



Mistral Owners' Association

The Mistral Tiller

Issue 17: 17 April 2014

Dear Mistrallers,

THE MISTRAL CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION!

Wow, what a weekend just gone by. Great sailing, fantastic weather and what superb timing. I assume you all checked out the photos of Tamaki Drive during the peak of the storm.

So, what about those championships this year, an absolute cracker. It didn't go un-noticed that even if numbers were a tad down on previous years, the quality of the fleet was outstanding, probably never better. One didn't have to miss more than one shift to suddenly find yourself at the back end of the fleet. However, it's a heartening thought that even if you felt you had a bit of a shocker of a result, you were still surrounded by excellent sailors of the very top order. I reckon, (along with a few others that also 'reckon') that other than the current Olympic training Squad, and Emirates Team New Zealand (er, er, possibly) , there wouldn't be a better collective bunch of sailors in any organisation or fleet anywhere else in New Zealand and that ain't bad for the class!!

On to the sailing, it was a good call to go for 5 races on the Saturday just in case the light wind forecast for Sunday came true. A beautiful day, winds around 15 kts, it was pretty much perfect racing. Brett and Darcy (101) continued their sparkling form this season and took the first race demonstrating the importance of perfect spinnaker work on the reaches. Tight racing was the order of the day with the following 3 races all having different winners namely; Matt and William (60), Nick and Benjamin (47), Jon and Henry (5). The final race of the day was won again by Matt and William but the overall honours for the day remained with Brett and Darcy.

A planned delay on the Sunday until 1230 meant the wind had a chance to fill in and once again give us some superb sailing on a lengthened course just to stretch the fleet a bit! Some tricky shifts kept the fleet on its toes and the three laps were never without a dull moment or a change of placing. Matt and William took race 6, whilst a spirited challenge by Giles and Emily (19) saw them take race 7 in a thrilling last lap battle.



Matt and William showing some perfect reaching trim, Text-book stuff.

(watch and learn y'all !!)



A wonderful site !

Nothing finer than
fleet racing on a
perfect day.

Overall Line: Yet again, a masterful display by the Mistral Jedi Master himself , Matt O'Maigh ... very ably crewed by William Beauchamp fresh out of Optis at GBC, took the title for this year.

Brett and Darcy Black were very close behind and just one decent result adrift. Just two points separated the next three boats with Jon Bilger and Henry Haslett just squeezing past Nick and Benjamin and then Scott and Zara.

Handicap: It was a thoroughly well-deserved win on handicap by the teenage combination of Matt Connolly and Abi McGeorge (4)..... going very fast, a great future ...just managed to edge out his old man, Sean and Willem (71) and also Jarrod and Lauren (25).

Non- Spinnaker: Simon and Finn Rowntree showed some good form on the Saturday to win this division.

(Full results are on the Mistral website, thanks Olivier)

As usual the mix of participants was particularly encouraging. We had ages from the very spritely Don Grayson (70 is the new 40!) down to Ollie Stone who probably fits inside a spinnaker bag! We had family boats in all combinations, teenagers giving a whirl for the first time, and we seem to have a pipeline of Opti sailors from GBC to choose from. This bodes very well for the future.

Many thanks to the Club and all the collective band of Mistral members and extended families who helped make the racing and social gathering a massive success. Good to see families of old and new there to share in this event.

Thankyou to our main prize sponsors Helly Hansen and also Rob Mason for the medals, Brett Black for the Chandlery vouchers and Jane Grayson for the all-important chocolate bunnies!! Some excellent photos on the website are care of Ludo Marthe.

BOAT SHOW: We will once again have a Mistral stand at the Boatshow (Greenlane) on 15-18 May. Jarrod has kindly volunteered #25 again as a display boat. More info later but we will need people to man the stand during peak visitor hours.

Great Champs, good sailing,

Nick

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