

Long Harbour Race, November 24, 2019

Commentary by Tony Brogan:

The Sunday Long Harbour Race was the last scheduled race of the 2019 season.

Weather called for light airs from the west but arriving at the dock at 08.45 it appeared the wind was AWOL. But there was a whisper or two and the odd anemometer at the dock was moving.

The Skippers meeting was the usual cheerful get together. Should the start be delayed or moved to Sisters was posited but as there was a stirring of catspaws on the water here and there it was decided to start at the regular 10.30. There was a 4.5 hour time limit (15.00) and so we headed to the water.

It looked as if the pin end would be favoured for what wind there was and as a result the whole fleet headed there in less than a knot of wind resulting in congestion and a group trying to decide how to navigate without contravening rules.

Comments heard were "Sorry we have no weigh. I'm on starboard, you'r on port. Sorry! No feet allowed to push off. Don't push. We are through!"

Ogopogo caught in a 50 degree wind shift found a starboard approach turned into a Port and was squeezed outside the pin and circled back to restart. A puff here and there arrived as we all set off up the harbour.

All day the wind came and went and oscillated through 180 degrees with 30 and 40 degree shifts being common.

Ogopogo was soon well in the lead notwithstanding the restart, Kay D followed with Imp in the hunt and then Radiant Heat and Oasis and the phoenix, Second wind and Skeena Cloud strung further back.

The first mark was Horda Shoals and there was a flooding tide in the passage. Ogopogo was around well in the lead. imp was heading out Kay D Was further out Radiant Heat got a couple of lifts to the mark and shortened distance from the leaders. Radiant Heat then moved toward the mark and appears to have miscalculated the speed of Kay D coming up. Apologies to Kay D for messing up her approach. Oasis was close behind and Radiant Heat moved over to clear water to do his 720 .

The front half of the fleet headed for Long Harbour. Kay D recovered and spinnaker up toward the Scott Point side. Imp was over to the nose point side as was Oasis. Radiant Heat with spinnaker up took a middle line and with the breeze moving back and forth at less than two knots apparent from the east to the south We were forced to gybe several times in as many minutes.

Ogopogo was well down the harbour near the ferry terminal before we made the entrance of the harbour. As we struggled down the harbour we had to change down sails to a head sail as the wind went Westerly, what there was of it, and we tacked several times to make the gap between Clamshell Island and the Ferry terminal docks. Kay D was second around followed 100 yards back by Radiant Heat now another 100 yards ahead of Imp with Oasis hanging on still in touch. Ogopogo was already around and headed home rounding Horda shoals for the return leg to the finish line.

The wind seemed to be now North West and we carried the spinnaker forward from the companionway and started to raise the sail when "caboom" the spinnaker dropped into the water and was narrowly avoided from being run over by the boat. Our halyard was up the mast out of reach requiring us to recover the spinnaker, bag it on the deck, and rely on the genoa which in light air offered little help.

Visiting crew, John, from the laid up Sparky showed his experience, mobility, and good humour by performing all the aforementioned tasks and then some on the foredeck succeeded in getting the genoa to fly wing on wing as the wind varied back and forth. Imp gained on us here to lead us and Oasis too, but she remained astern. Kay D extended her lead. As we struggled out of the Harbour we met Phoenix coming in and we exchanged pleasantries. I recall being asked to smile while a snap was taken!

Now gradually we worked our way out into better wind to Horda shoals led by Kay D, then a while later by Imp, and then Radiant Heat. Oasis was stalled in light air still in the harbour near the points.

We now came into stronger air and white caps were plentiful for 10 minutes as we turned for Sisters. somewhat over powered with the genoa. 18knots apparent was seen on the instrument.

At one point with a wind shift we seemed ahead of Imp but then on another shift we were well back as Imp made time on Kay D. It was tacking time again to the finish from Sisters and Ogopogo was nowhere in sight having finished long ago!

In the end Kay D and Imp battled it out with Kay D 2 lengths ahead at the line. Radiant Heat was unable to make gains and in fact lost time as wind shifts created the requirement of 2 extra tacks to reach the line.

Oasis was in the hunt just 10 minutes further back.

Now the wind shut down and it was a long ride back for the later boats. our stalwart FCR was seen finishing and hour later. I'll leave the narrative to them as I was not able to observe directly.

By the time we retrieved the halyard from up the mast and packed the sails there were few people at the dock. John volunteered to ride the bosuns chair up the mast. Many thanks are due!

Ben invited us to sojourn aboard Evangeline and there were the crew from Phoenix. I went out and greeted the return of Skeena Cloud and then it was time for home.

As the photos attest, the day could have been a summer day. A fitting finale to the challenges of sailing in the Salt Spring waters.

Long Harbour - 11/24/2019 at 10:30

Start: Start 1, Finishes: Place

Rank	Boat	SailNo	NHC3	Start	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected	BCR	Points
1	Ogopogo	2	1.146	10:30	13:08:04	2:38:04	3:01:09	1.146	100
2	Kay D		0.875	10:30	14:28:25	3:58:25	3:28:37	0.76	89
3	Radiant Heat	67901	0.988	10:30	14:33:13	4:03:13	4:00:18	0.745	78
4	IMP	2107	1.011	10:30	14:28:30	3:58:30	4:01:07	0.76	67
5	Oasis	421	0.967	10:30	14:44:35	4:14:35	4:06:11	0.712	56
6	Second Wind	175	0.957	10:30	15:08:10	4:38:10	4:26:12	0.651	44
7	Evangeline		0.939	10:30	15:19:36	4:49:36	4:31:56	0.625	33
8	Skeena Cloud	121	0.835	10:30	16:12:20	5:42:20	4:45:51	0.529	22
9	Phoenix		0.808			DNF			11

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