



Mistral Owners' Association

The Mistral Tiller Champs rev-up Edition

Issue 25: March 2016

Hi Mistrallers,

It's been a most enjoyable summer – the water has been particularly warm and full wetsuits are still buried away somewhere in the gear bag, crews have even taken to the water between races to cool down. The racing has also been hot throughout the fleet as we all build towards the Class Champs now only a matter of a few weeks away. A round up of all the post Xmas events is outlined below.

As outlined in Rob's comment below, it's great to see all the young crews out – many from GBC or father/son/daughter combinations. Certainly young crews present some challenges and they need to be carefully managed - I overheard and was impressed with Mike Norton's wise and calming chat to Aiden on the ramp at the Auckland champs – all calm aboard Centurion. I was amused by Scott Blakey's after match story that James had enough after two fresh races and arms folded refused to tack in race three – it was time to come in. Bribes of coke and chips for after racing only go so far. It doesn't get easier as they grow up and the demands of my 17 yr old just get more exorbitant – they also get wiser and not afraid to remind you of 'your' mistakes on the water!

All boats have shown bursts of speed in certain conditions but its the form of the Stone's should be a worry to us all – Ollie (all 20 kg of him) is now about the same age/size as Mitch when they first commenced their long and successful reign. He's now stacking, dropping/stowing kites and going up the bow to rescue kite sheets and enjoyed the fresh conditions last weekend. They have showed some great crew work and boat speed over the last few months in a good range of breezes. No doubt there will be a few others out there keeping their form under wraps – Mike Norton was quickly up to speed at the Akld Champs after nearly a year away.

On a sad note Rob informed me that Dr Shirley Tonkin, a prominent Paediatrician (+ founder of the Cot Death Association) and Mistraller familiar to the older generation recently passed away. Apparently Shirley was a bit of a woodworker and enjoyed working on her Mistral – a skill sadly disappearing from today's yachties.

Presidents Comment

Hi Mistrallers,

What an excellent season we're having in the Mistral Association. A wonderful day at Mahurangi Classics Regatta and Auckland Anniversary Day, and on Saturday we completed the two weekend Des Townson Auckland Championships at Tamaki Yacht Club. (Congratulations winners Brett and Darcy Black #101 Marksman). I was really impressed with all of the crews, some quite young, but utterly committed and undeterred by the beautiful fresh breeze and the lovely lumpy seas. It was good to see William Beauchamp whipping his unruly crew Matt O'Maigh into order to keep #60 "Mana" up with the leaders. He has put Matt on strict orders to get down from Whangarei to Tamaki Yacht Club every weekend for further training to get him up to scratch!

Daryl Senn and his young son sailed their first Mistral Regatta with real skill. Ollie Stone and James Blakey coached their Dad's well around the course. Aiden Beauchamp (GBC) sailed with Mike Norton (TYC) with tactical finesse, apparently working on their top secret game plan for the nationals. Watch this space for any clues emerging!!

Grace Sterl, my Auckland Champs crew from the Glendowie Boating Club, hoisted the spinnaker with a smile on her face, whenever required, whatever the wind, and laughed her way through a skipper induced capsized. I also really enjoyed the tough duel with Clive Francis and his son from Glendowie Boating Club.

Already, I'm receiving reports from as far afield as Wellington in the south and Kerikeri in the north of passionate Mistrallers fine tuning their boats and sailing skills for the **National Championships at Tamaki Yacht Club, 19-20th March.**

Tony Dalbeth, Kerikeri, is racing day and night to complete his new fibreglass Mistral for the Nationals. He's hoping to repeat his win in the heavy weight division, but he knows the competition is weighty, to put it mildly. Four boats are already committed to be down at the Nationals from Kerikeri.

Tamaki and Glendowie crew combinations are practicing like fury every weekend at Tamaki Yacht Club with more boats on the water each week. Arnie Larsen is training twice a week in Mistrals and 420's at Tamaki Yacht Club and Bucklands Beach, and looks to hotting up the teenager competition. Tim Butt has just put the well known "Blue Cloud" (#33) on a flat deck trailer in preparation for training for the Nationals. I'm hearing noises from Whangaparaoa of another very competitive sailor about to join the action. I'm keenly anticipating the latest update on the Hamilton Yacht Club Mistral entrants for the Nationals.

All in all, it's a very exciting time in the season to be sailing a Mistral. It's not too late to get your Mistral on the water at your local club. The final interclub event prior to the Nationals is the prestigious Steven Cox Memorial Mark Foy Trophy Saturday 12th March at Tamaki Yacht Club. If I don't see you then, I'll see you early bright and breezy at the National Champs.

Warm regards
Rob Mason

Class Racing News

It was another stunner up at Mahurangi as part of the classic regatta at the end of January – light winds, blue skies and lots of classic yachts and launches on display. With a fading breeze this time the Mistrals were the first to finish and didn't get run down (over) by the keelers. #108 (the Blakeys) and #76 (the Stones) got a good jump on the rest of us and were first around Saddle Island only to be somehow caught downwind by the heavyweights #101 (the Blacks) – all was looking good (for us) up the harbour until #101 lost momentum and the fleet closed up on the beat to the finish – congrats to Andy and Ollie Stone who look out the Waitangi Trophy.

Two days later we were on the water for Anniversary Day – 3 races off TYC. This time the breeze was up a bit more and #101 triumphed over #76 and #77 (Rob Mason and Arnie Larson).

The TYC Classic Series held over two weekends was won by Scott and James Blakey followed by #77.

The Auckland Champs concluded last weekend at TYC. As previously reported in an email reminder after the first weekend, #76 held a one point lead over #60 (William Beauchamp and Matt O'Maigh) with #101 a further point back. The last three races were held in a building moderate – fresh northerly breeze with a good swell. The extra 25kg bag of cement on board #101 clearly helped especially on the tighter kite reaches. Final placings #101, #76, #60. Daryl Senn #79 was 1st non-spinnaker in his first series - well done.

Class Champs

Please find attached the Notice of Race for this year's event. 19-20 March at TYC – only a few weeks away!

A friendly reminder that you will need to also be a paid up member of the Mistral Owners Association. I'm happy to re-send the form if required.

Top Tip

See the photo from the Auckland Champs below. No the top tip is not 'keep your head out of the boat' – although that's a good top tip! but its about good housekeeping during racing – coming to the bottom mark making sure your kite halyard and self-launcher ropes are not tangled up or knotted (having the kite ½ up round the bottom mark is not fast) – that's what I must have been doing in the photo(!), your windward jib sheet is on the foredeck clear of the kite bag before you drop and stow the kite or well before approaching the top mark in a breeze check you have enough play on your kicker on the starboard side so you can ease it around the mark and that your kite halyard is unclipped ready for the hoist. Back to the kite halyards, some throw them overboard to drag behind just before the drop to ensure they don't become knotted, I have the end tied to the hull via shock cord so there is no free end dangling around.

Well that's enough from me – look forward to seeing you all at the Champs. Don't forget the Stephen Cox the week beforehand – another Mark Foy which is always good fun.

Brett



