

## Evangeline wins the first race in our 2019 Racer/Cruiser series

submitted by Kevin Vine: The perspective from Deryn Mor

This weekend's race through Captain's Passage and Trincomali Channel to Sphinx Island, just northwest of Montague Harbour, was a pursuit race, which means that, according to their performance rating, the slow boats start early and the faster boats later.



I joined up with three other Club boats, all of which were being single-handed: Oasis, Evangeline, and Battle Axe. Also joining up with the fleet was the visiting First Draft, with a crew of three.



Some of the weather forecasts were ominous, predicting heavy wind and rain. Others were more optimistic, suggesting that the winds would be moderate and the sun would come out. As it turns out, we got it all.

Deryn Mor has one of the highest (aka "slowest") ratings in the Club. I was the first across the start line (because of Deryn Mor's rating) and first across the finish line, too!

So, I must have won, you say?

Well... not really...

As it turns out, there were some "tactical decisions" I made that did not work in my favour...

I took a short course.

Deryn Mor left the harbour under full sail, managing the conditions fairly comfortably. Frequent nervous glances backward showed the fleet was indeed in hot pursuit. I rounded the first mark at Welbury Spar well ahead of everyone. I maintained a narrowed lead at mark two — Batt Rock — and noticed that Evangeline was getting far too close for comfort. The wind had now picked up to 14 knots or so. I narrowly squeaked past mark three — U62 — just ahead of Evangeline, who was clearly going to overtake me. And Oasis was now crowding into the scene.

At this point, now in the lee of Prevost Island, the wind was only about 10 knots or so, and desperate measures were required if Deryn Mor was going to keep Evangeline and Oasis and the others at bay, and so, as we exited Captain Passage, up went the blue and white spinnaker. Once things settled down on board, I glanced around at the competition, and noticed they were heading well off to the right, toward the mouth of Montague Harbour. "What on earth are they doing?" I thought. What a silly tactic!

Of course, they were all heading for mark four, which was Ben Mor Rock! By the time I realized this, it was far too late, and I carried on having a glorious spinnaker broad reach on starboard tack, indulging in my delusion of being lead boat.

As the fleet moved up Trincomali toward Sphinx Island, the wind picked up to a reported 20 knots, a light rain began to



get everything wet, and the sea began to turn into rollers. Evangeline, sailing wing-on-wing, touched 8+ knots on occasion. I managed to get the spinnaker down before it was too late. The wind in the vicinity of Sphinx was very gusty, but it was a relief to get into the flat water behind Sphinx to bring the sails down.

Once safely tied up at the Marine Park dock, it became nap time for some, and an adventure for others, as the all-woman crew of First Draft set off – using their thumbs - in search of eggs, which they apparently forgot to bring, so they could cook their promised breakfast for Bob, whose 41-footer was their hostel for the weekend.

By late afternoon, the nasty weather passed by, and the glorious sun came out. At 5 o'clock, we gathered on Oasis for Happy Hour and a potluck dinner, which included everything from paté, goat cheese, sausage, burnt pizza, vegetable soup, nachos, pasta casserole, olives, and more. And then there was the chocolate cake! And the madeira...

By 10:30 we were done and everyone turned in.

Sunday morning dawned with a flat calm sea and bright sun. After a lazy start, the fleet started back, one by one. On the way home, the breeze picked up from the SW, making for another exhilarating sail back home. Bob and his guests off First Draft strolled around Montague Park before setting off. Bob sailed up Trincomali to find Second Wind who was returning from his own sailing weekend on Gabriola Island. They organized an impromptu race back to the club.



In summary: it was a great way to spend a weekend. Congratulations to Ben Sutton for his victory on Evangeline. Bob Jone's Oasis was second, and while the non-SISC First Draft crossed next, by default, Jim Raddysh on Battle Axe was third!

And as it turns out, Deryn Mor was last, DSQ-ed because of her skipper's absent-mindedness.



