

A decent 9 boats turned up at Waiuku on a cold, foggy and very still Sat 24th.

Forecast was for a 5kn easterly, which never eventuated. The fleet spent a pleasant 90 minutes drifting around in weak winter sun waiting for a breeze that never arrived.

Sausage sandwiches and an afternoon with a couple beers made up for the sailing disappointment.

Sunday the forecast was on the button with a solid 15kn – 18kn easterly. Gusts up to about 23kn in my estimation.

Triangle windward leeward course x 3 in plenty breeze and flat water.

Dereck Snow won three in a row in spite of an OCS in race two trying for a pin end, port tack start which saw him tight reaching across in front of the rest of the fleet on starboard. He restarted and managed to hit the front at the end of the first triangle.

His downwind speed was impressive.

Mike Jones, Chris Mitchell and I were pretty tight competing for 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

In race one approaching the finish I had Chris 10m to leeward about 30 m from the finish.

I tacked to lay the line, Chris did the same and inexplicably came from 10m behind, pointing 30 degrees higher to pip me on the line for 3rd.

Jackson Grimmer sailed consistently for 5th. Yi Shun was right with us most of the way around but dropped back to finish 6th.

Race two followed a similar pattern except Derek played catch up. Mike and Chris sailed well up the first beat to have a handy lead. I was close but not quite.

However a good choice on the second beat where I went up the right hand shore side had me on a big lift, then knocked and tacked over to lay the top mark. I was second at the top mark and held on to the finish. Yi shun had his best race finishing 3rd. There were starting to be plenty capsize by end race two. Eamon spent a bit of time with his mast in the mud.

Race three the wind was starting to puff pretty solid. Derek got clear in front and not headed. Again Chris and Mike were fast upwind. I think Chris was 2nd at the top mark. Plenty of spray and excitement on the reaches. Yi Shun pretty keen broad reaching on the wire.

Grant, #415 had problems with his halyard lock all day and struggled to get the sail setting properly retired before completing race three.

At the top mark for the second time no change. Derek, Chris, Mike and me in #187. Yi Shun and Eamon a bit further back. Again a few upturned hulls in evidence.

Then in quick succession Mike and Chris got blown over on the final downwind. I sailed past trying not to smile too much for a meritorious 2nd placing.

I note upside down is slow. And the water was cold. Best stay up right.

Thanks to Waiuku YC and the band of volunteers for setting up fair courses and great hospitality.

The North Island Champs cup, which dates back to 1975, went to Derek to add to his overflowing trophy cabinet. I note it needs polishing.

Great to see the young guys from French Bay pushing us around the course and Chris and Silvana making the effort to come up from Tauranga.

Sunday was excellent sailing.

Results

Name	No.	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total	Place
Derek Snow	#88	1	1	1	3	1 st
Donald King	#187	4	2	2	8	2 nd
Mike Jones	#379	2	4	4	10	3 rd
Chris Mitchell	#365	3	5	3	11	4 th
Yi Shun Thong	#336	6	3	5	14	5 th
Eamon Withers	#123	9	7	6	22	6 th
Jackson Grimmer	#188	5	6	DNS(11)	22	7 th
Grant Powel	#415	7	8	DNF(10)	25	8 th
Silvana Neito	#191	8	DNS(11)	DNS(11)	28	9 th