

Sailing 2 December 2018

Aggregate Match Race Series 1

A fine day with a good sailing breeze and the pond was pretty clear. Twelve members turned out for the start of the match racing. The parking was good because, it seems, the families had gone to the Santa Parade rather than the cycle track and playground.

Today there were many boats that failed in one way or another. I had taken two club boats: 96 and 112; and they were used by several.

Ian Power couldn't get his sail servo to work and took 96.

First up was Neil Purcell and I. I had taken a good lead at the first mark but Neil caught up just after the bottom mark when a gust gave me difficulty in tacking. The same happened on the next lap and we were side by side going to the line. No ref was there to judge the finish and it was assessed as Neil by an inch or two.

John Macaulay had his rudder fail in his race with Reuben Muir and he withdrew. He used 96 in his race with me in the next round and won. He took 112 in the third round and won and borrowed 196 in his last race and won.



Foster Watkinson won his race with George Stead (above), partly because George had collected some weed and had to go top the path to clear it and then couldn't catch up.

Mike Renner was having trouble with his rudder as it was turning far too much to the right. He took 96 for one race and that started to give a similar problem. As 96 was still in use Ian took Laurie Glover's 15 for his race against Neil.

Peter Rickerby's boat was also having problems and he took 112 against Terry O'Neill and won.

Ian borrowed my boat for his final race which was against John with Reuben's 196.

As I sort through the photos I have to refer to a conversion table to work out which race is being shown.

Reuben won all four of his races to be top boat.



Reuben's 196 leads Laurie's 15.

State of the Pond

There was little scrut around, it may have 'burnt itself out'. The northerly wind helped by blowing what there was to the south pond.

For the last couple of weeks and up to last Thursday the pond SG has been around 1.006 and I had expected it to rise as the salt water was now coming in. Today it suddenly jumped to 1.015, the salt level increasing by 2 and a half times in a couple of days. The explanation seems to be that the weather has been mainly still and the denser salt water has stratified, staying as a lower layer. The high winds over the last couple of days has now mixed the water.

The Fountains

The council have engaged Downers to get the fountains working to oxygenate the ponds and circulate the water:

- 1) Downers will repair/replace the control panel and initially set the timer to operate from 8pm to 5am (as I need to confirm when Model Boat Club use the pond – don't want to interfere with their course).
- 2) Downers are arranging for a small boat to access the nozzles to remove and clean.
- 3) Downers will also need to check system operational on a regular basis (weekly?) and complete maintenance as required.

We can then monitor the effectiveness of this system over the summer months and confirm whether alterations/improvements need to occur.

Richard Plinston, President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

December 9: Summer Series 5

December 16: Summer Series 6

December 23: Xmas break - fun day

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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