



## **CANADA'S NEW SWEDEN WINS WESTERLEIGH CUP OPEN DIVISION. DENNIS CONNER AND MAY BE VII TAKE CLASSIC HONOURS**

**Report by Tara Smith**

**September 16, 2017**

**Vancouver, British Columbia**

Race report Day 2 of the Westerleigh Cup

Day 2 race 1.

The first start was the Open division in 3-5 knots of wind 3 boats were over early. The fleet headed to the beach with teams working to hold a clean lane into the beach. SUI 118 led the fleet into the beach 4 boats tack over looking for clear air. A freighter is on course and will force boats to choose a side. The yellow weather mark is positioned offshore. Much of the fleet had chosen to tack above the freighter on the approach to the weather mark. The fleet who came in from the beach is finding themselves over standing the weather mark due to the geographic lift. Lead boat at the weather mark was SUI 118 Courage followed by SUI 77 Junior, US 241 then US 114 and SUI 132, CAN 129, FIN 78 and USA 127. Downwind, the fleet split with half sailing on the north side of the freighter.

Next weather leg the moderns headed back into the beach. Local boat New Sweden has chosen to sail off shore looking for the wind to fill from the North. Indeed, the wind speed had dropped and swung to the North and New Sweden is looking great. New Sweden closing in on the mark tacked in front of Junior who approached from port, forcing them to tack away and giving New Sweden Starboard advantage at the mark.

New Sweden rounded the mark first ahead of Junior and got away with a nice lead to huge cheers from the local spectator boats.

Classic Division sailed a similar course heading for the beach, their weather mark is lower than the moderns however they still ended up over standing. Some big gains have been made by boats who tacked early for the geographic port lift.

Downwind, both fleets sailed the middle of the course looking for puffs.

Day 2 Race 2



Race 2 RC is flying Y flag instead of P, so boats over-early are DSQ unless there is a General Recall.

In the Open start, 801 was lined up for a beautiful start at the pin end, but was over early. Local Steve Kinsey ended up winning the start with a nice lead and headed straight to the beach. Regatta leader Junior is in 4th-5th of the main pack heading to the beach. New Sweden came out first.

New Sweden gybed early into pressure. Junior stayed on starboard and ran out of pressure while boats gybed inside.

In the Classics, the ladies on US83 rounded a beautiful 33 seconds ahead of the second boat USA87 (Dennis Conner), and led downwind with a clean lead. The fleet stuck to centre course downwind.

On the second weather beat in the Open Division, New Sweden tacked out early as if going below the freighter, but then tacked again up the shoreside of the freighter, tacking around the freighter bow to be lowest of the shoreside pack to the mark. Junior went below the freighter for the outer route. New Sweden nailed the layline with just a little crack, while most of the pack above them overstood significantly. New Sweden rounded first, with a small gap before Junior.

The Classics were finished at the weather mark, and the wind gradually slipped away as the Moderns finished.

Tomorrow the racing is scheduled to start at 1100 for the first day of the Six Metre Class World Championship.

For full results and links to daily pictures visit <http://6mvancouver2017.com/>

Hosted by the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club (RVYC), the Six Metre World Championship takes place from September 17 to 21 with 47 yachts from 11 countries participating. This is the first time Canada has hosted the regatta since it began in 1973.

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