

Third Waiheke Coastal Classic 26th January 2023 - the second for the Wattle Warriors

Three DF95's and one DF65 skippers meet at the Half Moon Bay ferry to catch the 10 am ferry to Kennedy's Point, where Nigel, Mike, Kerry and myself were picked up by Glenn in the Waiheke Island Magic mini bus and taken to starting area at eastern end of Surfdale beach and meet the Waiheke contingency with the usual banter and jokes especially after the DF95 Wattle Warriors battle flag was hoisted at the startline with a few suggestion for a Waiheke flag.....

The 8 DF65's include Dot the local lady skipper, started at middle day with Kerry (the line green sails were easily picked up) showing good speed in the strong NEly blowing offshore but the A plus rig was a handful in the squalls. The 65's just did 1 length of Surfdale and then headed off around the Esplanade to Blackpool. The 65's were escorted by Melita on the paddleboard and Derek escorted the 95's in kayak, both from the local coast guard, the recipient of the charity from the entry fee.

The 11 95's started 10 minutes later and did 3 legs of Surfdale down to the western mark back to the start and down to the western end mark and then around the Esplanade to Blackpool, unfortunately the seagrass was a problem this year but the 2 escorts where busy clearing weed from the foils. Nigel and the local skipper Rod had a good tight race at the front of the fleet, at some stages they where little dots on the horizon. Mike and I had weed issues on the Surfdale legs which put us in the middle of the fleet.

The sprint out the end of the headland got the cardo rate up, lucky in a unfortunate way the boats while overpowered and got laid down a few times which slowed the pace down. The next 2 marks were in the lee of the headland and at the eastern end Blackpool, which made the sailing quite tricky with the wind coming in all directions and sometimes not at all, should have follow my last year's trick and rock hopped as did one of the locals and overtook Mike and myself who were further out to sea.

The next 2 legs across Blackpool beach to the western end and back to the finish off "The Mad Butcher's" house, at was only later when watching the done footage the weed issue was apparent which kept Melita very busy cleaning the weed from the foils.

The 65's was won by a local Rodney from the Wattle representative Kerry, and Nigel taking out the 95's from Rod, Sir Peter did the honors and handing out the local champagne and off course a Warrior's hat.

After the derigging it was up to the Sol Bar from lunch, refreshments and the normal banter, bs and watched the drone footage thanks Warren for the coverage.

Glenn dropped the Wattle Boys back to catch the 5 pm ferry back.

Another successful day for both Waiheke Radio Sailing Club and The Wattle Warriors, it's a pity that more boats from the Auckland club's don't make the effort to support a up and coming club.

Derek 95's the Escort



You can't miss Kerry



Sir Peter's thumbs up



Rodney the 65 winner and Sir Peter



Melita the weed cleaner



Nigel and Sir Peter

