



Hi Mistrallers

Well after a rough start to the season the weather is finally playing ball and we are into those lovey summer days with afternoon sea breezes. Hopefully you have all had enough of the beach and are ready to get into some serious Mistral sailing. The grass isn't growing so there are no excuses – its scary to think there are only 8 (!!!) weekends of practice until the Nationals – how's your gybing in 20 knots or roll tacking in 5 knots?!

### Club and Class Racing News

Rob Mason has filed the following reports;

The **Don Grayson Early Summer Series** which incorporates the three Saturday **Winkelmann Mini Series** was sailed through especially fresh early summer conditions. Three Saturdays had to be cancelled as a result. Nevertheless, it was encouraging to see some long standing Mistrallers returning to race (Giles Grigg) and some new Mistrallers joining the fleet (Andy Skevington). Racing was tight and ultimately Scott & Zara Blakey's persistence paid off to take out both the overall Don Grayson Early Summer Series and the Winkelmann Mini Series. Despite some weeks out for the Black team, with Darcy's exams, Brett again proved hugely competitive, finishing third overall in the Don Grayson Early Summer Series, and runner-up in the Winkelmann Mini Series. With the range of boats that have turned out before Christmas the scene seems set for a really competitive post-Christmas Mid Summer Series, commencing with the three week Classic Mini Series kicking off 31<sup>st</sup> January.

#### **Don Grayson Early Summer Series**

- 1/ Scott Blakey & Zara Blakey #108 *Rustler*
- 2/ Rob Mason & Amie Larsen #77 *Mistarius*
- 3/ Brett Black & Darcy Black #101 *Marksman*

#### **Winkelmann Mini Series**

- 1/ Scott Blakey & Zara Blakey #108 *Rustler*
- 2/ Brett Black & Darcy Black #101 *Marksman*
- 3/ Rob Mason & Amie Larsen #77 *Mistarius*

December's **Ron Norton Trophy** Mark Foy handicap race was sailed off Tamaki Yacht Club in challenging conditions; 5-8 Knots shifting from the north-east. Rob Mason & Graham Flett (#77 *Mistarius*) rounded the top mark first, but were passed shortly after by Olivier and Mikhail Marthe (#62 *Saracen*). On the second leg of the race (windward leeward) Andrew and Zoe Stone (#76 *Windsong*) moved into third position at the top mark and then passed Olivier half way down the leeward run. Nick and Benjamin Brewer (#47 *Forties Heave*) and Brett and Darcy Black (#101 *Marksman*) chose the opposite side of the course, and managed to pull back some time. The Stones held their lead to cross the finish 45second ahead of Brewers with Blacks just 20 sec behind them at the finish, just heading off Scott and Zara Blakey (#108 *Rustler*) for third place.

It was wonderful to again have Doreen Norton at the Club house to assist presenting the Ron Norton Trophy to Andrew and Zoe Stone, along with the Don Grayson Early Summer Series trophy, and the Winkelmann mini-series Trophy, deservedly won by Scott and Zara Blakey.

- 1/ Andrew Stone & Zoe Stone #76 *Windsong*
- 2/ Nick Brewer & Benjamin Brewer #47 *Forties Heave*
- 3/ Brett Black & Darcy Black #101 *Marksman*
- 4/ Scott Blakey & Zara Blakey #108 *Rustler*
- 5/ Olivier Marthe & Mikhail Marthe #62 *Saracen*
- 6/ Rob Mason & Graham Flett #77 *Mistarius*

Another cracker day for the **Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta** – sun, a bit of a sea breeze and the course positioned nicely clear of the mayhem on the harbour. Mr Stone this time with back up crew Ollie showed some concerning boat speed– our only hope is both crew insist on sailing with dad at the same time! Andy told us a lovely story of how he had to keep dropping the topping lift as Ollie couldn't reach the parrot clip to attach/remove the kite sheet. Two clear wins to #76 while #101 jagged one back when the wind kicked in a bit more for race 3. Great to see #25 back on the water with Jarrod teaming up with the old man – I'm unclear what happened to dad for race 3 – either abandoned ship or forced to walk the plank? Also Rob was training up his third crew in as many months – Kieren is the nephew of Anna, the Class Treasurer.

- 1/ Andrew & Ollie Stone #76
- 2/ Brett & Darcy Black #101
- 3/ Olivier & Mikhail Marthe #62
- 4/ Rob Mason & Kieren Atkinson #77
- 5/ Jarrod & Colin Horgan #25

## Programme

As outlined by Rob above the next series at Tamaki is the Mid-Summer Series with the 3 week Classic Mini-Series kicking off this Saturday (trophy below - be warned she's a biggie so clear the trophy cabinet in anticipation).



The Auckland Champs are provisionally set down for the weekend of 21/22 February held at Tamaki on Saturday and Glendowie Sunday. We will confirm dates/details within the next week or so.

## **Communications**

Thanks to all who let us know (through email reply) of your availability over the long weekend – in the future for travelling events we'll ask for an indication of those interested in attending so we can better coordinate everyone.

Let us know of any other club news for the next Tiller.

## **Top tips**

Practice, practice, practice. The easiest way is to get into some regular club racing to hone your basic skills around the course. When getting into some specific skill sets it's easy to practice skills that are fun or have already been mastered but what about some others – can you sit still on the start line without going into irons/losing steerage or drifting off? Before or in between races find a race buoy (ie perhaps not one of those steel beasts off Tamaki) and try and keep a few metres off it. The tide may either assist or hinder efforts, so practice under a variety of conditions.

Well that's about it for now.

*HAPPY SAILING*

**Brett**