



Mistral Owners' Association

The Mistral Tiller

Issue 14: 15 January 2014

Dear Mistrallers,

NEW YEAR EDITION

Welcome back to all ye Mistrallers and I trust the holiday break went well. Those who over-indulged and feel the waterline is now going to be slightly longer no worries, we have a full and active programme coming up to help work up the activity levels!

First up is the start of the Mid Summer Series this Saturday at TYC for those who are around. Usual start time 1425.

For the next weekend, **Sat 25th** is the Mahurangi Classics Regatta taking place from Sullivan's Bay, Mahurangi inlet. This is a whole day event that kicks off from about 10am with beach activities and a display of all the classic yachts, launches, tugs, rowing boats and of course, sailing dinghies. Our race starts at 1.30 but its good to get on the water for a good hour beforehand to sail around and enjoy the display of vessels. The start time has been known to vary a bit, so plan to launch around midday. Entries are on the beach at Sullivans Bay, plenty of grass area parking and rigging space, its always a great event. The beautiful wooden carved Waitangi trophy is also up for grabs for this event.

Keep the boat on the trailer, as **Mon 27th** is the Auckland Anniversary Day regatta run from TYC. The harbour just doesn't get any busier than this and it's a cracking good display of everything we have to offer in the Waitamata. Entries are via the official Regatta website, but keep an eye on TYC for details of start times.

GBC kicks off its 2014 programme on Sun Feb 2nd. Timing TBC.

RON NORTON race report:

Just before Christmas we held the Ron Norton handicapped pursuit race from TYC. A good fleet of 9 entered and were drip-fed across the start line at varying intervals, with the aim of all finishing at roughly the same time. We were blessed with one of the best days racing ever with a breeze that built from 8kts to 18kts and a sparkling sunny day. TYC set us a cracking course of 3 long laps with some testy spinnaker reaches. To be fair to the fleet, nearly everyone had a chance to win this as with a keen breeze there were some inevitable spinnaker mishaps and other handling errors. Scott and Zara Blakey sailed the cleanest race of the lot and just managed to hold off a spirited challenge by Brett and Darcy Black by less than a boat length. The next two boats crossed within a minute ... great racing. We were delighted to have a very well and cheerful Doreen Norton on-hand to present the prize along with Wendy and Stephen.

See you on the water,

Nick