



Mistral Owners' Association

The Mistral Tiller

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Dear Mistrallers,

WINTER EDITION

Brrrrrrrr! Yes, its definitely Brass Monkey weather! Well done for anybody who has braved it over the last few weeks but I suspect it ain't many!

BUT

This Sunday is the first of the winter 'cruises' run from GBC. Plan is to get down there 12 ish and work out a destination and format to suit whoever turns up. Flexible, nothing serious just a good excuse to get off the sofa, turn the telly off and go for a sail. For all those in the 'trying the spinnaker' category this is a perfect time to do it as there's no tight courses, buoy-room issues or stuff like that. Plenty of old hands around to help get things sorted.

Boatshow: Many thanks to those that helped out at the boatshow and a special thanks to Jarrod for the display of his beautifully restored boat, it did the class proud. You never expect to get instant new members from the boatshow but we do always get a few enquiries that usually come to a fruition months down the track so definitely worth doing.

End of season wash –up: We need to hold an end of season wash-up session to gather thoughts on how the season went, get some new ideas etc. Watch out for a time and venue over the next few weeks. Meanwhile feel free to email me any thoughts.

GORDON PATRICK: Celebrating 99 years + Broad reaching still ..Good on ya mate!

Thankyou Anita Patrick for letting us know that Gordon has just had his 99th birthday and is sailing along just fine. Gordon's contribution to the class is legendary and I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing him the very best wishes. A classic 'kiwi bloke' in every respect here's a few priceless bits of 'Mistralana' about Gordon that we need to remember.

Gordon was always a gentleman and he was always willing to help with advice on rigging, sail shape, sailing the boat and tactics. Always on- hand to do minor repairs (he was a wood work teacher) and in his earlier days built Mistrals, Wooden boats only. You could always tell a Gordon Patrick boat, there was something about them. Once asked by a gentleman for whom he was building a Mistral if he could not reduce the scantlings a bit and any other weight savings he could make, his reply was that " he would build it to the rules which would give fair racing to everybody!" On the one occasion Eleanor and I were in with a chance to win the championship I split the cartilage in my knee while stacking and we "limped" back to shore. Gordon and others gave us a hand up with the boat and Gordon asked us what went wrong. and I said to Gordon I had a sore knee. His reply, "if it is going to happen it will always happen during the champs".
(Thanks Ross and isn't that true about the champs!!!)

One of the stories that went around was about Gordon hitting the mark at the start line. In those days, you had to withdraw from the race. He headed towards the beach and his crew noticed that everyone was following him. They thought he'd found some good wind! **(Anita)**

..... and probably the reason they followed him was,, apparently in one race and using a bit of classic Tamaki Yacht Club tidal knowledge, whilst in a rare position at the back of the fleet Gordon split from the pack around Bean Rock and did a compete flyer up the shoreline totally against popular theory for the tide at the time. He cleaned out the fleet by 400 yards or so and was literally home and hosed off up the ramp before the rest crossed the line! **(Rob)**

(...and a couple of absolute classics from Murray White) .. whilst racing in close quarters down by the bottom mark, as inside boat I hailed Gordon for 'water' . He replied 'NO overlap'. I tried to pull out across behind his stern and took his rudder off. I guess I did have an overlap after all!

....and on an occasion when we took the Mistrals up to Paihia we raced across to the Duke pub in a sail/beer race requiring skippers to down 2 pints and race home. Gordon got to the Duke first with patrol boat skipper Keith McFarlane and ordered 40 beers. The bartender said '40 beers mate, are you sure?' ... the quick reply was "yes, ... there's 2 of us!". Actually 20 Mistrals turned up for that event and despite Gordon personally handing out each skipper their 2 beers, and hence last to re-launch, he **STILL** made it back to Paihia first!

Every Saturday, if a boat had some damage done during a race, the owner would take it from Tamaki YC to Bucklands Beach. Gordon would fix it up and it would be ready to race the next Saturday. This happened many times. The boat in the photo below had extensive damage but still got fixed in time for the next weekend's sailing :) (And Gordon never charged for his services, time, or materials) **(Anita)**



Priceless photos!!
(thanks Ron Thorne & Anita)

Seriously though, what on earth was the skipper doing to get it this bad!!
That's not a collision, that's a torpedo!

At least it looks like he might have been on Starboard!

Guys were obviously built tougher in those days! Harden up and finish the race son!

Wishing you well Gordon, roll on the big one next year!

Good sailing, Nick

www.mistral.org.nz www.tyc.org.nz www.gbcyachting.org.nz