



NEWS RELEASE

10 August, 2015

Light breeze day for Islands course at Airlie Beach Race Week

Competitors are in a quandary at Airlie Beach Race Week this morning, as weather models do not agree on wind strength and direction, but the general opinion is that Day 3 will be a light air day at the Whitsunday Sailing Club's popular event.

"After two perfect days, today could be a tricky one," agrees Race Director, Denis Thompson, who plans to send all but the Sports Boat class on a south-east course through the Molle Channel, around White Rock, to Daydream Island and the finish.

The Sports Boats will stay on Pioneer Bay for three windward/leeward races and according to Denis Thompson, "They will probably get the best breeze of the day. We will have to monitor the conditions and shorten the course for the rest of the fleet," he said.

Sports Boat clash

Queensland's John Rae has sailed Vivace into a three-point lead over fellow Queenslander Noel Leigh-Smith (Viper) in the Sports Boat class. However, Rae said today's light conditions could work against them.

"Even yesterday was tricky," Rae said. "We had selected our sail plan, but had to change just before the start, because a nice breeze came through, so we were slow to start.

"I was lucky the crew made good tactical moves and we had a clean move across the Bay before we got a good wind shift so we cleared away a bit. We got a bit tangled up with the Cruising division, but it didn't hurt us.

"It was closer racing than the day before when we held a kite all the way to the Cones (Double Cones), so we had a really good day out," Rae said.

Although Vivace, a Bethwaite 79er, holds the advantage going into today's racing, Rae said they had concerns about others who revel in light breeze.

"Viper and Stay Tuned (Graham Sherring's Leech 650) are our worries in light air, which isn't our strength, so obviously I'm hoping for some pressure on Pioneer Bay today," he said.



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AIRLIE BEACH
RACE WEEK

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“Mister Magoo (Jason Ruckert’s Thompson 7 from Queensland) will also come into its own in the light,” said Rae who finished fourth at their last National Championship.

Cruising for a bruising

John Kint has come all the way from Royal Geelong Yacht Club in Victoria for his first Airlie Beach Race Week, and while the crew, including his wife, are having a ball in Paradise, he was much happier after yesterday’s race in which he is ninth overall.

“We didn’t get hit all day, so that’s a positive,” Kint said with a big smile on his face. On the first day we were run into, but there was little damage. Both days the conditions have been very pleasant, so we’ve had a good time here,” ended the owner of a beautiful Adams/Radford named Bundaberg.

Charlie and Betty Preen’s Dehler 39, aptly named ‘Dehler Magic’, is the popular leader in Cruising Division 2. Why? They are locals from Whitsunday Sailing Club and have returned after a seven year absence. They are also clearly the best dressed ‘tropical shirt’ crew and therefore standout.

“If they don’t wear the crew uniform, they don’t get on the boat,” Betty stated.

“We’re locals, but we’ve been away cruising for seven years. It’s absolutely great to be back,” Charlie said.

“Yesterday’s race – awesome – north to Grassy Island and back. It was a light 10 knot breeze and we kept company with True Love (Roger Down’s Farr design). We’re hoping for more of the same today, but come what may, we’ll have a good time,” he ended

Hosted by the Whitsunday Sailing Club, racing in the ‘Tropical Festival of Sailing’ continues today from 11.00am. Tomorrow is lay day, with racing returning on Wednesday.

Full results and all information on Airlie Beach Race Week at:

<http://www.abrw.com.au/>

Further information on Whitsunday Sailing Club:

www.whitsundaysailingclub.com.au/

By Di Pearson, ABRW media



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