

Sailing 13 August 2023

Spring Series 3

When I arrived at the pond it was raining and there was almost no wind at all. Later there was a light shower before we started racing. What wind there was was northerly. A simple course was set that did cover most of the pond. Twelve members turned out for the racing.

Race 1 had Paul Nunnerley lead away and open a large gap by the top mark (foot of page). Neil Purcell, Chris Yates and Dave Morgan formed a group that also sailed away to a big gap on the downwind. At the finish Paul took the win with Neil and Chris placing.



Dave Larsen and Rick Royden led going to the first mark in light wind in **race 2** (above). These two were well ahead and side-by-side on the downwind. By the top mark in lap 2 Rick still led but had by had been caught by Bruce Watson and Chris with several others close behind in the very light breeze. In the final leg Bruce was right on Risk's transom with Chris some distance back and was the finish order.

There were a couple of palm branches in the pond so Stewart Limmer used his boat to push them to the path and dragged them out.



The wind was even lighter before the start of **race 3** and four boats rafted up and had to drift to shore to be separated. Paul, again, led away to a large gap that was unchallenged (above) and he eventually won. There was a gust on the downwind that sped up half a dozen boats that were side-by-side but this did not last and the boats shuffled too close to the path causing them to slow each other down. In lap 2 Bruce and Rick pulled away from the rest to take the places.

As the start of **race 4** counted down to zero Bruce ran down the start line and slingshot into the first leg. He was first around the top mark but a group was just behind where they interfered in the light wind and stalled while Bruce ran away downwind and back up

to the top mark in lap 2. The rest struggled down the the final pair of marks in lap 1 where the wind died entirely and they were left becalmed while



Bruce continued to sail around and returned to those final marks with some speed that allowed him to sail past most of the becalmed boats (above, Bruce at left). He could then sail to the win having lapped all but three boats. Rick and Laurie Glover sailed around lap 2 to take the places. By the time they finished the wind had swung to the south-west and picked up. This race had taken about 40 minutes.



We kept the same course for **race 5** (and 6) even though it gave a downwind start so as to prevent delays as the time was approaching 4pm. Paul led once more. In lap2 going to the top mark Dave Larsen caught up (above) and a group were close behind. On the upwind (was downwind) Rick took the lead, and win, with Bruce chasing and Ian Power third.

With more wind and the short course we still had some time for **race 6** with its divisional start. Paul and Dave Larsen were back in the lead around the first mark but were passed by Mike Renner and Brian Christensen going to the next. At the finish Rick won with Brian and Neil placing.

Rick Royden was top boat today with three wins and a total of eight points. **Bruce Watson** was next with 11 points and one win. **Neil Purcell** and **Paul Nunnerley** were equal third with 20 points, Paul having two wins.

Richard Plinston, President NZRYS

Next Week(s):

August 20: Spring Series 4

August 27: Spring Series 5

September 3: Father's Day

New Zealand Radio Yacht Squadron

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