

I'm not sure what happened to the wind gods this morning, but they clearly didn't read the weather forecast properly and were caught napping. Or maybe they were at the same birthday party I was at last night and also overdid the cocktails. (it seems that a mild hangover improves my sailing technique!)

The discussions I was involved in on the grass before the race were on whether a radial, or 4.7 sail was the best choice, whereas really we should have just ditched the sails, taken paddles, and converted the laser hull into a large standup paddleboard. We might have moved faster! Ross and Will- you'd have been better tying knots in the corners of the handkerchiefs you took out and using them as sunhats!

The wind stayed fairly strong while we were rigging, waited till we were launching the boats, and then went off for a nap. Those of us who sailed on Wednesday got some useful extra sailing tips to try out this week. I thought I'd try out a new starting technique, sitting on the line at the start, as instructed, rather than waiting my usual 100m out and attempting to time my approach vaguely right. All went well as I sailed up to the line, stopped the boat about 3 m off the line and waited. I was so pleased with myself that I forgot to get moving again and finally drifted across the line last, in everyone's dirty air. I was saved by a lucky wind shift that scuppered everyone who had gone out to port. The rest of the race seemed to me to be mostly a game of chance, with wind shifts and wind holes everywhere. It was frustrating watching the boats sailing at Freshy- they seemed to have more of the wind shifts, whereas the Claremont fleet seemed to have more of the wind holes.

The hooter sounding to alert us to the shortened course woke up the snoozing wind god, but he must have been deeply asleep since he was very disorientated and seemed to be going round in circles for a while, before settling down to a nice steady seabreeze to blow us all back to shore.

The final results were:

Fastest full rig: Mal Mckercher
Fastest Radial: Mark Edwards

Handicap results:

1st: Helen Ramsay
2nd: Dom Papaluca
3rd: Gaye Ryan
4th: Walter Reeves
5th: John Van der Peyl
6th: John Ryan

Thank you as always to Bob in the rescue boat, and Chris
Judith and Wally in the start boat.

See you all next week,
Helen

PS- sorry for the lack of rhyme. After Dom's beautiful
composition last week any effort I could make would look
second rate.