

Sailing 10 December 2017

Summer Series 5

The wind was quite light and shifty in the morning but it picked up and was a nice northerly for the first of our races. Around 3pm the wind went westerly, requiring a course change. Then it started to rain which killed the wind. There was debate whether it was worth sailing the 5th race. We did start the race with almost zero wind for a single lap and this took until 4pm. With 5 sailed the scores are scaled to 5/4 after dropping one. John Hinton had his boom vang fail a couple of weeks ago and he had tied it with string. I brought him a replacement end and this was fitted but his mainsheet came free so he took the club boat.

In race 1 George Stead took the lead early with Bruce Watson and Neil Purcell battling for the places. I was 4th around the final mark and managed to be on starboard as I caught Neil.

Bruce went too close to a buoy and hung on it for enough time for me to grab 2nd from him.

Race 2 had Laurie Glover getting a good sized lead which he held for the first lap. Photo below shows Laurie leading around silver. Eventually he was caught by Kevin Webb who then stepped out to be uncatchable (photo below) with George and Neil getting past several others to battle bow to stern for the places.



Photo above: Kevin well ahead, Neil (left) and George (right) still have 3 to get past.

Photo below: Laurie (right back) leads at silver.



In race 3 it was Neil that was able to lead George for most of the way. During the race it started to rain and the wind died away and went more westerly. In the last leg it was down to drifting and I managed to keep moving and passed George in the last couple of metres.

The course was changed to cater for a north-westerly for race 4 but the wind continued even further west leaving no true windwards. My transmitter must have taken in some water as the rudder needed to be held hard over to get the boat to sail straight. I had to pull out and get my backup Prada 1 for the 5th race. Bruce won with Tom Clark and Wayne Carkeek getting the places.

Race 5 was started with almost no wind at all.



Bruce took an early lead and lead at the top mark. On the downwind Kevin drifted into the lead (photo above) while I dropped back to last. At the final mark the wind was even less. Bruce had taken the lead from Kevin and won while most stopped entirely. I kept momentum and passed 6 boats in the final 15 metres to get 3rd. George was top boat today. I now lead the series, one point ahead of Neil and Kevin.

Richard Plinston, President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

December 17: Summer Series 6

December 24: Christmas break

December 31: New Year break

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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