

This grey and dismal, damp day saw 6 boats turn out. Somewhat less than we have had but expected as a couple of boats were out on the interclub Boyz Cruize this weekend.

Mid week we were told that the weather looked favourable for a stimulating race and to expect a 09.45 skippers meeting and a club house start and finish.

Radiant Heat adorned with new jib and main, as yet unsailed, was curious if they would be different from the performance of the now dispensed 15 year old sails used so far this season. The decision was made already to fly just those two sails and see how she goes. We had opted for NFS without genoa.

Wind forecast was for a Southerly wind of 6-10 knots with gusts to 16-18 and so that seemed a reasonable choice.

The skippers meeting had a discussion of the potential courses and after a while settled on a Round Prevost race with a clockwise rounding. There was a strong ebb running until 1350. The K race would double as a Prevost challenge and all participants qualify for an entry into the hat for the draw for a bottle of rum at season's end!

Getting on the water there was a steady 8-10 knot wind and seeing a dark line on the water indicating a front approaching from Swanson Channel we decided prudence dictated a reefed main. Some other boats did too.

One factor of new sails is how slick and slippery the surface is. When folded on the deck one needs to be careful not to step on the sail as it may suddenly slide and oops, overboard goes the crew! Getting the jib up was a tussle as the front came in and the wind was 15 knots or so. The unsecured jib tried to leave the boat but the tack and head attached to the forestay allowed for it to be wrestled back to the bow and fully raised.

We turned back to the startline with 8 minutes to go and noted a downwind boat speed of 6 knots.

Battle Axe was out smiling at the thought of brisk winds as was Second Wind which needs a blow to move her according to skipper Eric. Ogopogo was wearing a jib rather than large genoa. Skeena Cloud was out and reefed. Ptubodactyl had dreams of showing off the prowess of a multihull in a breeze.

(Second Wind had new crew. Chris Dodd's. Chris is a nurse at Lady Minto, and while inexperienced, is a young, strapping guy, eager to learn. Chris was to come with me, but I offered him up to Eric as he has a more secure future with Eric and the rest of you. Big mistake on my part. Tough day to be single handed. Eric reported that Chris did well and will be a solid crew person going forward. So, if you are looking for crew, let me know and I will put you together with Chris, if Eric hasn't already grabbed him for the races Eric intends to participate in - ed)

With 5 minutes to start we were on the prestart side and heading for the houseboats of squalor bay. Turning back we were early with 3.5 minutes left and we circled around to see three boats heading for the starboard end. Coming around still a little early we luff and slowed as we allowed Second wind to cross our bow and run the line ahead of us.

Ogopogo (*with her all-star crew*) circled too, to our lee three boat lengths away. She also let Second Wind across and cut in behind her stern. We were both a little early and ran the line behind Second wind for 6 seconds before heading up over the line on the zero second countdown.

The wind still from the south gave us all a long first starboard tack up the harbour. Gradually Ogopogo eased ahead and climbed to the windward of Radiant Heat. The other boats had slower starts and were soon in their own grouping several hundred yards back. It only required 3 tacks to fetch Second sisters and Ogopogo was now 200 yards or more ahead of us.

We turned for Welbury spar and set off in pursuit. Pturbodactyl now found form and rapidly gaining appeared around the island and shortly shot by us at an estimated 15 knots boat speed. Soon we were gazing at the two lead boats challenging the currents past Nose Point while we were still at Welbury and the pack at the rear were rounding Sisters Islands.

The adverse currents in Captain's Passage were less than feared and we made good progress in brisk air past and beyond Peile Point on Prevost Island and on into Trincomali Channel.

Surprisingly the wind was lighter, and expecting the forecast of increased winds in the afternoon, we hesitated to shake out the reef in the main, but after a while we did and speed increased by a half knot to a full knot as we close reached down Trincomali past Active Pass. Boats behind were still well back a half mile or so and boats ahead nearly the same.

Ahead it appeared Ptubodactyl was off course and we discovered post race at the dock that they deciding to reef found their lines were stitched together and a mess ensued. It took 20 minutes to resolve to a degree allowing Ogopogo reclaimed the lead.

(Maybe being a bit later than the leaders meant that I caught the tide change outside of Point Liddell. As Tony doesn't mention it I am guessing that may be the case. Skeena Cloud attempted to take flight more than a few times in the unruly slop. Unfortunately for Skeena Cloud, she flies like a pregnant duck with two left wings. - ed)

We continued on a reach along the South Prevost shore out of most of the current. Behind, Second Wind appeared to be closer for 5 minutes and then further back and then closer again. We put it down to varriences in wind and tide.

Thus it was that we made to the finish line in good breeze and on the way down the harbour tried a little period of wing on wing and then finally on a good broad reach we crossed the line. We were 10-12 minutes behind the leaders and about the same ahead of Second Wind, who in turn was about that ahead of the final two, BattleAxe and Skeena Cloud.

It was a fast sail as we finished in 2hrs 30mins 10 Secs elapsed time. Everyone has a tail to tell and all had a great sail.

A little wet, a little cold but with wide smiles.
We leave it to the handicapper to work out the placings.

(And congratulations to Eric. It was nice to see him racing again. And it's clear he didn't gather much rust. - ed)

Club Rating	Boat	Skipper	Finish Time	Corrected Time	Place	Rating for Next Race	club points
238	SECOND WIND	van Soeren	13:18:50	02:24:47	1	229	100
297	BATTLE AXE	Raddysh	13:32:46	02:25:24	2	291	83
132	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	13:00:10	02:29:42	3	129	67
29	OGOPOGO	Faget	12:43:20	02:37:52	4	32	50
268	SKEENA CLOUD	Taylor	13:43:42	02:39:47	5	274	33
-6	PTURBODACTYL	Tulip	12:50:53	02:58:10	6	3	17

And for the Round Prevost Challenge...

challenge times

Ogopogo	(99)	1:51:43
Radiant Heat	(141+18)	1:55:27
Pturbodactyl	(0+21)	2:16:18
Second Wind	(126+18)	2:17:24
Battle Axe	(168+18)	2:22:09
Skeena Cloud	(189+18)	2:28:30