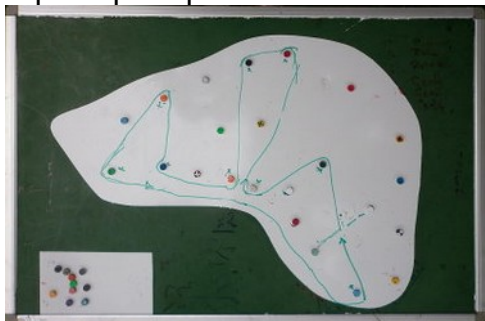


Sailing 11 March 2018

Autumn Series 4

An Easterly again today, and very variable. A very complex course was set by several of the race committee, but most managed to get around with infrequent prompts from the ref.



In **race 1** Kevin Webb took an early lead and got into a different wind to his advantage so he led by most of the pond length at the end of the first lap. I broke away from the rest and was getting closer to Kevin, but was never close enough to threaten his win.



I refereed **race 5**. Photo at foot of page was taken just before the start. Neil Purcell tried a port ends start (above), which sometimes works, but he was undone by Ian Power.



The fleet soon split into two groups (above). John Macaulay, Reuben Muir, Kevin Webb and Bruce

Watson held the wind away from the first mark and rushed to 'silver' while the rest were left becalmed, bunched at the mark. Bruce then had a problem: the knot on his main sheet untied itself and he withdrew.



At the end of the first lap the wind was a nice breeze for the windward (above) as they gained more distance on the rest. A couple of legs later, on a downwind to 'orange' a strong gust hit, John and Kevin (left)



both dived under and rounded up while Reuben held his line and led to the finish.

In the final, **divisional start, race**, the wind had been light at the start and I made good progress through the fleet to take the lead halfway through the first lap. I held this until to last long leg to 'tree blue' when the wind died around me and came back from behind bringing some boats up with it to pass me along the path. The wind was South East and pushed the boats to the path. John and Kevin had to make a short tack away and they fell behind while Neil and I could hold our course. I got an inside overlap on Neil at the final mark and rounded ahead but went left while the others went right. At the line they were on starboard and Neil and John crossed ahead. Reuben was top boat with 13 points. Neil also won **race 3** and was 2nd with 14. John 3rd.

George Stead won **race 2**, Bruce won **race 4**.
Richard Plinston, President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

March 18: Autumn Series 5

March 25: Autumn Series 6

April 1: Easter - fun day

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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