

Ben Mohr Race

December 6, 2020

Report by Martin Herbert, pictures by April Faget, Keith Simpson, and Peter Toby

Tony Meek called me and invited me to sail with him in the Kay D for this race. It turns out it is one of our favourites. The light winds that greeted us in the morning turned to pleasant by the time we rigged, good at the start, yummy in the middle and pleasant at the end.

As I was walking down to the boat Paul and April Faget drove up and initiated the battle of the 20 footers, 1940's technology of the Flying Fifteens against the 1980's technology of the Hotfoot 20. The gauntlet was thrown down and accepted.

Tony had found a fancy watch while mushroom hunting and so we had countdown machine to replace my counting backwards from 60 in the last minute. We were set. The club end of the line was heavily favoured so our strategy was to hang upwind and swoop down into the perfect position at the last second. What could go wrong? At just over a minute Tony's watch changed channels so we were suddenly guessing again. We hovered and then saw Paul and April approaching the mark at speed and obviously not intending to leave room for "Swooping". They nailed the start and shut the door on us so we tacked and gybed and settled into the third row of starters, still at the correct end but not in clean air. Round one to the Faget's.

Oasis got a good start just a bit down the line and started moving into the lead. At this point the wind was good and she just looked majestic. Soul Thyme also got a decent start and was off in pursuit. Half way up to the Sisters the wind got yummy. Radiant Heat was flogging her whole main in the gusts and I was concentrating on feathering up in the gusts and keeping the Kay D on her feet. The Hotfoot was ahead and to weather of us and was also overpowered in the gust but being well sailed. The bigger boats were hauling us in and we had close crossings with Evangeline, Shingebiss and Sorcery X as they passed us on the approach to the Sisters. We were hanging over the side looking forward to the reaching leg that was coming. While still on the beat out of the harbour the wind went to "yummy plus". We saw Soul Thyme round up in one gust and Tony and I had to hike out like teenagers for a few seconds. We lost sight of the Hotfoot and when we finally saw her she was on a broad reach for home.

Once we cracked off after the Sisters the wind was still forward of the beam so no serious planing but I did sail low in the gusts to stay in them longer then tightened up in the lulls to reach the next gust sooner. We were able to work through the lee of several boats and move back up the fleet. Off James Bay the wind went back to good and we hoisted the spinnaker for some exciting planing, sailing lower than the fleet in more wind. About half way across Trincomali we dropped the spinnaker and sailed towards Ben Mohr at a hotter angle than the boats to weather. In retrospect this would have worked even better if we had kept the spinnaker up another five minutes but it did get us around the mark in fourth place behind Oasis, Soul Thyme and Shingebiss with Radiant Heat breathing down our necks. On the close reach back to Captains Passage Evangeline passed us then Radiant Heat did as well and as we battled with the turbulent waters off Scott Point Sorcery X sailed through all our lees. Approaching the Sisters we got some spectacular surfs hitting 10 knots and re-passed Radiant Heat drawing abreast of Evangeline. We were in perfect position to show off a particularly bad spinnaker hoist to our close packed sailing friends thanks to me suddenly becoming all thumbs. Tony Meek bore with me and sorted out my mess, thank God for a good crew.

The spinnaker did its magic and pulled us ahead, snapping at the heels of Sorcery X into a fifth place finish. A fantastic race for Oasis and a super day to be sailing. Our smiles were stuck on our faces even if we were both soaked through.

Kay D finish time was 12.03.34

cheers,
Martin





Club			Finish	Corrected		Rating for	club
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place	Next Race	points
170	OASIS	Jones	11:54:58	01:20:02	1	158	100
203	KAY D	Herbert	12:03:34	01:24:07	2	194	90
138	SOUL THYME	Simpson	11:56:55	01:25:52	3	132	80
146	SHINGEBISS	Keating	11:59:40	01:27:31	4	143	70
175	EVANGELINE	Sutton	12:05:23	01:29:12	5	178	60
153	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	12:04:11	01:30:58	6	159	50
202	SECOND WIND	van Soeren	12:11:46	01:31:37	7	211	40
95	SORCERY X	Slakov	12:02:17	01:37:32	8	107	30
	WINDSPIEL	Sloat	dnf		9		10
171	POCO	Faget	dnf		9	171	10