



Mistral Owners' Association

The Mistral Tiller

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Dear Mistrallers,

CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION

OK, own up. After the champs,... who found it extremely difficult to straighten legs the next day ?? What a full-on and fantastic weekend of racing! Seven good races, all fought hard with varying wind strengths meaning either a delicate balancing act on the centreboard case or a major hiking effort! and the best bit, was that there was a section of weather to suit everybody and all those that wanted to have a crack at the spinnaker or other manoeuvres they weren't too familiar with could have a go and generally get things sorted. Small kids, bigger kids and even granddaddy kids all had stellar moments at the front of the fleet which just goes to show the versatility of the class.

The full results are up on the Mistral website but a summary of the key placings is as follows:

Place	Overall & Spinnaker Division	Non-Spinnaker Division	Handicap
1st	# 65 Matt O'Maigh & Alex Marino	# 108 Scott & Zara Blakey	# 107 Craig, Jack & Lucy Floyd
2nd	# 5 Jon Bilger & Henry Haslett	# 96 Simon & Fynn Rowntree	# 4 Shaun & Matt Connelly
3rd	# 76 Andrew, Oli & Zoe Stone	# 70 Stephen and Alessandra Jones	# 79 Tony & Jack Dalbeth-Hudson
4th	#101 Brett & Darcy Black	# 41 John and Ellen Barnard	#101 Brett & Darcy Black
5th	# 47 Nick & Benjamin Brewer	# 107 Craig, Jack & Lucy Floyd	# 62 Olivier & Mikhail Marthe

Other than a few selected pictures from the champs (many more on the website/facebook), here's a few special or precious moments that deserve to be shared:

1. Jarrod & Seb get a special mention for **not** capsizing whilst pulling off a spectacular tack with the spinnaker up in front of the start boat on Saturday afternoon. I don't think anyone has quite worked out either **why** they did it , or **how** they did it but if this had turned to custard Garth would have been picking up the spinnaker in his prop. (*The Horgans*)

Whilst hanging out hard over the side, skipper gives encouragement to crew (7 yrs) "great hiking Benjamin, wow, we're flying, ... you're on fire!". ... after about a 10 seconds pause and sounding confused , "Daddy, ... you do know that I'm not **really** on fire don't you, I mean , .. which bit of me is on fire?". Priceless! ... One can only imagine the dinghy park chatter by the Crew's Union afterwards ... "my Dad's an idiot, ... he thought I was on fire!", 'hmmmmm,yeah, same!" (#47 Nick & Benjamin)

As the only boat to capsize, Ellen and I were relieved to find there was no "Best Capsize" award. It was quite a graceful downwind roll in to windward after a jibe and the boat turned turtle with remarkable speed. I went under the boat to push the centreboard up and rescue any loose items (3 muesli bars, a sponge and wind indicator which I had forgotten to put on the top of the mast when rigging up). I then passed this handful of things to Ellen while I went about righting the boat. That bit went quite well. Ellen went to throw the gathered articles back in the boat before hopping in herself, but either because the boat dipped in a wave trough or just because she threw with a degree of enthusiasm the wind indicator flew across the boat completely to join the collection of others on the sea bed near TYC. We then sailed on to finish that race, while noting one muesli bar and a drink bottle as "lost at sea". To our surprise, just after the finish one of the race management team in a RIB hailed us to return our lost items (minus the wind indicator). We would like to thank that person for standing by as we sorted out the capsize and for helping us meet that new racing rule about not littering. My daughter Ellen is not averse to having another go at the Mistral Nationals next year and that's a fine measure of success of the event from my perspective. (#41 John & Ellen Barnard)

My brand new (as in bought Friday in Singapore) GoPro mounted on my boom, first outing on Sunday and in start sequence, GoPro capturing great pre-start manoeuvring, me on starboard, a certain other Mistral (which shall remain nameless) comes swooping through on port and collects the end of my boom, ripping GoPro from its mount and from the securing leash, sending pieces of the casing into their boat and the uncased GoPro to the bottom of the ocean! I am sure the final moments of video that it will have recorded would be my colourful language directed at other boat, and Alex's face in utter shock.....No protest required – skippers have made up – insurance company comes to the party and I get my spinnaker pole sorted finally so look out next season..... (#70 Stephen and Alessandra Jones)

Matt O'Maigh telling us on the finish boat that he deliberately did not want to tangle with Jon Bilger when dropping spinnakers and rounding the bottom mark in race 4 because he thought that Jon knew the rules better than he did!! So Jon won that race and Matt was second. Hilarious! (Mike Hempleman)



A mixture of happy moments!

All these photos and more great shots available on the website.

Thanks Ludo!!



OTHER NEWS / NOTICES:

GBC Champs. 6 boats competed last weekend at Glendowie. Light breezes but good times and some interesting manoeuvres especially by the single-handers (some with spinnakers)! Winners; #4 ... the Connells

Look out for the 'Around Browns Is' race departing GBC sometime in the next few weeks.

'Well done' to those continuing to support the Mistral racing. Its always a tough part of the year when kids 'other' sports start to come into play, so many thanks to you all,

Cheers, Nick