

Sailing 11 April 2021

Aggregate Match Race Series 5

The heavy rain and wind yesterday left the pond flooded and it was still overflowing the path in places this afternoon. The rain water has made the pond fresher and less buoyant so any weed was no longer floating and there were no problems with that.

There seems to be a problem with the buoys though as several boats caught them and had trouble getting themselves off.

The wind had been very light in the morning. It did pick up after midday but there were still light patches and it did swing between south-west to south-east.



Occasionally a gust did briefly raise a wake.

14 members wanting to race made 28 races to complete and we got through them by keeping 3 on the course most of the time. A fleet race finished off the day.

With Rick Royden running late it was Laurie Glover and I up first. When Rick arrived he was added to the end of the race draw. I was able to lead off the line in light wind and held a small lead as we drifted around the top mark. On the downwind there initially wasn't enough wind to blow my sails fully out but I held the lead long enough to get to an area where slightly more wind got the boom out to catch all the wind there was, and I could then hold the lead to the finish.



In the race between Tom Clark and John Macaulay, Tom took the initial lead (left) but John was soon alongside and took the lead around the top mark and, eventually, the win.



Alan Smith kept it close in his race with Rick and this showed quite a difference in mast rakes in the two boats (above). Back on the wind Rick



pulled away slightly (above), but at the top mark Alan closed up and they were side by side on the downwind in very light wind. The final windward leg in light and shifty conditions Alan took the lead briefly but it was Rick that took the win.



Alan tried to get a penalty on Bruce Watson in the prestart of their race (left) but luffing after getting an overlap from behind so close is not allowed as it does not give the windward boat the opportunity to

keep clear. Rules 15 and 17.

Rick Royden and **John Macaulay** won all four of their races today. Rick holds a convincing lead in the series.

Richard Plinston, President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

April 18: Autumn series FINAL

April 25: ANZAC weekend - fun day

May 2: Aggregate Match Race 6

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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