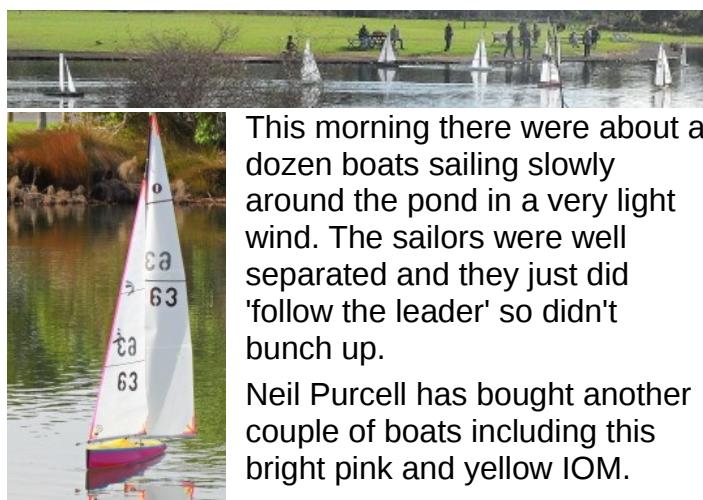


(Not) Sailing 14 May 2020

At the Pond Today



This morning there were about a dozen boats sailing slowly around the pond in a very light wind. The sailors were well separated and they just did 'follow the leader' so didn't bunch up.

Neil Purcell has bought another couple of boats including this bright pink and yellow IOM.

State of the Pond

Neil had reported that there was weed around on the surface a few days ago. Today I strapped the rake on board and cycled to the pond.

I didn't find much weed around the path where we sailed but there were some straggly bits to be raked out.

The water seems clean and quite clear.

Parking

The gates on most parks and reserves, including Onepoto, have been closed during the lockdown so far. Visitors to Onepoto have been parking in Tarahanga Street and Puawai Place, but this is limited compared to the domain's parking area.



Today the gates were locked but it has a 'C' padlock for which I have a key. Some said that they had rung the council who had advised that the park should be open, so I unlocked it.



Restart of Racing, or Not

Wayne Carkeek wrote:

Is there an official word on sailing this weekend? Perhaps 1 hours racing, 1 lap 10 people, no one with any form of sickness? Then a second hour 10 more people 1 lap races? or not?

Mike Renner added:

I'm as keen as mustard. I've really missed John Mc's ribbing, etc. If more than 10 turn up you could split the group into Fleet 1 and Fleet 2? Make it a bit of a Fun day, rather than a series event. If we do an email we can soon find out how many plan to make it. I'm happy to send something out, if it helps.

In terms of the schedule, if we lose 17 May and 24 May because the limit of 10 isn't increased to, say, 20 for a couple of weeks, could we reclaim Queens Birthday as a Winter race day? With the Lay Day on 19 July we could get to 7 race days and still have the Aggregate day as well.

What do you think?

Wayne replied:

There are no bad ideas in there, its worth having a chat, even a fun round unofficial doesn't sound bad. If the electrons are not sailing, we would have hours on hours to spread thin.

Level 2 Restrictions:

Level 2 limits groups to no more than 10 people, at least until May 25. Excluding members after the first 10 to turn up would be disadvantaging them if we were back to competitive racing.

Level 2 also requires social distancing of 2 metres. Competitive sailing means that members gather together closely during the countdown to the start and whenever boats bunch up on the race track.

Yacht clubs have reported that they can sail with 1 metre separation on board.

Sailing this weekend:

I don't think that it would be suitable to do competitive racing for the Winter series until the group numbers are increased, which may happen after May 25 when they will be revised, and the social distancing rules are relaxed. One metre separation should be achievable.

However, it would be OK to have casual sailing, perhaps having small groups spread out along the path sailing separate 'follow the leader' rather than formal races.

Send me your feedback on this issue.

Richard Plinston, President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

May 17: Casual sailing

May 24: TBA

May 31: Winter Series Start? (maybe)

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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