

# Sailing 10 June 2018

## Winter Series 4

The wind was very light all day. There were occasional light breezes and sometimes nothing. A simple course was set around 4 buoys to attempt to get through all races. The wind died away during race 4 so that, when it finished, eventually, at 20 to 4 the race committee discussed whether to wrap it up or attempt a single or 2 lap fifth race. It was decided to race a single lap and this was completed in reasonable time.

Before racing a pram fell in the pond by the bridge. Fortunately the child wasn't in it.

In **race 1** I started on time at speed right at the far, favoured, end with John Macaulay calling me, but I was well clear. I lead around the first mark with Reuben Muir and Bruce Watson close behind. I managed to pull away by keeping well out from the path on the downwind and getting more breeze and won. Bruce getting past Reuben for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Race 2** had Alan Smith racing away to a large lead that was almost the whole length of the pond on the final downwind. Towards the end of the first lap I took the lead of the rest (photo below by Bruce) and Reuben and I broke away and swapped position several times. At the final mark I failed to carry him past the mark before tacking to it and he managed to get the inside overlap and then took 2<sup>nd</sup>, I was 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Race 3** started in very light winds. I was first across the line at the favoured end with Wayne Carkeek close behind. It was Wayne that led around the first mark but I was next and kept close. I took the lead on the downwind and Neil Purcell caught up and passed Wayne who dropped back further by the leeward mark. On the short windward to white and then to the end of lap 1 Wayne and I caught the breeze (photo below) and opened up a lead on the rest. For all of lap 2 the two of us swapped lead.

At the final mark I again failed to cover and Wayne



slipped through to take the win. Meanwhile Laurie came from nowhere to pass the rest and held 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Race 4** was very light and this didn't give the higher handicaps much advantage. Neil took a good sized lead with Wayne and Reuben catching slowly on the downwind. As the wind died away at 'tree blue'



several boats caught up (above) and with just the odd breeze it was a lottery with Wayne and I alongside Neil getting through. I got around the top mark in the lead and carried the wind away to take a large lead on the downwind while the others struggled. The wind died again at tree blue at I had to wait for the fleet to bring the wind up. It came sufficiently ahead of them for me to take the win with Reuben and Bruce getting the places.

**Race 5** was one lap. Initially it was John and Reuben that got away. Reuben was well ahead on the downwind but the breeze died again at the lee mark and John held his speed to round ahead. The rest of the fleet were bearing down, John was able to keep going but Reuben went to the far shore and several boats had been able to sail closer to the wind and pass him on the windward. Alan led the rest around the final, white, mark but Bruce got a gust by the path and crossed ahead to be 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alan 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I was top boat today with a scaled score of 6 from two wins, an assessed win and a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Reuben and Bruce were 2<sup>nd</sup> equal on 11 points. Reuben leads the series.

**Richard Plinston, President NZRYS**

**Next Week(s):**

**June 17: Winter Series 5**

**June 24: Winter Series 6**

**July 1: Aggregate Match Race Series 7**

**New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron**

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