbed the lead on the next windward and held this for another win while Peter Andrews and Kevin had the places.

Bruce was ref in race 3, a scratch race, giving someone else a chance of winning. It was George Stead that took a good sized lead early on to get the win. Tom Clark held Kevin off for the places.

Bruce was back winning in the next 2 races. Race 4 had Kevin and Tom in the places. Due to time, race 5 (scratch) was just a single lap so that we could complete the full race set. Carol took 2nd place while I held off Kevin to get 3rd.

In the final, divisional start, race, Mike McCaw took the lead and managed to hold onto it to the finish while George held on to give a C division 1,2. Ian led a group of B division to get 3rd.

Bruce Watson was top boat with a score of 5 from 4 wins and an assessed win. Kevin Webb was 2nd with 14 points from 2nd and 3rds. George Stead is again on the podium with 19 from a win and several good finishes.

Kevin Webb takes the series lead with **George Stead** just 2 points behind for 2nd and **Ivan Fraser** being relegated to 3rd.

Richard Plinston, President NZRYS.

State of the Pond

After the rain overnight the pond was 75mm above the weir gate and the SG was down to 1.006 - about 20% salt. After I had left the flap valves open a month ago it was up to 1.018 - about 60% salt.

Even though it was the top of the high tide there was no flow either way over the weir which indicates that the flap valves are sealing, preventing the tide coming in. What is required is a lower weir gate level, perhaps 60mm, and the flap valves leaking some salt water into the ponds.



Bruce Watson was back and was presented with his 3rd place trophy for the Anniversary Regatta.



Race 4: Bruce and Kevin are well ahead and moving well while the bulk of the fleet are a leg behind and not moving at all.

Next Week(s):

March 6: Aggregate Match Race 4

March 13: Autumn Series 4

March 20: Autumn Series 5

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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