

Palm Beach Yacht Club



2017 Spring Sprint Series Race Report

Sunday 17th September dawned bright and fair.

The southerly change of the previous afternoon had blown through and we were left with moderate and shifty winds predominately from the South-East. Course was set as Start - Clareville - Mackerel Beach - Finish.

Four yachts turned up for the start and it was a chance to view Ian's new acquisition "Majigo", a classy Jenneau that looks about 60 feet long but is, in fact, nearer 45. Along with them were "Addiction", "Free Spirit" & "Frangipani". "Free Spirit" was sporting some new canvas, which looks very fast in the right conditions.

Race 1 got under way at noon with some close quarters manouvering at the Start line. Heading in to a 10-12 knot South Easter, the fleet soon split in two with half heading for the Eastern shore and half sticking to the West. The difference at the top mark was a decent gap between the bigger & smaller boats so the run to Mackerel was critical. Backing the East side of Pittwater worked out reasonably well for "Addiction" who was able to lead the fleet home and also take out first on handicap. She was followed by "Majigo", "Frangipani" & "Free Spirit" all within three and a half minutes on corrected time.

Race 2 was a very different story. The breeze began to lighten off and there were many significant windshifts. After some close encounters at the start everyone settled down along much the same line along the Western shore heading to the Top mark with the larger boats managing to split away. Off the breeze was another story. "Free Spirit" got their kite drawing well and appeared to be under motor! She managed to almost close the gap on the two leaders ("Addiction" & "Majigo") by the bottom mark. A well deserved handicap victory was in the bag. In the dying breeze it was a struggle for the tail enders to get home. "Frangipani" suffered a little with a smaller rig in the lighter air but was still a respectable second and "Addiction" third. "Majigo" unfortunately took a wrong turn at the Top Mark, which put them in fourth place.

Now there was debate as to whether to call it a day or proceed with **Race 3**. It was just after 14:30 so still plenty of daylight (and we had plenty of drinks left aboard). The forecast was for the wind to pick up a little in the afternoon, so a decision was made to start at with the option of shortening the course. Turned out to be a good call with the wind picking up in to the 8-10 knot range providing some very pleasant sailing. Again, the fleet split on the work to the top mark. "Majigo" began to show some of her superior speed and put pressure on "Addiction" all the way to the line. Watch out for them when the breeze starts to freshen up! Once again, superior spinnaker work proved to be the difference and "Free Spirit" managed to squeeze home third across the line and take first on handicap. "Addiction" managed another Line Honours. Second on handicap was "Frangipani", "Addiction" and then "Majigo".

The final series result was a tie for first place between "Addiction" and "Free Spirit", with "Free Spirit" the winner on a countback. Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable afternoon on the water and hopefully we can have a repeat with a bigger fleet somewhere over the Summer Break.

Twilight's start on 13th October, so don't forget to get your safety Audit done and fees paid before then.

PBYC Race Committee