

# Sailing 19 March 2017

## Autumn Series 5

The wind was very light and shifty in the morning. Around 1pm, as the Electrons were finishing, the wind started to fill in and it shifted around to the North-East. This blew a lot of scrut from the North end down along the path, it had mostly cleared through by the start of our racing.

11 members were at the pond for the racing, plus Ivan Fraser who is still not fully recovered. With that many racing we went back to using referees.

George Stead launched his boat before discovering that the rudder was inoperable. It went through an Electron race and eventually found its way back to the path. It was just the plug dislodged in the receiver.

Brian Stiff had problems throughout the racing and had several DNFs. John Macaulay, back with a new hip, had his rudder fail in the last race and DNFed.

In race 1 George led around the first mark with myself close on his transom. I hung onto his stern through the first lap but started to drop back while Bruce Watson caught and passed me.

I won race 2 with Garry Irwin hanging on for 2<sup>nd</sup> and Neil Purcell getting to the line just before Bruce could catch him.

Kevin Webb got away from the fleet in race 3 and took a large lead with Bruce and George getting the places.

Race 4 had Pierre du Plessis taking a large lead early on (photo below) and getting into lap 2 ahead, but Neil took over the lead at the top mark and held this while Bruce and John held off George and Kevin for the places.

In race 5 Kevin held the lead to the final mark where he fell into a hole. I was in the middle of a bunch around that mark and chose the correct tack. Kevin caught some wind and we raced to the line, I took the win by a small margin.

In the final, divisional start, the wind was very light at the start. Garry soon took the lead and held this all the way to the finish. Terry O'Neill had hung onto 2<sup>nd</sup> at the final mark but on the last leg it seemed that in the dying wind half a dozen boats could take the places as the wind switched and boats tacked trying to find the best path.

Bruce Watson was top boat today with 4 2<sup>nd</sup> places plus an assessed 2<sup>nd</sup> giving a total of 10. I was 2<sup>nd</sup> on 13 from two wins. Kevin Webb had a total of 16 to get 3<sup>rd</sup> today.

With 3 race days counting, 2 dropped and 2 more days to be sailed I have taken the series lead with Bruce and George holding the places.



*Pierre and Brian lead into lap 2 race 4.*



*Terry O'Neill catches a breeze in race 4.*

**Richard Plinston, President NZRYS**

**Next Week(s):**

**March 26: Autumn Series 6**

**April 2: Aggregate Match Race 5**

**April 9: Autumn Series FINAL**

**New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron**

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