

## 2019 JACK & JILL RACE

The supposedly annual Jack and Jill Race came back to its roots this year on Sunday, September 8. Begun in the 1970s, with a trophy donated by Alicia Baxter, the original intent was to get couples out on the water enjoying sailing as a pair (one Jack/one Jill), with no flying sails and an emphasis on enjoyment and camaraderie rather than too much competition. Over the last decade, interest has waned a bit in holding the race annually and, as you'll see at the end of this article, IMP has been a frequent winner the last few times the race was run (under two different owners, Greg Slakov and Craig Leitch).

It was to the great delight of the group that original trophy donor Alicia Baxter and her husband Don came out to participate in this year's race. Gyle Keating organized the race, with both a long and a short course to be chosen by the participants, as well as with the flexibility and informality which was the original intent of the race. It was basically a case of choose your course, have the Jill on the helm for as much of the race as possible, and hope to be back on the dock by 2 pm for appetizers.

There were 8 boats in the race: Paul and April on **Ogopogo**, Greg and Holly on **Sorcery X**, Gyle and Sam on **Shingebiss**, "Jillbert" (aka Lisa, en masque and unrecognizable, in her first race) and Heather (also in costume, so everyone knew who was the actual Jill) on **Phoenix**, Kevin and Wendy on **Deryn Mor**, Tony and Alex on **Minke**, Craig and Elizabeth on **Sylph**, and Don and Alicia on **Impulse**.

Only Deryn Mor chose the shorter course and 5 minutes later start (Ganges Shoal, U62, Ganges Shoal, home), while everyone else did the long course (Batt Rock, U62, Batt Rock, Welbury Spar, home). Basically, the Jill on Deryn Mor didn't want to go out to Batt Rock twice, and the Jack on the same boat felt obliged to do that course because he had been so vocal about having the option of a shorter course in the race! Nonetheless, the two course choice did get everyone home well before 2 pm.

It was a vigorous, rail-under beat out of the harbour and at least one boat reefed their main (guess which one that was?) The wind built steadily for the entire race, resulting in some wonderful white sail reaches and opportunity for wing-on-wing back to the finish line. At U62 in particular, with very strong current flowing, Deryn Mor's rounding of the mark involved extreme pinching on approach and the Jill declaring repeatedly, "We're not gonna make it...we're gonna have to tack...we're heading broadside straight for it...aaagh..." When the Jack took the helm temporarily, there was a safe rounding with "just enough room" (which *is* all you need, it was pointed out.)

Just for interest, the order of crossing the finish line was as follows (*not* taking into account any handicap ratings or corrected times...): Sorcery X, Ogopogo, Shingebiss, Sylph, Deryn Mor, Minke, Phoenix, Impulse.

It being too windy on the dock, we repaired to the Clubhouse for the post race festivities. RB Bortz and the crew of **Effervescence I** joined us, claiming "safety boat" status in the race, having arrived home amongst finishing racers. Don and Alicia gave us all a little more history of both the Club and the trophy (the latter which was redone in 1997.) As trophy donor, Alicia drew the winners out of the bowl—Tony and Alex on Minke.

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*BELOW: Tony Meek and Alex Golder from Minke; Alicia and Don Baxter from Impulse*



For those who are interested, here are the winners of the race since 1997, when Alicia's original trophy was renewed. The previous winners and whereabouts of the original trophy are unclear. Longer-time members might recognize previous boats of current and past members.

1997 Deryn Mor	2001 Alacrity	2005 Electra	2009 Soul Thyme
1998 Deryn Mor	2002 Cheeky Buoy	2006 Final Dash	2014 IMP
1999 Oscar	2003 Final Dash	2007 IMP	2016/17/18 IMP
2000 Dragon	2004 Tigger J	2008 Electra	2019 Minke

Here's hoping that the revitalized spirit of Jack and Jill will come out every September for many years to come. Thanks to Gyle for organizing, to Alicia for initiating the race so long ago, and to all participants.