

Sailing 28 Sep

Match Racing Cup:

With winds S to SW 4 to 6 knots, gusting to 10, and both David and Ivan at the pond by 1:30 it was time to try to complete the 2007 Match Racing Cup series which was a 4 wins to Ivan and 2 wins to David in the best-of-9 series.



Peter had brought along the Cup (see photo of Kevin) in the hope of awarding it finally.

The race start was even with David holding a small lead at the first mark. The speeds were

equal and Ivan was within a boat length (see photo of downwind) and they were side-by-side on the final windward. David managed to hold a slight edge and took the scores to 4:3.

A second race had Ivan with a slight edge at the start and he managed to get the inside line at the first mark to lead down to the lee mark. With the wind shifting David caught a gust and passed on the lee side to ease ahead. Ivan replied by splitting tacks and crossing back held the starboard tack advantage forcing David to tack. But David managed to ease ahead in a gust to



take the windward mark (see photo) and held the lead downwind and into the final leg. Ivan took the starboard side of the track and caught a shift which took him further up the course while David struggled on the port side, but David managed to take another win by a boat length.

The scores were now 4:4 and still requires the last race to determine the Cup holder and defender of the 2008 Match Racing Cup series which will start after next week's Aggregate series. Peter took the Cup home again.

Spring Series flight 3:

15 members enjoyed the almost perfect conditions. The racing was close and the scores spread around evenly. Kevin Webb took 2 wins, while Kevin Whitehead, Ivan, Geoff McGill, and Neil had one each. Brian took two 2nd places and is improving steadily. Peter's 21 gave more problems and he sailed the club boat with some credible results.

No one dominated the results. Kevin Whitehead and Geoff McGill were equal top score with 22. Kevin Webb and I were just 2 points behind on 24 then John on 25. A 5 point spread (22 to 27) covered 8 boats.

The series leaders after 3 flights are Kevin Webb and Geoff McGill with equal scores.

Members:



New member Peter Vernon was at the pond with his boat 111. He will be away for the next few weeks but will be back sailing after his trips.

Gordon had brought along the Seawind clone that he has built. It has the same hull shape as a Seawind but has a carbon fibre hull and kevlar reinforcing inside. The servo tray is machined aluminium. He has applied a great deal of work to this boat.

Other Stuff:

I knocked the ball off my aerial and it was blown away from the path. After the race I went to recover it and it wasn't on the far shore. It was on the path with a puzzled seagull wondering how he could eat it now he had recovered it from the pond.

State of the Pond;

The pipework for the new fountains has been trenched in and they are expecting to install the new pump and the fountain heads over the next week or so.

This will involve draining the pond. Unfortunately the tides are not timed well so the draining and refilling may need to be done overnight. The current plan is to drain the pond Sunday night and Tuesday night and fill it over Monday night and Wednesday night.

The pond does need flushing though, the weed had shown up and was blooming in the lower pond. This week it over a quite a large area of the sailing pond.

Changing the SG from almost fresh at 1.002, a result of the rain, to mostly estuary at about 1.020 should have an effect on the weed.

Ivan and I went to open the weir after racing was

complete. The boards have not been lifted for several months, the padlock was rusted and needed some taps with a plod hammer. The boards and well were encrusted with mussels jamming them in place. The tide was also still out so that the water pressure was all on one side. This is about 70 lbs on the top board. After removing the wedges and scraping most of the mussels away the boards were still immovable. I managed to hammer a wedge between the boards and this lifted the top board enough to reduce the pressure. It eventually lifted away. The lower board responded to some prodding with the hammer and eventually the two of us had it lifted away.

Next Week:

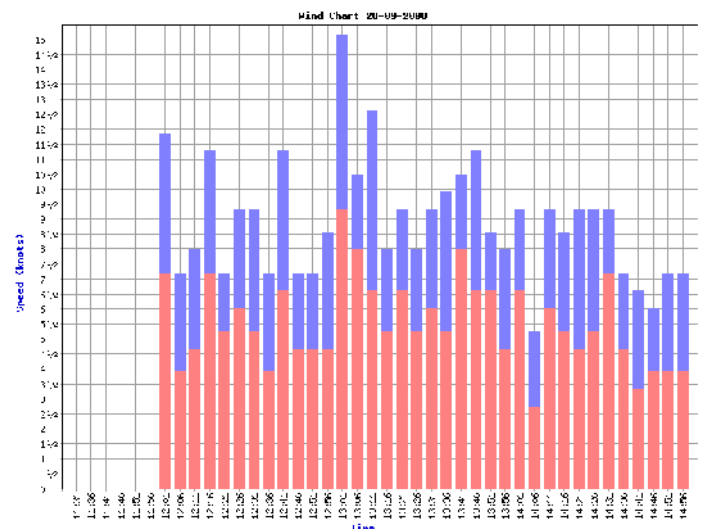
Aggregate Match racing final.

The winner of this series will be the Match Racing Cup challenger to sail last year's winner in a best-of-9 series. Three boats are within one point of each other after seven rounds. The best 6 rounds are to count so there will be scores dropped

As I write this, the defender has not yet been determined as David and Ivan still need to sail one more race.

Weather Chart:

I forgot to set the clock on the weather station so the record is still the old time setting. Add one hour.



Photos:

- 1) Kevin imagining how the Match Racing Cup will look on his mantel piece.
- 2) Peter Vernon and 111
- 3) David and Ivan keeping it close - race 1.
- 4) Side-by-side final leg.
- 5) Race 2 at windward mark 2nd time in a gust.