

Moresby Island Race Report

from Martin Herbert aboard the Kay D

March 10, 2024

The race falling on the day of time change was a bonus for the Kay D, as it led to a choice of start times. Sailing a small boat in a fleet of big boats means that your whole first leg tactic consists of trying to find clear air. This day we chose to start early and hung around the start line looking to windward. With the first sign of the breeze filling in we lined up and took off tacking towards Moresby. The early start maximized the time we had with the tide in our favour and we were able to tack on headers and march upwind. The wind shifts were about 10 to 15 degrees so they made a huge difference in our progress to windward. Because of the forecast winds I enlisted my old boat building partner Matt Law as crew. We have raced against each other since the 60's in Fireballs and International Canoes and it was a treat to have his experience on board. Some of you might know him and his Dufour 34 Arnica from the RSSI races.

The wind did build and we thrashed to windward, sometimes with half the main luffing. Some of the waves were quite close together and a bit brutal so one of my jobs was to try and dodge the worst ones. When I failed the wave would roll aft on the deck, hit the splash rail and shoot up into our faces. In the lulls Matt would slip into the cockpit and bail. We kept our lead until midway up Moresby Island when Sorcery X ground us down. Invictus was closing in on us as we rounded the second point of Moresby and were able to bear away onto a run. Matt, who had got the 30 second tour of the spinnaker rigging on the dock, had the sail flying in seconds. Setting the 150 square foot sail is considerably easier than setting the kite on a Dufour and we pulled ahead. The Kay D jumped from her 5 knot upwind speed to bursts of speed when gusts and waves combined for short moments of exhilaration. At one point we hit 9.8 knots.

As we approached Beaver Point the wind sagged and we dropped to under 4 knots and the laws of waterline length took over—Invictus passed us. On the run into the finish Ogopogo sped by as well and went on to pass Invictus to finish second boat. They both had developed quite a good lead on the Kay D but found a soft patch near the finish line. The wind fell again from behind and we were able to get close, but not enough, and were fourth over the line. Shingebiss and Evageline found some rain near the Chain Islands and were blotted from view, but reemerged to complete the finishers of this long and fun race.

Jill Oakes, a relative new comer to racing, was single-handing her Flying Fifteen Robyn Hood. As the wind built she sensibly turned around and headed for home but not before having a glorious sail out of Ganges Harbour. She has just returned from Flying Fifteen racing in New Zealand where she was honing her skills.

The Moresby Race is a long hard one and it felt good to finish (the first race this year that I have made it to the end.) Matt had fun and having a crew is kind of nice; I think I will invite him back.

PHRFBC Results

PHRF BC Rating	Boat	Skipper	Finish Time	Corrected Time	Place	Rating for Next Race	club points
208	KAY D	Herbert	16:20:51	04:46:28	1	208	100
114	INVICTUS	Lhotzky	15:49:21	04:56:39	2	114	86
77	SORCERY X	Slakov	15:36:54	05:01:29	3	77	72
99	OGOPOGO	Faget	15:49:16	05:03:45	4	99	57
102	EVANGELINE	Sutton	16:24:40	05:39:17	4	102	43
84	SHINGEBISS	Keating	16:21:10	05:45:38	6	84	28
208	ROBYN HOOD	Oakes	dnf		7	208	14

Club Handicap Results

Club Rating	Boat	Skipper	Finish Time	Corrected Time	Place	Rating for Next Race
114	INVICTUS	Lhotzky	15:49:21	04:56:39	1	105
86	SORCERY X	Slakov	15:36:54	04:57:00	2	80
164	KAY D	Herbert	16:20:51	05:04:54	3	161
139	EVANGELINE	Sutton	16:24:40	05:20:14	4	142
131	SHINGEBISS	Keating	16:21:10	05:20:40	4	137
44	OGOPOGO	Faget	15:49:16	05:33:22	6	53
250	ROBYN HOOD	Oakes	dnf		7	250