

Wednesday Night Race July 3, 2019 by Tony Brogan

Down on the dock the usual gathering lacked the FCR who was, we believe, having a septic tank pumped. Bob Jones set the course. Eyeing the steady 12 knot SE winds it was proclaimed that it would be Ganges shoals (P) Welbury Spar (P) Ganges Shoals (S)

I was thinking that perhaps it would be a no crew night when John appeared at the dock, Ready to go, I had rigged the 110% jib and the main, plus the spinnaker. The wind was solid and white caps showing here and there so quickly raising sails and 17 minutes left on the clock, we went for a few tacks. we had good speed at 5.5 knots and tacked through 70-75 degrees so we were heading up well.

The main and jib are both 14 yer old sails and well used. It is remarkable that these Dacron stalwarts propel us as well as they do. Returning to the start line we went across the harbour for 3 runs just to run down the clock. Approaching the dock end with a minute to spare we tacked to starboard and the line . Oasis was astern and to windward heading for the line. We ran for the line and Oasis coming abeam,had to tack away or be over early. RH was 10 Seconds early and had to run the line. Imp was approaching the line to leeward but fortunately we had room and were able to harden up over the line a second after the horn.

It was a good start. Within seconds Sparky was crossing on Port tack and was forced to tack away. They were close and we avoided them by hardening up above our close haul course and we were past them in 10 seconds and now in the clear. The wind was good for us at 15-16 apparent. Imp was further to leeward not heading up as well as RH.

The wind looked lighter over by the chain islands but the wind dial said there was little change as we made the long tack. The port tack was faster for us and longer than the starboard tack and we lengthened our lead as we headed for Boulder Bay. Another Tack over to the Islands set us up for the long tack up to the GS mark. Most other boats were on the right side of the course. but Shingebiss and Oasis and Evangeline were all close astern. The wind was steady and we had a few degrees in the bank and over the last 300 yards were able to ease off and accelerate to the mark rounding in first place.

We tacked immediately toward Welbury and made it past Sisters with room to spare. Others over stood the Ganges mark before tacking and we noted Oasis had to tack away from Sisters. Evangeline was having a good run and now abeam but 8 boat lengths to Leeward. She tack out to Welbury passing behind us at good speed.

We soon followed only to see Shingebiss coming up on Starboard tack at something shy of a collision course but closer. Tacking shy of Shingebiss we found we could make the mark but Shingebiss was catching up and rather tying to luff up we bore off and gave her room at the mark following her rounding just boat length behind. Shingebiss went more left and we went right to head for Second Sisters and a good broad reach. We also avoided Oasis coming up and the balance of the approaching fleet too.

We were able to get the spinnaker up with good work from John and she filled and the speed was now over 6 knots . Shingebiss was having sail troubles and slowed a little. Evangeline under head sails was making good time. we had a good course to Ganges shoals marker and now Shingebiss was closing again. We took the long deep tack on Port tack still while the two closer boars gybed over to the Islands. Two more gybes to accommodate the shifting wind and our tactics paid off and we made it over the line at over 6 knots. Line honours and a great sailing wind and a great sailing day.

I think everyone enjoyed this one. Not a hole in sight and good winds throughout. There was a genial gathering on the dock and the wind continued to blow. Why! we could have done the round Channel Islands race facetiously suggested at the skippers meeting!!

Wed Night #1 July - 7/3/2019

Start: Start 1, Finishes: Place

Rank	Boat	SailNo	NHC3	Start	Finish	Elapsed	C
1	Radiant Heat	67901	0.936	17:00	18:05:52	01:05:52	
2	Kay D		0.881	17:00	18:10:30	01:10:30	
3	Karisma (nee First Draft)	29921	0.857	17:00	18:15:20	01:15:20	
4	Evangeline		0.94	17:00	18:08:42	01:08:42	
5	IMP	2107	0.929	17:00	18:10:08	01:10:08	
6	Sparky	67901	0.892	17:00	18:13:30	01:13:30	
7	Shingebiss	49077	1.014	17:00	18:06:16	01:06:16	
8	Oasis	421	0.949	17:00	18:11:00	01:11:00	

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Tony Brogan
250-931-3972
250-886-1100
tony@tonybrogan.com