

**Round Prevost**  
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**Pictures by Peter Toby, Suzanne Ambers, and Greg Taylor**  
**Scoring and Club Handicapping by Paul Faget**  
**April 11, 2021**

The much anticipated Round Prevost was heralded with steady breezes from the North West in the 10-15 knot range with other forecasts showing a Northerly breeze.

The projected currents showed an ebb to about 11:30 with the probability of an extended ebb in Captains Passage running to 12:30 or longer.

To me, the winds decided which way around to go, and they suggested it was a 50/50 toss up for which way around.

Prior to the start at Ch 72 roll call the wind seemed settled in a NW direction with a tendency toward the North so we were prepared for a long spinnaker run down the channel. At Roll Call we welcomed the emergence of Imp from under winter wraps and the new addition of Thallia, an Ericson 34, skippered by able seaman, sailor David Denton-Cardew.

During the pre start period we changed headsails twice as the wind switched direction several times and gusts came and left. We turned for our final approach from out in the harbour with plenty of time only to have the wind die to 3 knots from the northeast. This put us moving at less than 2 knots boat speed dead down wind and late by 50 seconds as we crawled over the line.

A quick look around saw the fleet scattered round all across the line and some close and others not so close to the line. We were not quite so bad as we thought we were but we could see Sorcery X had picked the right spot and was moving ahead while being shadowed further back by Oasis and Imp, a little further, back again, was moving well on the Saltspring side.

*(Skeena Cloud and Pturbodactyl had the same strategy, approach the pin end on port. Unlike the middle of fleet, the breeze stayed relatively constant, forcing Skeena Cloud to circle once to delay her start, coming back onto course to cross the line with Pturbodactyl to windward, but well behind. But as we all know, where Pturbodactyl is one moment, is not going to be where she is the next. Approaching the line I could hear the unmistakable creaking and groaning of Pturbodactyl being brought up to speed. She was suddenly on my quarter, quickly passing, but with considerable leeway, and I was getting squeezed between her and the pin. I may have had rights, but she is a Pturbodactyl for God's sake! But her speed swept her safely pass on off – FCR)*

We could see Kay D in the centre ahead of us a few lengths



*Note the sequence above. The next picture by Peter is just a couple of minutes later. What's missing?*



Were shadowed by Evangeline to our right and Soul Thyme three boat lengths back following our track.

At one point we set our pole and loosened the spinnaker bag but it was not to be as the wind was on the beam and then forward of the beam as it moved closer to the east. An Easterly wind was not on any of the forecasts!

*(And here is where Skeena Cloud lost her spot on the podium. I too set my spinnaker, got it take one breath, before the wind veered into the east. Epic spinnaker fail #1 – FCR)*

The fleet was moving at good speed down the harbour. On the gusts Soul Thyme surged forward and halfway down the harbour passed us to weather. We tucked in to cross her stern to the weather side for clear air, but Soul Thyme kept drawing farther away from us. Kay D had moved left a little and was still ahead. Sorcery X was headed straight out as were most others. Oasis took a left turn at Sisters a quarter mile ahead of us. Kay D followed .

It looked like the fleet was splitting two thirds for a port hand rounding and the others a starboard hand rounding.

The wind was far enough East that there was no spinnaker run for us. If the wind held to the east then it would be a long series of tacks up Swanson Channel and a head to wind rounding of Portlock Point.

I preferred the shorter tacking distance to round Peile Point even against the current. So we continued a close reach up past Scott Point . Radiant Heat's crew had a differing opinion and could have been right!

Meanwhile Kay D had decided the opposite and near Welbury took a right turn to do a run to Point Liddell with the current and do a Port hand rounding.

Oasis was further out in the channel and we were headed higher closing the distance somewhat. Oasis had to tack 4 times to gain around Peile Point whereas we did only two. Speed over ground was well over 4.5 knots or better, as we bested the current but as we made our tack out to the left at Peile Point we were surprised by another boat coming from nowhere up the channel 10 degrees higher than we had been able. As she crossed our stern we saw it was Thalia and she was within talking distance. David had a big smile . He said later he was a quarter mile back when suddenly.....there she was looking good.

*(I was following David and could see that he saw what had happened to Radiant Heat and Oasis and instead positioned himself to make one tack to clear Peile Pt. I thought this new guy knows what he is doing, so followed him. But still being geometrically challenged, took up more distance, and showed less elegance, in doing so. – FCR)*

Meanwhile Oasis had rounded and getting the continuing ebb in Trincomali was again a quarter mile ahead.

We stayed on a close reach to clear Hawkins Isle which we cleared by 5 boat lengths and also had the benefit of the ebb to Portlock Point.

Oasis had disappeared around the point and no other boats were in view. Thalia had suffered lost distance while clearing Peile point and was again a quarter mile back.

As we rounded Portlock, the advancing fleet doing the "other way " round were in sight with Oasis threading through them. As the wind finally went aft we raised the spinnaker . Ahead of us was Soul Thyme close hauled headed to ward us. To our right tacking out from the shore was Sorcery X. She tacked back before crossing our bow. A short distance back was Kay D and Imp.

Oasis was in lighter air making the Liddell Point turn, 300 yards ahead. Thalia was further aft of us. Oasis fell off a little toward the Channel Islands. We prepared to drop the spinnaker just after passing Liddell Point when the wind went squirrely. Now ahead of us, now behind, mostly on the starboard side but then briefly on the Port side. Was the main to gybe or not.? Well yes then no. *(Epic Spinnaker fail #2 for Skeena Cloud – FCR)*

*Meeting the boats coming the other way:*



Boat speed dropped to below 2 knots.

*(It was here – just before the fail – I met Martin on Fool in the Rain. He was struggling in the same mixed airs I was – S coming out of Navy Channel and NE down Swanson Channel, with us in the mixer. I used the spinnaker to get me out of it but left it up too long and was suddenly headed. But it was fun to see Martin, have a quick chat, and snap a picture or two – FCR)*



Oasis , further out was by design or chance closer to the returning wind than us. Thalia coming up took a wider detour around the point and closed on us.

Oasis had fresh air within 5 minutes, we waited closer to 15 while Thalia was also slowed and as we found the breeze she again was left behind .

Meanwhile, the Other Way around, lead boats appeared in Captain's Passage. They were ahead of us. First was Sorcery X followed by Soul Thyme. Then a long gap and finally we identified Imp.

We now had good wind but we were fighting the last of the Ebb in Captains passage. Speed over ground was below 6 knots.

We could see Oasis getting a lift along the salt spring shore and she, Sorcery X, and Soul Thyme came together to battle it out between themselves from Sisters to the finish.

Once we were clear of Batt Rock our speed over ground went into the mid to high 6 knots and we passed 2nd sisters just ahead of Imp by a few boat lengths.

*(Skeena Cloud had a glorious close reach from the U60 to the finish line. I struggled against a tide that was supposed to have turned until Batt Rock whereupon our speed kept up to 6 knots+. Smiling to myself, I thought, "Paul would just hate this. A race around an island with one tack. Blasphemy!" But in the sun, with favourable breeze; it was fabulous. – FCR)*

This time we stayed out from the island whereas Imp was close in. We avoided the "hole" but Imp came to a crawl losing 3 minutes or so to us before escaping into better wind.

Thus Radiant Heat was 4th over the line followed by Imp and Thalia.

Which was the best way around. That depends on who you talk to! You be the judge.

Whatever, it was a glorious sunny day where I received a sunburned pate. Next time wear a cap!

There was a 10 or less covid style gathering at the dock to do the draw for the 2020 Prevost challenge. It was won by Sorcery X.

The 2021 challenge is ongoing. If you wonder where to go for a sailing day why not try the Prevost Challenge as each time you try another draw ticket goes in the hat, with your name on it.

We all cheered Fool in the Rain as she finally came over the finish line. Well done Martin.

See you next week for the Channel Island Deep Ridge buoy mark and the Ben Mohr mark race. You can round either mark any way you want in any order as it happens to suit you.

That will be more of a challenge than this week, I am sure. I expect each skipper to write their own account as to why they did what they did and what they did. Studying the winds and tides is your homework for the week. Have fun!

*Okay, now for your times. These are your corrected times. But to enter you into the 2021 Round Prevost Challenge I need the PHRF rating you would like Paul to use. Please forward it to me.*

<b>Club</b>			<b>Finish</b>	<b>Corrected</b>		<b>Rating for</b>	<b>club</b>
<b>Rating</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>Skipper</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Next Race</b>	<b>points</b>
21	PTURBODACTYL	Tulip	12:27:42	02:21:25	1	6	100
147	SOUL THYME	Simpson	13:03:18	02:29:24	2	135	91
119	OASIS	Jones	13:02:50	02:35:28	3	110	82
104	SORCERY X	Slakov	13:01:30	02:37:49	4	98	73
310	SKEENA CLOUD	Taylor	13:53:05	02:39:02	5	307	64
150	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	13:16:05	02:41:08	6	150	55
150	THALIA	Cardew	13:22:42	02:47:33	7	153	45
135	IMP	Leitch	13:19:05	02:47:48	8	141	36
157	EVANGELINE	Sutton	13:30:46	02:53:33	9	166	27
173	KAY D	Herbert	13:35:05	02:53:36	10	185	18
354	FOOL IN THE RAIN	Thorn	14:43:00	03:08:09	11	369	9