

Wednesday Night: August 5th
Report by Tony Brogan with help from John Tulip, Bob DeRoos, and Martin Hebert
Pictures by Lisa Lipsett, Peter Toby, and Greg Taylor

Last night I was at the boat early to get the prep done. The wind forecast was for a steady 4-10knots from the East and then around 6 pm to swing to the west. But it was instead blowing a steady 10-12 knots from the South East.

We rigged the 115 jib and the spinnaker and figured the current wind would remain for the duration of the race.

Then FCR 's voice greeted us as he sauntered down to Ogoopogo. FCR was slumming tonight, crewing with Paul and April, "I figure that this way I'll beat you over the start line tonight", he grinned. Whoa there, a challenge!

After a brief radio meeting the course was laid out as Horda Shoals(P), Welbury Spar(P). Horda Shoals(S), Ganges Shoals(S) (short course) and home. Finish time 19.30.

Soon we were on the water and the stiff breeze allowed Main and jib up in good time and as we did our first tack up the harbour we eyed the 10 other boats out in various shades of readiness beginning to scurry around on the water that is showing the odd white cap here and there. On our brief close hauled tack at 5 plus knots Pterodactyl went roaring passed us on the weather side and crossing our bow ended at the Chain Island shore to lee. John remarked, " they have a lot of speed but look at their leeway".

We turned downwind on a broad reach for the starboard end and noted our 6 knot boat speed. Diving into squalor bay we turned around an unoccupied buoy to trial run the approach. We were a bit high to the starboard pin in 1 min 40 seconds.

There was plenty of wind . The helm needed attention and I had little time to see who was doing what as we cruised the line across the harbour and back. Three and a half minutes to go, we were too early and so we did a quick 20 second tack back before turning for that same buoy. This time we turned for the line inside of the buoy and set up close hauled for the line but well inside of the starboard pin. We had full speed. No one to our lee. Boats crowding to the starboard end were far enough away to not give dirty air. With seconds to go here comes Yolanda to the Pin and there is Kay D barging for the line. Good luck with that as we were in full flight in perfect time. But Yolanda had enough room to ease off and allow Kay D room at the mark (nice guy) and we were all over within a second of the time.

At the other end Ogoopogo made their usual impeccable start closer to the port end and they led that group of boats. Who was first over, Greg, I do not know but you will have done very well to beat us this night! I consider we had a near perfect start. (*Read 'em and weep in the first picture Tony. FCR*)

We held our course after the start and Yolanda was forced to drop back and we were on our own boat lengths to leeward of the rest of the fleet. But nimble Ogoopogo was quickly to the Chain Islands where the slightly easterly bearing wind gave them the long port hand tack and they passed 2 boat lengths ahead before we too found the long port hand tack to follow them.

This was a night for the Big Boats, the 35-55 footers. That's Life slowly worked her way through the fleet to pass us as we turned to tack passed 2nd Sisters.

Pturbodactyl perturbed more than one boat as she plowed through the fleet hailing starboard several times at all the boats trying to cross her on port tack, not at the same boat all the time, but a series of boats in succession. She was determined to put Ogoogo into second place.

Meanwhile Evangeline, Rampart and Oasis were battling boat for boat but were beset by Radiant Heat crossing ahead time after time. Very annoying, I am sure!

Imp and KayD were buffeted by the wave action on the beat out and so lost ground.

There we were, on the long port tack to Horda Shoals, where the bigger boats made up distance and passed Radiant Heat before the rounding before we all gybed downwind for Welbury spar.

Surprisingly Radiant Heat was the faster boat downwind, wing on wing, and rounded just behind Rampart. Ogoogo, Pterodactyl and That's Life kept their lead but Evangeline and Oasis had ground to make up again to Radiant Heat as we tacked back to the starboard rounding of Horda Shoals.

I noticed that Phoenix was making her first approach to Horda shoals to pass (P) while we were on our second approach turning (S). We were clear but I did not see if there was fun and games with later boats at the mark. *(It seems the plan to make the second rounding of Horda to starboard to avoid boats having to cross their track failed to take into account the speed differential within our fleet. Pturbodactyl and Imp and Phoenix and Oasis had similar experiences. We will need to take this into account in the future. And, it seems, this was not the only encounter of the close kind, earlier on in the race, Bob on Rampart reported, 'enjoyed the race after I nearly t-boned a cruiser. Almost had to clean my pants.' – FCR)*

It was now a spinnaker run home or that is at least what I thought but having deployed the spinnaker it did not want to fly correctly. There was a tendency for the luff to collapse and then not to as we made our way toward Ganges Shoals. We did not seem to be gaining on Rampart under white sails and Oasis and Evangeline were staying close. Then the wind went forward of the beam and we decided to drop the spinnaker. Was this the forecast westerly I wondered?

But no the wind went aft as we passed the mark so John had to redeploy the spinnaker lines and set the second spinnaker bag as we white-sailed down the harbour. Soon we were able to set the spinnaker again and this time the wind stayed SE and we made an extra knot of speed down the harbour to the finish line.

We held off the "Big Boats " to the end. However by the time the handicap kicks in I am sure they are all corrected ahead!

I do not grow tired of saying this but it was another great night of sailing. Warm enough for T-shirt and shorts, notwithstanding the disparaging remarks about my pure lily-like legs!!

This was another night to remember and not because Bob Jones inexplicably jumped into the water while talking to sailors gathered on the dock. He said it was so refreshing but still felt the need to go home for a warm shower.

Do not forget to come and sail next week and bring the wind with you.

And from John on Pturbodactyl, 'Almost a disaster at the start, caught in irons, rounded onto port (yikes!) fouled someone, requiring me to do the requisite 2 turns, before finally starting a great beat out towards Welbury after the sisters and around Horda. Horda to Welbury was too short for us to set the spinnaker so set the screecher. Crew work is a bit rusty so we had lines everywhere. Had the

wrong pajamas on for the next beat out to Horda . An interesting rounding with Imp leaving the mark to port and us leaving to stb. Fraught with possibilities. Thought the breeze was up a bit too much for us with the big chute (in fact it wasn't) so we zigged and zagged down to Ganges Shoal watching ogopogo run deep down on us. Couldn't stand it, went for the chute and it was ok, still need to go tighter angles than ogopogo, but better. Oh well things to work on.'

(The shifty winds noted in Tony's report at Ganges Shoal were experienced by several racers, including Martin. Martin suggested the following. Paul and I agree with him and will be making some changes to the short course finish before the next race. Martin, 'An interesting night on the water. I make a suggestion about Ganges Shoal mark. There is always very confused air in the area of this mark and I would never choose to sail near it if it was not a mark of the course. It is hard to see in the evening light on the return to the harbour. But beyond all this I don't see the point of it. It limits the tactical choices coming into the end game of the race and turns the last part into a parade. I am for eliminating it as a mark of the course unless we are faced with a light wind and need a short course – FCR)

And, finally, and update from Philip for those who saw her troubles. It seems an old wound in her genoa didn't appreciate the breeze and let go, causing the rip. She gamely hoisted her spinnaker and sailed home.







Club	Boat	Skipper	Finish Time	Corrected Time	Place	Rating for Next Race	club points
148	THAT'S LIFE	McAllister	18:37:37	01:34:59	1	133	100
195	RAMPART	DeRoos	18:45:21	01:35:46	2	183	91
44	OGOPOGO	Faget	18:24:24	01:37:16	3	35	82
164	OASIS	Jones	18:42:46	01:37:40	4	158	73
175	EVANGELINE	Sutton	18:46:29	01:39:35	5	172	64
129	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	18:40:39	01:40:48	6	132	55
18	PTURBODACTYL	Tulip	18:23:36	01:41:00	7	24	45
212	KAY D	Herbert	18:55:55	01:42:56	8	221	36
372	PHOENIX	Lipsett	19:31:08	01:50:08	9	384	27
135	IMP	Leitch	18:51:37	01:50:46	10	150	18
203	YOLANDA	Grange	dnf		11	203	9

THE ENTERPRISE CRUSHES THE FLEET! (by 47 seconds)