

Sailing 27 August 2017

Spring Series 5

The wind was strong today with gusts up to maybe 15 knots. It was mainly north-east but swung about. With the boat speed going to be quite high we needed a fairly long course and set one that used all the pond.

Just 6 members raced today. Bruce Watson had not brought his boat because he didn't think that we would be racing and he took the club boat for a while but went home when it rained and the batteries were showing low. Neil Purcell also left when it rained.

In race 1 Reuben Muir and I got a good start and were within a boat length or two of each other all the way around the course. Most of the time I was in the lead but this changed a couple of times and I was ahead at the finish. Tom Clark had kept up just a short way behind for 3rd.

In race 2 it was Neil Purcell and I that fought side by side around most of the course but I managed to get the lead and took the win. Reuben had trailed at the start but managed to work through the rest for 3rd.

Neil was going very well again in race 3 and led by a leg all the way to a win while Reuben and I closely fought for position all the way with Reuben getting ahead at the finish.

Down to just 4 boats for race 4, I chased down Tom Clark and Ian Power to move out to a good sized lead early on, went into conservative mode taking the marks wide, and held through to the win while Reuben slowly closed the gap for 2nd.

I won race 5 as well. At bridge yellow Tom and Reuben were very close behind but I held on port to build speed before tacking while the others tried to tack around the mark, but in the strong wind they stalled and had to fall back to port, this lost them several lengths so I could take my fourth win.

In the divisional race Tom and Ian were off to a

good start. Reuben and I chased after them with Reuben getting past with only a couple of legs to go. On the final leg I stood on port to just beyond where Tom tacked so on the approach to the finish I was on starboard when Tom tacked to port to get to the line and he had to give way so I could steal 2nd from him.

With 4 wins and a 2nd I had 6 points today and also took the series lead (with 3 days counting, 2 dropped). Reuben with 1 win and many 2nds was 2nd today and holds 2nd in series. Tom was 3rd today. Neil had one win.

I didn't take any photos during racing today, I was too busy.

New Members

Foster Watkinson sailed my boat for a while last week and has now bought his own Seawind and has joined the club. His boat is numbered 37, and a few years ago there was a 37 racing with us, but we don't know if it is the same boat.

He did come to the pond today and started a race or two, but the conditions were too rough for his first sailings with this boat.

Alan Smith has also joined after sailing with us a week or two ago but hasn't finalised the number he will be using.



Last week before racing there was a buzzing noise from a drone overhead. It was being flown around the area from the bridge. Later it went quiet and I noticed a man with a long pole poking in a tree until he caught it.

Richard Plinston, President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

September 3: Fathers Day

September 10: Spring Series 6

September 17: Spring Series FINAL

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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