



Mistral Owners' Association

The Mistral Tiller

Issue 19: November 2014

Hi Mistrallers,

Well it's been a typical windy and changeable spring which seems to be lingering into early summer. Still we have had a few 'moderate' breezes already to sharpen the crew work. Great to see last time out that the first three crews at TYC club racing were young women/girls.

Thanks to Nick

On behalf of all Mistrallers a special thanks to Nick Brewer for all his efforts as class President over the last 2 years. Nick led from the front promoting and organising the class, has been a regular on the water and we will all miss his contributions to The Tiller (one just has to read on....).

Although Ben is now into Opties/cricket/rugby we look forward to seeing the red rocket out on the water soon (even if it's to see Nick screaming past us on a kite reach single handed in 15+ knots – again).

Message from the President

Hi Mistrallers,

It's great to be at the beginning of a new Mistral sailing season. The Mistral Owner's Association is brimming with promise, and the MOA committee is again hard at work helping the season get underway.

A big thanks has to go out to Nick Brewer for his outstanding leadership as President of the Mistral Owners Association over the past two years. Not only has Nick been a formidable Mistral sailor, on the water at Tamaki Yacht Club and Glendowie Boating Club almost every week with his sons, but he has kept us all in touch with his wonderfully witty and informative comments in the Mistral Association Tiller Newsletter. Special thanks to Julianne for her support of Nick through the past two years as class president.

At the request of the class membership AGM, I now step again into the leadership of the Mistral Owner's Association as Class President. Much has developed in the Class since nine years ago, when I first served through a double term as President. That earlier term required a rebuilding of the Association and the re-establishing of Mistral Sailing in Auckland. Much work had to be done updating the Class Rules to support the flourishing restoration surge, and to update the Constitution and reactivating the building of fibreglass Mistrals.

This term I seek to encourage a strengthening of consistent weekly numbers of Mistrals being sailed, both in the provincial clubs (Hamilton, Kerikeri, Mercury Bay), and the Auckland (Tamaki and Glendowie yacht clubs) and Christchurch Mistral clubs.

Fostering training and attracting new members is essential. Training days are being planned at local clubs. I'm already getting news from Derry Godbert at Kerikeri of new families entering Mistral Class. Tamaki Yacht Club has already had five sailors out this season and a great days BBQ and racing last Saturday, kicking off the Don Grayson Early Summers Series. On the water Mistral coaching will also start soon at TYC.

Already the MOA Executive communications team of Brett Black (Editor of Tiller and Class Secretary), Olivier Marthe (MOA Website), and Scott Blakey (Weekly TYC email), and Eleanor Blakey (MOA Facebook) have swung into action. They are all on the hunt for news, articles, and great u-tube, clips pictures etc; so please sent material on to them.

Mistral sailing is a fun family sport, and as an Association we promote events where the Mistral family can get together between the clubs. A full programme is about to be communicated on the Website, and through the Tiller newsletter. The next interclub weekend will be the Kerikeri Spring Regatta 29-30th November, followed by the Ron Norton Trophy 13 December at Tamaki Yacht Club.

I hope to be in touch with each of the clubs represented in the Mistral Association throughout the season, but please feel free to contact me also.

See you on the water soon.

Warm regards

Rob Mason

Welcome

Welcome to all new Mistrallers. Looking forward to seeing you on the water this season.

If you know of any new Mistrallers who may not be on our email list drop us a line. If you are having some difficulties setting up your boat there are many 'old hands' down at the Clubs who would love to help or drop us a line.

Andrew Stone (#76) and I are eagerly looking forward to renewing our battles on the water from some 25 years ago (ouch!) with Andrew Kensington who bought #103 last season. Andy is a composite designer with Team NZ, so the class measurer will be keeping a close look out for any 'hull maintenance' efforts.

Programme.

Attached is the interclub programme for this season. First up is the Kerikeri Spring Regatta on 29 & 30 November. Last year's event was a great success with a good fleet and a FULL range of breezes. It's a lovely part of the world and lots to do for the non-sailing family members. Those interested in travelling up let us know and I'll help coordinate. Unfortunately a few of us (#108 -Scott Blakey and #101) can't make it up this year.

Communications

Scott is sending out weekly reminders of Saturday sailing at TYC. Let us know if you do not wish to be included in this weekly reminder.

Look to our website and Facebook page for updates during the season. We are hoping to upload videos of club racing including coaching seasons put on by YNZ at TYC. Let us know if you have any other content you would like to share.

Club News

Let Scott or I know of any happenings around the club scene in your region and we will include in the next publications. As you have read I'm desperate for content.....

Boats for sale

Contact Olivier if you have a boat or gear for sale and he can include on our most excellent website.

Top tips

It's still cool/changeable out there at present. Keep your young crew warm and well fed when out on the water. Pack a spray jacket or extra jumper in the side tank just in case and have a stash of chocolate bars (and bottle of drinking water) handy to sustain the enthusiasm for race 2.

Keep the enthusiasm levels up on the boat with young crews – even if you are getting a bit concerned with that ever increasing breeze. Make light of the cold spray, whoop as you blast down the reach (wondering how you are going to drop the kite) and laugh if you do capsize. With capsizes do have a plan discussed beforehand – the safest place is to get your young crew to hold onto the bow as you right the boat.

Well that's about it for now.

HAPPY SAILING

Brett

(#101)