

Waglan Series 2019-20, Race 6

Sunday, the 15th, dawned overcast and relatively warm for mid-December. More important, though, was the forecast Force 4-5 blowing in from the east . . . perfect for the scheduled islands course.

Out of 21 entries, 15 showed up to circle the committee boat, positioned between Middle and Round Islands. Race officer, Alex Johnston, laid a windward mark at 80 degrees and 0.4 nautical miles distant, and displayed the courses for the two divisions – #20A for IRC 1 and 2, and #20B for HKPN A and B.

With the wind blowing 8 knots and freshening, there was no reason to delay: the gun went at 1100 for the four-strong IRC 1 division and four boats in IRC 2. The countdown then began for the two HKPN divisions and, at 1105, the gun went for a somewhat reserved start for the seven slower boats. All clear in both starts.

Both courses took in Chesterman Buoy and Castle Rock but the faster boats went around TCS2 and Waglan Island while the cruisers (including two J-80s) rounded Fury Rocks as their furthest point. Both fleets had to round Castle Rock and Chesterman on their way back to a finish off Middle Island.

By the time the lead boats had reached Castle Rock, the wind had built to a good 15 knots. Crews, wrapped up to avoid wind chill, kept their weights out and all boats made good way. There were even reported gusts of 20 knots.

Then, drama: *Day Dream* radioed the RO saying they had damaged their rudder and lost steering near Castle Rock. A safety boat was despatched immediately, to assist or even offer a tow. Fortunately, the crew of the stricken Dehler 42 were able to rectify the problem and returned to Causeway Bay.

First home was Eddy Lee's *Generations* at 13:24:22, taking not only line but also handicap honours in HKPN A. In 2nd, on handicap, was *Shenzhen No.1* and, in 3rd, *JeNa PaBe*. In HKPN B, with John Berry firmly at the wheel, *Five O One* claimed handicap honours, followed by *Boss* and *Mozzie*.

Before the last HKPN boat had finished, however, *Blackjack* came storming through to finish its 21-nautical-mile run in an elapsed time of two hours, 55 minutes and 12 seconds. *Blackjack* also claimed IRC 1 handicap honours, followed by *Intrigue* and *Juggerknot*.

The IRC 2 division was won by *Ding Dong*, with *Legende* in 2nd and *Andiamo* 3rd.

From there it was back to the Aberdeen Boat Club's recently-renovated Middle Island clubhouse for a combined prize-giving and the annual Commodore's Cocktail Party. A delicious spread was provided by the club's F&B division . . . and the mulled wine flowed!