

Sunday Keener Race: August 16th

Report by Tony Brogan

'I was amazed we managed to finish the two loops - making the transition between the two breezes, SE and NE, four times all told, was tough! - Craig Leitch'

Sunday dawned with little wind forecast and a high of 30C promised. That was enough to frighten off the fleet barring 4 hardy skippers and crew. The real keeners were Imp, Oasis, Skeena Cloud and Radiant Heat.

The course was reset to a shorter version and a second loop if the first was accomplished by 1300.

The course was Start, Horda Shoals(P), Welbury spar (P), Ganges shoals (P). Then a second loop if time allowed, if not, head for the finish line.

After the radio instructions on 72 we headed for the water. Both Skeena Cloud and Radiant Heat were Single Handed on what would turn out to be a challenging day.

There was a 2-4 knot breeze around the start line and patches out to the Sisters, with not a lot beyond.

Cruising the start line and setting up for the approach had Skeena Cloud a little ahead of Radiant Heat but a little early. Oasis making a run further to the center and Imp quick tacking for the line. *(SC might have been early on the approach, but not crossing the line, as she has a horn that sounds alerting her as to when she is free to cross the line. I did have to luff and loligag for 20 seconds -FCR)*

Radiant Heat seeing more pressure to the right early tacked over watching Skeena Cloud and Imp go to the left shore but in lighter air. Tacking up the harbour we hunted the puffs and avoided the holes, we hoped.

Reverting to long tacks Radiant Heat was pursued by Imp and then Oasis. A little further back Skeena Cloud was trying to figure the best boat to follow as she tried to stay in touch. All dared each other to go further than the other in the shallows near Boulder Bay, trying to get the advantage. Tacking into a wind puff Radiant Heat moved ahead well clear of the other boats and looked back to see them struggle to get out of their soft spots.

As we passed Welbury and moved out closer to Horda Shoals the wind was filling in Captains passage. But it was not from the southeast it was East or North East and as the winds converged. We had the sails telling one thing while the masthead wind indicator said another.

After bearing off 20-30 degrees RH tacked and made a good course to the Horda Shoals mark in the new breeze.

As she rounded, the other boats were well back but now making good progress. Turning for Welbury the wind from the channel was not quite to the spar but getting closer but in the end RH made the spar in dying wind and slowed to a near halt trying to figure where the wind would be to get back to Ganges Shoals.

Up came Imp smartly rounding and then turning sharply left went back into the channel to catch the edge of the stalled wind front. She made down the channel under spinnaker and then a circle course toward the Ganges Shoal.

Meanwhile RH made slow progress and was greeted first by Oasis and finally Skeena Cloud, seeing the wind died about 10 feet beyond Welbury, turned tight around the mark, and followed Imp on the great circle route to Ganges Shoal.

Meanwhile Imp was around before 1300 and we were set for the longer course.

Imp was now a long way ahead as the three laggards struggled around the GS mark with Oasis and Skeena Cloud battling to see who was to be second around, closely followed by Radiant Heat, now in last place,

Oasis had trouble setting the genoa and bagging the spinnaker and was passed by. Skeena Cloud furler her the spinnaker with her genoa partially set. Radiant heat had dropped the spinnaker early and was well set for a close rounding and was behind but windward of Skeena Cloud.

Imp sailed her own race from now on and from the perspective of the other three boats never seen again except to wave goodbye.

Radiant Heat slowly moved past Skeena Cloud. Behind Oasis reorganised and followed us toward the Saltspring shore.

Radiant Heat seeing a wind puff, tacked out and left the other two boats close to the shore and made the long tack back to Horda shoals. Imp was already around and approaching Welbury spar and headed home.

We continued to Horda and again trifled with the change in the winds before we rounded. I could see no current at the mark and so the advertised flood was almost non-existent there, whereas it had affected our progress while in the harbour. Strange waters are these. *(What Tony is forgetting is the brilliant move he made pushing through the gap in the Welbury Shoals to the Welbury shore. I couldn't see any wind there. But wind there was. It looked like someone had picked Radiant Heat up and threw her like a dart towards Horda. Skeena Cloud, seeing a puff slowly approaching from windward, tacked toward it, and rode it to Horda Shoals. But by the time she got there Radiant Heat was around and gone. But Oasis wasn't too far ahead - FCR).*

Heading for Welbury again still under headsail Radiant Heat was now several minutes ahead of the other boats. and finally tracking passed Sisters turned for the run down the harbour . Meanwhile I had re-lead the spinnaker lines and attached the spare spinnaker bag.

(Skeena Cloud hoisted her spinnaker after rounding Horda setting it for the SE breeze that almost immediately went into the north. Both spinnaker sheets ended up crossed under the sprit, and we watched Oasis sail away. Setting the genoa, cursing like a sailor, I went forward and re-ran everything FCR)

The chute on Radiant Heat was set and I relaxed. There was to be a nice gentle run home and what looked like a second place!??

Then down floated the spinnaker and settled in the water alongside. Setting the auto I rushed forward grabbed the sail and hauled it aboard, strapped it down and raised the genoa.

We continued to the finish line in a gentle breeze. Oasis was 20 minutes back. Skeena Cloud further still. By the time I docked I *did not feel like stowing anything and so simply left all akimbo and headed home to recover.*

All in all it was an interesting sail of differing fortunes. It was not a day to single hand but enjoyable enough. Now having put the boat to bed on Monday I hope to recover the halyard Tuesday, today, with the aid of a bosun's chair and two or three strong hands on the winch. Thanks much to the volunteers for helping.

(As Paul wrote me, upon sending me the scores, 'I didn't know whether to give you four double points for persevering, or zero points for not being sensible enough to get out of the Noonday sun'. Something about mad dogs and Englishmen I guess. - FCR)

Hopefully see you for the Wed night sail.

At least a couple of boats are short of a Jill for the Sunday Jack and Jill race. If you would like to crew and or be a Jill, contact FCR

Club			Finish	Corrected		Rating for	club
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place	Next Race	points
150	IMP	Leitch	14:48:38	04:10:55	1	144	100
316	SKEENA CLOUD	Taylor	16:40:42	04:48:13	2	313	75
129	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	15:37:49	05:08:17	3	132	50
161	OASIS	Jones	16:08:05	05:22:42	4	167	25