

The weekend of the 9th and 10th of May saw the running of the 2009 Farr 727 National Championships run by the Royal Akarana Yacht Club in conjunction with the Elliot 5.9 and Platu Auckland Champs. Racing was held in the vicinity of Northern Leading in the Auckland Harbour.

The long range forecast called for blustery sou-westerlies of 25kts plus for the weekend. Come Saturday it was definitely blustery and cold but did not exceed 25kts. The wind went up and down with each passing rain squall ranging from 12kts to a nasty squall mid day of around 25kts which saw some damage around all fleets on the course.

Leigh Miller aboard Mumbo Jumbo dominated day 1 with 4 guns and a 2nd. Overdraft (Brad Davies), Quarter Pint (Nathan Bonney) and The Source (Damon MacLachlan) fought for 2nd place with Overdraft and Quarter Pint tied for 2nd at the end of the day.

Sunday, day 2 saw improved conditions with 8 – 12kt Westerly's minus the rain squalls thankfully. Race 1 saw a 90 degree wind shift mid starting sequence leaving a reach of the start leading to a precession which saw Overdraft take 1st, Quarter Pint 2nd and 12 year old Edwin Delaat aboard Crac-a-jac 3rd. Race 2 again saw good racing leaving it down to the last race to decide 2nd between Overdraft and Quarter Pint.

Quarter Pint cleared away with a comfortable lead early in the piece with Mumbo Jumbo 2nd and The Source 3rd. Overdraft placed 4th at the top mark still in the fight but 2/3rds of the way through a the kite hoist the halyard clip let go with the kite falling into the water. Quarter Pint had to win with Overdraft 4th to take 2nd and this looked to be the case right until the finish line when Mumbo Jumbo got a favourable line coming in from the starboard lay line. Miller put his helm down pushing the bow up at the last second to clinch the gun leaving Quarter Pint and Overdraft tied in second.

The final results saw Leigh Miller (Mumbo Jumbo) with the National title, Brad Davies (Overdraft) 2nd on count back and Nathan Bonney (Quarter Pint) 3rd. Damon MacLachlan aboard The Source took 1st on handicap. The series saw great racing with the fleet (reduced to 8 after a broken boom aboard Quick Nic saw them having to retire) still being very competitive. The dinghy sailors crewing for boat owners were impressed with the level of competition and excitement that this “big dinghy” provided!

The Farr 727 class will be holding Auckland Champs later in the year around October / November with a date yet to be set. The association has key events they wish to focus on and interest more owners to attend with the upcoming SSANZ series and the Royal Akarana Yacht Club winter series. For more information vist the Farr 727 association website: www.farr727.org