

Wednesday Night Race 1.2

June 12, 2024

The view from Kay D, by Martin Herbert

Wind blowing into the harbour, sun and some warmth in the air, in short a perfect night for sailing. Our fearless FCR axed the shortest course and warned the bigger boats not to be wimps and sail the long race.

The start line was almost square, with the outboard end slightly favoured just like last week. Last week our FCR and I wanted the pin and he got it and I got gassed. He later pointed out to me that slower boats have to be more cautious, which is correct and good tactical advice. If you look at the pictures of the start from last week taken by Lisa Lipsett (below), in the first one you see Ogo-pogo and Kay D jockeying for the pin. In the second shot the Kay D had vanished, gassed by Ogo-pogo and about to tack and duck Sorcery X, Slippery and Vern and Daria in Jill's Flying Fifteen, just getting across the bows of Shingebiss and Steller J. When you are in a slow boat it is not good to start behind.



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This week I started on Ogoopogo's hip and at 2 seconds to go I flipped onto port and crossed the fleet heading for the spit in clear air. Not the best start but not disastrous either.

The fleet, remembering Steller J's hugging of the SS shore and making it pay last week, played the right hand side. Reported tide activity made them go right a little longer. A much smaller than expected tide strength made for some over-standing of both marks by both the long course and short course leaders.

Ogoopogo was away and soon became a dot on the horizon, but the rest of the fleet stayed close packed and had lots of tactical fun on the run towards home. The wind was slowly diminishing and the hunt was on for lines of wind. Slippery, Firefly and Kay D changed the lead in the hunt for second over the line in a very close battle to the finish. The Kay D strapped her tiller on centreline at Horda Shoals and steered by putting the crew weight from one foot to the other while standing and flying the spinnaker. It is a technique that minimizes rudder drag and uses the asymmetry of a heeled hull to steer the boat. It is very gentle and Zen-ike and allows the crew to look around for lines of wind, which allowed the Kay D to squeak in a few seconds ahead of the other two.

Having taken the shorter course, however, she was still theoretically well behind. Steller J was seen enjoying the evening without hoisting the spinnaker at all. Jill and Jan in Robyn Hood flew their spinnaker until the wind died off and then, when it returned, used their spinnaker pole to wing out the jib and ghost home in fine form.

The view from Robyn Hood, by Jill Oakes:

The highlights were trying to find back eddies and being thrilled when some had lots of wind, getting stuck on a sand bar and using the sail full of wind to pull us out (...I was about to jump in and push us off when Jan suggested using the sail one more time), and a glorious spinnaker run home, with the whole world full of sparkles thanks to the sunlight reflecting off the water. This was Jan's first time using the spinnaker. thanks to Martin's spinnaker briefing before we sailed off the dock.. We had our best start ever, thanks to tips from John H and Martin (and also thanks to Heather who had shared tips with Jan circa 2016...). Fabulous fun!



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Club Handicap Results

Club			Finish	Corrected		Rating for
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place	Next Race
159	FIREFLY	Woolcock	18:52:17	01:47:29	1	150
41	OGOPOGO	Faget	18:40:24	01:56:20	2	35
102	SLIPPERY WHEN WET	Gang of 5	18:52:11	01:57:14	3	99
120	STELLER J	Leitch	18:57:25	01:59:15	4	123
164	KAY D	Herbert	19:10:28	02:03:59	5	170
268	ROBYN HOOD	Oakes	19:55:51	02:25:03	6	277

PHRFBC Results

PHRFBC			Finish	Corrected	
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place
99	OGOPOGO	Faget	18:40:24	01:45:26	1
138	FIREFLY	Woolcock	18:52:17	01:50:55	2
162	STELLER J (NFS)	Leitch	18:57:25	01:51:54	3
126	SLIPPERY WHEN WET	Gang of 5	18:52:11	01:52:53	4
205	KAY D	Herbert	19:10:28	01:56:58	5
205	ROBYN HOOD	Oakes	19:55:11	02:37:04	6