

The Mirage Cup and Trophy Regatta *Aug 19th 2006*

PCYC's enthusiastic fleet captain, Madeleine Palfreeman, has set her sights on restoring the Mirage Cup and Trophy Regatta to its prior glory. In years gone by, the chance to wrest this trophy away from the clutches of previous winners and determined challengers was a tough and inviting pursuit. Like many other events, somehow interest had faded, and sailors found other ways to enjoy a Saturday in the summer. Madeleine began to work her magic to turn around this unacceptable state of affairs. Verbal and written reminders were provided. Reluctant racers were prodded to postpone other plans. Success. We had a decent turnout of Fireballers.

Yesterday's Mirage event had something to offer to every Fireball sailor who rigged in preparation for this event. Tom Bird and Pierre Carpentier were thrilled that they were able to put Bruiser back into service after some serious trouble some time back, when they managed to tear off their centerboard cap, and do bad things to their jib halyard tensioning system. Alas, the thrill ended for them when the light wind and their late start prevented their arriving at the start line. Last minute repairs just took too much time.

Jason Magder and his sister Erica were so keen to participate that they were the first to arrive at the Club. Jason has been chomping at the bit to sail ever since Sea-Rail took forever to return his boat from Victoria. Not only did Jason make it to the Club on time, but despite the light airs he actually made it to the start early. Their first beat was very impressive. Their boat speed was very good and they took full advantage of the oscillating winds. Weeds and tricky downwind legs took their toll, slowing them unmercifully.

Donald Slessor reunited with crew Robert Wilson-Smith for the first time this year. They too had the presence of mind to arrive and start on a timely basis. Donald and Robert showed some of their light wind prowess and secured a respectable third place finish. They had Men in Black moving very nicely.

Rob Levy coerced his ever patient son Sean into sailing with him. Rob proved both his enthusiasm and skill for light wind sailing, starting promptly and building a nice lead that earned the Levy family another 2006 first place trophy.

The attentive reader might have noticed an emphasis on punctuality at the start. Apparently, serious competitors are rarely guilty of late departures from the harbour, and never proud of arriving at the start some significant time after the race has officially begun. So it is with a great deal of humility and absolutely no pride that I report that Tom Egli and I were unfashionably detained. Unlike Pierre and Tom who had major repairs to complete, Tom and I had no excuse whatsoever. Some of the post race commentaries included discussions on appropriate punishment for tardy racers. Others ventured that letting Rob and Sean Levy romp to victory was punishment enough. In the spirit of the Back to School season and with the inspiration of Bart Simpson:

be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start. We will not be late at the start.

Final Results:

1. *Robert Levy & Sean Levy*
2. *Joe Jospe & Tom Egli*
3. *Donald Slessor & Robert Wilson-Smith*
4. *Jason Magder & Erica Magder*

Joe Jospe CAN 14769