

PO Box 1108
AUCKLAND

19 July 1982

Members of the Sail Committee
Mistral Owners Association
AUCKLAND

Mistral Sails

Garth Ewing and I have completed our discussions with Boyd & McMaster Limited as a result of which the following steps have been taken:-

1. Complete specifications have been drafted for each sail, including plots for pattern shapes, and all finishing details. I have subsequently checked these myself with the result that some minor amendments have been made. The specifications were established in the course of making three new genoas and one new mainsail (for Bill Macintyre).
2. The tin patterns have been discarded and, at their own cost, Boyd & McMaster have made new milar patterns for each sail. These patterns can at any time be reconstructed from the plots shown in the specifications and it was therefore decided that the Mistral Owners Association need not hold a duplicate set of patterns, so long as we held a duplicate set of the specifications.
3. A set of measurement rules has been drafted and discussed with Boyd & McMaster and in principle agreed to. These were designed to enable the Association measurers to apply an objective test to a new sail which the sailmaker says has been built in accordance with the patterns. At the date of this report, the spinnaker measurements have yet to be finally confirmed, as we are awaiting an order for a new sail. Any volunteers?
4. It is proposed that the headsail be available either in Bainbridge 3.8 ounce Firm or N.Y.T. (yarn tempered). Boyd & McMaster have made up two sails, one in each material, for evaluation. They do not expect them to be paid for unless someone wishes to buy them from the Association. They were made for the purposes of evaluation so that the Association could make its own recommendations to members about the pros and cons of each sail. Already it is clear that the yarn tempered cloth will last longer and distort less, provided it is handled with extreme care. It may not be as successful as the standard cloth in light winds (in my view) simply because it is so much stiffer and wrinkles will not blow out, and it is not capable of being folded without disastrous results.
In summary:-
 - (a) It is likely to be the more enduring sail;
 - (b) If treated with care, it will be as fast as a sail made of standard cloth;
 - (c) If not treated with care, it will definitely be slower.
5. The jib pattern has been modified to produce a straighter exhaust in the lower half. This, we think, will produce a sail which the average crew will find easier to use. To enable owners to make their own jib

battens and to eliminate slack in the pocket, the sailmaker will leave the batten pockets open at the leech end only. The owner is left to sew up the end - a simple task.

The approach we have taken is to adopt specifications which:-

Are detailed
Eliminate as many variations and options as possible
Minimise the possibility of complaints about the sailmaker
Give the Association the ability (by virtue of holding the master copy of the new specifications) to change sailmaker if the need arises.

We have drafted for your Committee's consideration before the next A.G.M.:-

- (a) Amendments to Clause 16 of the Class Rules;
- (b) Measurement instructions to be applied by Association measurers;
- (c) A summary of options available to members when they order new sails.

We also enclose:-

- (d) Boyd & McMaster's new price list;
- (e) The master copy of the new specifications for each sail, the duplicate being held by Boyd & McMaster.

The next steps for your Committee would seem to be:-

1. Consider our recommendations;
2. Give notice of proposed changes of Class Rules and adoption of new sail specifications when you send out the notices for the next A.G.M., possibly also enclosing a summary of the effect and objectives of the changes.

We should add that we have had the utmost co-operation and interest from Maurice Cross, Boyd & McMaster's manager.

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Roger Craddock