

Round Prevost Challenge Reports
By Martin Herbert and Tony Brogan
March 29, 2020

What follows is two inspiring reports on how to escape self-isolation while continuing to self-isolate on some of the finest cruising waters on the planet. The first by Martin Herbert, the second by Tony Brogan. Their times will be listed, along with Sylph's from last week, on the Racing Page under Round Prevost Challenge. Sylph's corrected time has been adjusted down to 2:17:28.

Tony Meek on Minke, Ole Anderson on Caliente and I (on Kay D) did the round Prevost Challenge today: a blustery and slightly frustrating race, but a lovely sail.

We started at 10:47:42 and I finished at 1:55:55 for an elapsed time of 3 hours, 8 minutes and 13 seconds. (*Corrected time: 2:19:32, Minke had a corrected time of 2:42:12, Caliente didn't record a time. See all the 2020 times thus far for Round Prevost Challenge at the end of this report*)

Ole and I went NFS but Minke flew her spinnaker. Ole won the start but I took the lead until I sailed into a hole off Scott Point. Ole passed me but I gave him a hard fight all along the far side of Prevost and passed him momentarily when he found a hole close to shore.

Going into Swanson Channel the wind picked up as did the waves with wind against tide. Ole pulled ahead but I hung in dreaming of when we turned the corner and I could reach at 12 knots to the finish. Just as we turned the corner the wind fell off and with it any dreams of planing, but it had been so rugged that Ole had dropped his mainsail so I was still gaining on him.

He got it back up just in time to keep the lead and stretched it out just enough to show me the hole on the Saltspring side. I bore away on a gust and sailed through Ole's lee and found a large gust that had me going 8 knots towards the finish with one exhilarating moment hitting 9.5.

It was no record but a fine sail. Afterwards we sat 2 meters apart on the Sailing School docks and enjoyed the sunshine.

Whether they achieved a record or not fades before their statement: we won't be held hostage to anxiety and fear in these difficult times. Well done!! – FCR

Tony Brogan's Circumnavigation

Well Greg,

I must admit to being stimulated by Craig posting a time.

I have been reticent to go out as it is a while since sailing and longer going single handed. Every time I look at the weather going over 10 knot breeze I think of the increased forces at play on the sails and grow nervous. Not sure why but it is always worse looking from the shore to seaward than being out, having 25 knots, and dealing with it.

However as you noted the breeze from the west was the right direction for a go. The tides were perfect on Tuesday / Wednesday as by today the low tide and change of current was after 1530. BUT I noted Sunday was to have no rain, sunshine and stronger winds in the morning with lighter winds by 2-5 knots in the pm. It looked like a good day to reintroduce myself to singlehanded sailing again.

Getting to the club just before 1400 I noted the gentle breezes and after the instruments were turned on the wind registered 5-8 knots. I figured that with 7 knots and the odd gust higher it was worth a shot at sailing the Prevost challenge.

As I backed out of the slip I waved to Martin who was just returned. I suspected he posted a very competitive time. He had strong winds but he must have had an hour or more of adverse current after clearing Point Liddle??? We will see!! K-D is a phenomenal boat off the wind.

Once on the water I waved to Ole on Caliente who seemed to be returning from somewhere. Was it the challenge. Minke's slip was empty. Was Tony out too?

Raising the main I cut across behind the committee end and turned across the line starting the timer on the plotter. Wind was light at 6 knots but from the SW as forecast and we were making 3.5 knots under main alone. Quickly the jib was set (no genoas today, no spinnaker either) and the extra sail move us to 4.5 knots on a close reach.

The course was directly down the harbour with 10-10 degrees in hand before getting close hauled. Perfect for maximum boat speed from a modest wind.

Then I was a little down the harbour and suddenly rounded up 30 degrees and I saw 23 knots on the dial. Whoa, that was not in the forecast. Struggling to release the sheets while handling the tiller Radiant Heat was allowed to come up. It was good there were no boats nearby. Pressure was off the sails and the helm. Now ease the sheets, ease off the point of sail and bingo 7=KOTS THROUGH THE WATER in the correct direction.

That was the last 20 plus wind though there were plenty of 12-18 apparent as we progressed passed 2nd Sisters light in 20 minutes.

Abruptly the wind shut down 3-4 knots. boat speed now plus or minus 2 knots. I had time to phone home and let them know I may be coming back early. I sat back and thought I will see where we are after 90 minutes. Ten minutes later we were moving again at a steady 5 knots and the boat speed and speed over ground were much the same. Gradually the wind filled in to a steady 8-10 apparent and puffs to 12 or so. We made it passed U60 and had had a spell of current pushing us right to left and then forward. Liddell Point was reached and we turned North up Swanson Channel. A flood current was noted and our ground speed was well over 6 knots before we passed Portlock Point and ran into a mild lingering ebb cutting our speed by coming against us in Trincomali Channel, but still we averaged well above 5 knots over ground. Turning in to Captain's Passage we were more exposed to the South Westerly wind which was varying toward the south now and then. We cleared Nose and Scott points close reached at good speed above 6 knots.

Passing just inside of Welbury Spar we noted 3/4 of a knot of adverse current and there was a quarter mile ahead the scenic looking two masted schooner with the bowsprit. They seemed in trouble with the breeze but I could not see why. We passed within waving distance as they bagged sails.

THEN IT HAPPENED.

The wind went on the nose at barely two knots. Sails went akimbo. First to the left then the right. Pondering the next move we eased the helm and we

headed to the wrong side of Sisters. Was it going to be an unforecast NW wind straight out of the harbour? We began to move, the wind filled in and then moved back to its original Westerly variable to Southerly. Now at 5-6 knots apparent then sometimes 4 knots barely but we moved down the harbour at a steady rate. Lighter air was viewed nearer the finish line but it was stronger to the south and we gently hardened, going from a broad reach to closer to a beam reach and a faster point of sail. Then we hit the filling wind and made 6 knots boat speed the last 100 yards. Yahoo! We (the boat and me) were finished with an elapsed time of 2Hr 48 min 35 seconds. (*Corrected time: 2:14:31*)

It may have been beaten today by other veteran sailors!!!! But it was a good day out and I absorbed some rays, got out of the house, exercised, while disbursing some nervous anticipation.

Boat	Finish Time	Corrected Time
Battle Axe		
Caliente		
Deryn Mor		
Effervesence I		
Evangeline		
Firefly		
Imp		
Imp		
Kay D	3:08:13	2:19:32
Minke	3:33:36	2:42:12
Oasis		
Ogopogo		
Phoenix		
Radiant Heat	2:49:35	2:15:31
Second Wind		
Shingebiss		
Skeena Cloud		
Sorcery X		
Soul Thyme		
Sylph	2:57:25	2:17:28