

COMMODORE'S CUP LASER REPORT

18 MARCH 2018

BY

ROB HEYES

It was always going to be an interesting day for sailing with the unpredictable afternoon winds, a different and longer course and the interaction with racing keelboats and Moths. It was good to see John Fussell joining us as a guest racer. Including our guest, there were 7 full rigs and 5 radials.

We had a flying start on a reach which kept the fleet all in fairly close contact to the first mark. Wal told us he had practised falling in backwards during the week so he took the first opportunity rounding the mark to do it again. Helen had problems with her vang rope getting caught in a pulley and capsized soon afterwards.

As expected, Nigel, Mark and John Fussell took the lead on the beat and were only viewed in the distance after that. Graham headed a second group followed by myself, Don , Duncan and Wendy. Dom and Matt were battling it out with Wal and Helen a bit further back.

As we entered the Bermuda Triangle of Freshwater, Mosmans and Suicide we were assaulted by quickly shifting winds, Moths at full speed on hydrofoils and parts of the keelboat fleet that we had caught. Making a turn at Suicide with a huge catamaran very close on my outside was a test of nerves. Don and I came out with a comfortable lead over Duncan and Graham and were neck and neck around Burnside and College.

I did a tack and found myself about to collide with Graham who had caught us unknown to me with a fast reach from Burnside. In the confusion I tipped over but since I was on port it was my own error. Don sailed away too fast to count jellyfish followed by Graham , Duncan and myself. Wendy made a great couple of reaches which almost brought her back into contention followed by Helen, Wal, Dom and Matt.

At the front of the race Nigel, Mark and John Fussell missed the second College mark , so they were recorded as DNF. Disappointing for this group but the fact remains that they sailed very fast and were well ahead of the fleet.

It's always good to see the familiar faces of the start crew out on the water, following the race to give assistance if necessary.

First full rig was Graham Lithgo with Rob Heyes first radial. On handicap :

6th Helen Ramsay

5th Walter Reeves

4th Dom Papaluca

3rd Wendy Campbell

2nd Don Page

1st Rob Heyes.