

Wednesday Night Race 3.3

Aug. 21, 2024

by Martin Herbert aboard the Kay D

This Wednesday Night Race was also the finale of the Flying Fifteen training week (Aussie Week) and the Australian invasion of our fair island. I must apologize to the big boat fleet if this report is FF-biased, but this was the largest Flying Fifteen race in Canada since the invention of the dinosaur.

As usual, our creative FCR set two courses, which has the benefit of mixing up the fleet and this night I got to be close to Ogoopogo several times. It is always a treat to see the smile on April Faget's face as she trims the big chute, and I would never be close enough under standard courses. Also, it was delightful to see Greg and Holly out after their summer of sailing around Vancouver Island. Sam, Gyle and Mia were also out, working on a new regime of sailing lower and faster. Thanks for the photos, Sam.

The Flying Fifteens got a separate start at 4:55 and the fleet got away in a bunch, with Aussie National Champion John Hassen grabbing the pin end, followed by myself and John Hillier. As I had opted for the strong silent type of crew (single-handed) and the breeze was up, I was soon spit out the back. John drove over the top of me and I was forced to tack to clear my wind.



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The Aussies soon moved into the lead, closely pursued by our John H. Nicky and Jill were battling it out with me for fourth place, well back. As I rounded, as I usually do, I scanned the wind to weather for tactical information and saw that the wind on the Saltspring shore was stronger. I gybed immediately and a few minutes later had passed the fleet and was in the lead.



My down wind technique is to peg the tiller amidships right after getting on course, get the spinnaker up and fly it from the crew's position, steering the boat by transferring my weight from foot to foot and letting the heel of the boat steer her. It basically eliminates helmsman errors and lets you concentrate on good sail setting and crew work. John Hillier and Gail Bryn-Jones were also having a great downwind let and moved into second place. My skipper and crew both botched the take down and the fleet was very close behind on

the second beat. The wind was up again and I was flogging half my mainsail to keep the boat on her feet, plus I was hiking like a teenager —what was that all about? John almost sailed through my lee, then tacked off while I lead the Aussies into Boulder Bay. (It was not quite team racing but a bit sneaky.) Both the Aussies passed me but John lead the way and Nicky and Jill had come up to second.

Again I gybed right away at Ganges Shoal and played the stronger winds inshore. I eased by the two Aussies as John Hassen was mansplaining the spinnaker to Jane Squier, and I also managed to ease by Nicky and Jill to be second, before slipping ahead of John Hillier to regain the lead.

Things were looking good for me, but it was not to be so. John Hassen relinquished the helm to Jane Squier, who's talent downwind had been demonstrated last week and she slipped through my lee to take the win. SISC boats took 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. (right: Jane Squier, after helming to the win with John Hassen).



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It was close and exciting racing all night and a great night to be in a Flying Fifteen. Jill's program of finding coaches and helping women to find an entry into sailing and racing is paying off in spades. She is spreading the joy of the sport to all of us. How fitting that one of her team should helm the winning boat across the finish line.



Again, apologies to the big boats, who also had a lot of fun and a very close start (as seen in Sam's photo left).

(Ed. Note: later on the dock, as per the photos below, the three visiting Australian F15 coaches were thanked by SISC Commodore David Wood and burgees between the Perth Yacht Club and SISC were exchanged.)



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Club Handicap Results

Club			Finish	Corrected		Rating for
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place	Next Race
256	ROBYN HOOD	Oakes	18:52:56	01:34:36	1	247
129	STELLER J	Leitch	18:43:01	01:43:11	2	123
14	OGOPOGO	Faget	18:25:16	01:43:47	3	11
96	SLIPPERY WHEN WET	Gang of 5	18:38:29	01:43:55	4	96
68	SORCERY X	Slakov	18:34:53	01:44:53	5	71
167	KAY D	Herbert	18:51:37	01:45:36	6	173
104	SHINGEBISS	Keating	18:45:10	01:49:33	7	113

PHRFBC Results

PHRFBC			Finish	Corrected	
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place
99	OGOPOGO	Faget	18:25:16	01:29:32	1
126	SLIPPERY WHEN WET	Gang of 5	18:38:29	01:39:06	2
205	KAY D	Herbert	18:51:37	01:40:04	3
144	STELLER J	Leitch	18:43:01	01:40:51	4
205	ROBYN HOOD	Oakes	18:52:56	01:41:15	5
205	FFOENIX	A. Nonimus	18:53:50	01:42:03	6
80	SORCERY X	Slakov	18:34:53	01:42:47	7
84	SHINGEBISS	Keating	18:45:10	01:53:11	8

short course elapsed times scaled by a factor of 6.0nm/5.0nm
Australian crews excluded from club handicap scoring