

Captain's Pass Race

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The Captains Passage Race had the unusual format of two marks to be taken either side in any order, Skippers choice. (*Devised by our devious Club Handicapper - FCR*)

This led to a detailed study of the tides projected and the winds forecast. What order should or should not be taken?

Generally the winds were forecast to be from the North or Northeast to around midday. Then a switch to the South East after a period of light air of 1-2 knots. The tide was ebbing until mid-afternoon.

Radiant Heat speculated that she would try for the short beat through Captains Passage to Ben Mohr and maybe double back to Captains passage and run down to Deep ridge buoy on the strong ebb. Then turn back for home.

On arrival at the docks the Northeast wind occasionally showed up before swinging to WNW and then back again. The wind was a comfortable sailing strength of 5-7 knots.

Five minutes to the start, and the wind went flat, leaving many boats wondering if they would be late and most plans of approach to the line were soon abandoned to be replaced with ad hoc responses. RH getting a puff arrived too early and circled around only to be met by Oasis making a lateral approach from outside the pin end. The result was we were in the way. Aggrieved cries were released from Oasis. Slip sliding by each other, our starts was made. Our humble apologies to Oasis. (*Although in the heat of the moment, 'Protest', was called, it was not followed through on, because, as Tony describes, there was no intention; it was just one of those things that happen when the wind quits and current takes over – FCR*)

Thirteen boats were spread out on the line with the wind more or less astern. The light air made for slow progress and those heading to the left side of the harbour generally moved forward faster than



the fleet and so Pturbodactyl and Sorcery X moved into the lead, where they remained for the duration, contesting between themselves for the lead, but otherwise unchallenged. By the time we approached Second Sisters the two lead boats were over to the right closer to the Ganges Shoals.



Imp was progressing nicely and challenging Radiant Heat. The wind then went flat as we watched, and waited for, the approaching ESE wind front.

Pturbodactyl gybing back to cross our bow 10 lengths ahead was the first to the new breeze, and tightening onto a close reach, headed for Welbury. Next to the wind was Radiant Heat. Over to the right was Imp and Sorcery who then found the wind. The rest of the fleet still in the harbour had to wait a little longer and so now trailed.

(This delay reverberated down the fleet, delaying first Evangeline and Soul Thyme, then Battle Axe, Thalia, and Skeena Cloud, and finally Cool Runnings, Fool in the Rain, and Star Gazer in turn. Speaking of Thalia, those of you without spinnakers, David is the guy to watch. With $\frac{3}{4}$ of the race



sailed under spinnaker for most, he finished with the lead pack, under white sails. Pretty impressive. I know I will be watching, and learning, from him. – FCR)



The strengthening breeze had gone back to the North, so we reached up to and over Welbury ridge and passed Scott and Nose Points into the 2 knot adverse current of Captain's passage.

We were fortunate to be able to ride the breeze in one tack through the passage into Trincomali and to Ben Mohr. We were overtaken in Captains Passage by Sorcery X who calmly sailed passed by to challenge Pturbodactyl now some way ahead gybing down Trincomali toward Portlock Point. Imp was too close for comfort, tucked behind up the fleet, and making good time.

Before reaching Ben Mohr we discussed whether to follow our plan of doubling back or to follow the leaders. We considered that the breeze in Captains Passage may or may not be there. We thought that the time to double back would be more advantageously used to immediately ride the current in Trincomali. In the end I was indifferent and John decided to follow the leaders.

(Meanwhile, behind these guys Soul Thyme and Evangeline had passed Battle Axe and Skeena Cloud, meaning there were now several close – but still separated – packs in the race. Behind Sorcery X, Pturbodactyl, Radiant Heat, and Imp, there was Soul Thyme, Evangeline, and Oasis, following them were Thalia, Battle Axe, and Skeena Cloud. Finally, there was Fool in the Rain and Stargazer. But wait, where's Cool Runnings? As Julian said later, 'we decided to go rogue' and circumnavigated Prevost counter clockwise. Here are some pictures he got of the boats he passed going the other way about -FCR)



(And if Julian went rogue two other boats went for 'two marks and a spin', better explained by Martin: 'How's that for a name for our race? If not for everyone else, at least my friend Meror and me: The only obstacle between marks was Prevost, so there was pre-race debate about whether to exclude the upper section of the Island from the fun or "spin around it". Well once we negotiated our way through the current around Ben Mohr Buoy, the ebbing current became our only friend. The wind clock was stuck at 0.0kt for the best part of an hour as we drifted up Trincomali Channel at 0.4kt. While we witnessed Stargazer dancing backwards on the Prevost side of the Channel, we joined the flotsam in a tideline in the centre, which several times broke the monotony by gently spinning us around in a slow whirlpool amid the driftwood. A race indeed. The wind picked up again and we followed Stargazer at a safe distance (at best 15 minutes) . Both boats enjoyed Swanson Channel and Captain's Passage each as single tacks. Fool in the Rain maintained her role as fleet caboose, though we managed to steam into the harbour and across the line at 6kt, a glorious way to end "two marks and a spin".)

The wind was lighter as we approached Portlock Point. Ptubodactyl was making the rounding and disappeared from view. Sorcery X was well ahead of Radiant Heat but we felt we were still in touch. We stayed close to Prevost and road a 2 knot current south to Point Liddell under intermittent puffs from the spinnaker Imp fell off and went over to Navy channel a half mile away. The fleet fell back and bunched together.

We spotted Ptubodactyl way down toward Beaver Point in light air and adverse current. We also spotted a black wind line down near Moresby Island . Here comes the south Easter. Maybe an hour away I thought.

But the wind filled in as forecast in 15 minutes and with it came the fleets being picked up earlier and propelled way to close for comfort. Incredibly Imp appeared leading the pack under spinnaker heading in a beeline for Deep Ridge buoy.



Radiant Heat changed to the Genoa and close reached from Point Liddell to the Mark and was somewhat assisted by the ebb current while Imp was more averse to the current. We passed a couple hundred yards ahead and promptly gybed around to the better wind on the right and headed to the Prevost shore now changed up to spinnaker again (thanks for the repacking the spin bag John). Pturbodactyl and Sorcery X were still well ahead and down by the Channel islands having both picked up the new wind.

The fleet was in hot pursuit. Particularly close were Imp, Soul Thyme , Evangeline , and Oasis. Now deep reaching along the Prevost shore we made good speed and pulled ahead. For a while we



gained a little on the leaders still battling it out together. Then the wind grew lighter as we outran the wind front . Imp inexorably closed the gap as did the pursuing big four boats behind us. As we passed Second Sisters there was barely a minute between us.

In the light air we approached on a deep reach or dead down wind track to the finish and managed to lengthen the distance from our followers. Meanwhile Ptubodactyl and Sorcery X extended their lead battling for line honours to the end.



For a 15 mile course most were finished in a respectable four and a half hours and all enjoyed a memorable sailing day. Sunshine, various breezes, a challenging course. What else is there to say? Another great day on the water.

(And congratulations to Battle Axe for the win. I tried to catch her, flying her big green machine, and while I could make up some distance on her when the breeze was biased to one side or the other, she just took it all back, and then some, when the breeze was astern. Well sailed Jim – FCR)

Club			Finish	Corrected		Rating for	club
Rating	Boat	Skipper	Time	Time	Place	Next Race	points
333	BATTLE AXE	Raddysh	15:28:27	03:47:25	1	315	100
298	SKEENA CLOUD	Taylor	15:36:32	04:03:35	2	283	92
393	STAR GAZER	Manton	16:38:00	04:22:00	3	381	85
160	EVANGELINE	Sutton	15:20:12	04:37:24	4	151	77
366	FOOL IN THE RAIN	Thorn	16:49:35	04:38:29	5	360	69
141	IMP	Leitch	15:17:36	04:42:49	6	138	62
138	RADIANT HEAT	Brogan	15:16:39	04:43:10	7	138	53
141	SOUL THYME	Simpson	15:18:43	04:43:55	8	144	46
98	SORCERY X	Slakov	14:59:59	04:43:58	9	104	38
153	THALIA	Cardew	15:27:43	04:47:33	10	162	31
119	OASIS	Jones	15:16:20	04:51:16	11	131	23
234	COOL RUNNINGS	Clark	16:36:27	05:15:54	12	249	15
9	PTURBODACTYL	Tulip	14:52:39	05:22:44	13	27	8

Revised results

We begin the B series with RSS. Here are the results for our A (Spring Series). And Paul and I have some work to do updating the Round Prevost Challenge.

2021 Accumulated Points, Round Prevost, and Commodore's Cup

Spring (A) Series

Boat Name	Jack Langdon	Groundhog Day	McMillan Trophy	Walker Rock	Round Prevost	Captains Passage	Total Points
Skeena Cloud	89	88	83	30	64	92	416
Oasis	56	25	100	90	82	23	353
Sorcery X	78	75	58		73	38	322
Radiant Heat	67	50	92	50	55	53	317
Evangeline	22		67	100	27	77	293
Soul Thyme	11	38	42	70	91	46	287
Poco	100	100	75	10			285
Battle Axe	33		50			100	183
Fool in the Rain			33	60	9	69	171
Pturbodactyl				40	100	8	148
Second Wind	44	63					107
Imp					36	62	98
Kay D			8	80			88
Star Gazer						85	85
Thalia					45	31	76
Shingebiss			25				25
Cool Runnings				10		15	25
Kay D					20		20
Deryn Mor			8				8
Ogopogo							0
Rampart							0
Phoenix							0

