

mistral

Newsletter of the NZ Mistral Owners' Association

Volume 1 Issue 1

www.zephyr.org.nz/mistral

May 2006

Mistral Class Championships

April 8&9, 2006

Twenty-six entries were received for this year's event, hosted by Tamaki Yacht Club. The Laser Masters and Phase IIs were also part of the regatta, making for a welcome "bustle" in the rigging area. Boats from further afield - Whitianga, Kerikeri and a lone Hamilton entry - made up over half the fleet. Not all the Mistral entries made to the start line for all races, but in the end, some 20 boats completed the series. The entry list included old and new, with boats #2 and #5, lining up alongside the more recent glass boats.

Conditions were at the "testing" end of the range. Estimating wind strength is a hazardous business, but it was from a generally westerly direction and ranged from 12 - 20 knots most of the time - with the exception of Sunday morning, when a spell of 20+ knots forced cancellation of the last race and brought the event to a premature end.

Four races of about an hour's duration, were completed in all, one before lunch on the Saturday, then two in the afternoon, followed by a post-race BBQ. Courses were generally triangle, windward-leeward, triangle, with a beat to the finish.

The starting area for the first race was set close to an isolated piece of foul ground, which a good number of boats contacted. As a result, Rob Mason in #77, was not able to take any further part in the event.

The three Saturday races were held in conditions that tested boat and spinnaker handling. Courses were generally well set, with some movement in the wind direction.

Sunday saw more north in the breeze and more of it. The only race got under way in around 20 knots of breeze with associated chop. It made for great rides on the runs and reaches, with only the brave flying spinnakers - generally to not much advantage, as the fleet was planing off wind without them. The breeze increased considerably in the lead up to the final race. A rain squall brought in more wind and reduced visibility with a number of boats capsizing. Rescue boats were soon busy and the Race Officer sensibly abandoned the race and we headed for shore. Naturally, about half an hour later, conditions were OK again - but that's sailing.

Class veterans Don Grayson and Jane Browne took out the first two races, then were well placed in races 3 & 4. They appeared to have a little more boat speed upwind, complemented by sound spinnaker work on the reaches and runs. Mike Norton, #100 (5,2,1,DNC) and John Booth, #5 (2,3,3,10) provided challenges at times, winning a race each, but Don and Jane were too good. Their worst race was a "come from behind" fourth place following an uncharacteristic start line capsize after an altercation with another boat!

Overall, it was a well run, enjoyable event with a good atmosphere. One pleasing aspect of the event was the mix of crews and boats. We had old and young in both departments! Skippers willingly shared tuning tips, displayed foils and demonstrated their spinnaker launching systems.

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President's Report

Greetings Mistral sailors,

It's just two weeks since the champs and my first newsletter as National President. I'm pleased to take this opportunity to say hi, and also introduce Rob Ebert who is commencing as Secretary for the Mistral Association and editor for the Mistral newsletter.

I enjoy Mistralling. For about ten years I was a keen Sunburst sailor, first with New Plymouth Yacht Club and then with Taikata. Through these years I also supported my two sons through junior sailing in Opti's and a P Class. About two years ago my daughter, Julia, prompted me to buy and restore Mistral #77, *Mistarius*. Robbie Moyes and Ron Bull did a great job doing up the boat and I have been delighted with the boat's classic lines and fine performance. On Saturdays I've had a real blast with the growing fleet of Mistraller's at Tamaki, and getting to know keen Mistrallers from Whitianga, Manly, Kerikeri, and Hamilton.

The recent class championships really summed up all that Mistralling is about; sailors eight to eighty years of age; teenagers; father and son or daughter crews, couples, all women teams, novices, sailors of forty-five years Mistralling, recently launched boats, old timers with wooden spars; all having heaps of fun.

It was exciting to see the strong contingents from the three established Mistral clubs, Tamaki, Kerikeri, and Whitianga, with eight, ten and six entries respectively, and, also, one first time entry from each of the Manly and Hamilton clubs.

Almost every week fresh people turn up at Tamaki wishing to purchase a Mistral and start sailing at Tamaki. With the training programmes planned at each club, boats being restored, and the desire of the Kerikeri club, and others, to purchase the new Fibreglass boat, the 2006- 2007 season is looking to be a bumper one.

As president, this year, I will do all I can to work with the committee in fostering the efforts being made at each club to grow the class through promotion, enlisting new sailors, training, good interclub events, and strong communication. I am looking to getting together with the committee (Derry Godbert, Rick Keesing, Warwick Speeding, Robbie Moyes and Rob Ebert) at least two or three times this year, and to also working closely with the trustees, as we work together to build a strong organisational platform for growth of the Mistral association as we build up to the fiftieth anniversary in 2009.

I know Rob Ebert is going to bring a vital contribution as the incoming Secretary for the Association. Rob is a keen Zephyr sailor who has just bought two Mistrals and sailed remarkably well with his eighty year old Dad at the recent champs. Rob and his wife have two delightful children so sailing is very much a family affair. Rob brings a wealth of experience as Secretary with our sister class the Zephyr Association and has played an active role in facilitating the revival of this class over the past decade. I am committed to working

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MISTRAL OWNER'S ASSOCIATION Statement of Financial Performance <i>For the year ended 30 June 2005</i>		
Revenue		
Subscriptions	19 members	190
Expenditure		
Mistral Championship Prizes		442
Insurance, Moulds		198
		-640
Deficit for the year		(450)
Statement of Movement in Accumulated Funds <i>For the year ended 30 June 2005</i>		
Balance at beginning of the year		2677
less net deficit for the year		(450)
Accumulated Funds as at 30 June 2005		<u>2227</u>
Statement of Financial Position <i>as at 30 June 2005</i>		
Current Assets		
ASB Bank	2645	
Stock (4 ties)	32	2677
Non-Current Assets		
Mistral Mould	9623	
Depreciation	9623	
		0
Total Assets		2677
less current liabilities		
Advance - Tamaki Yacht Club	450	
		<u>2227</u>
Represented by; Accumulated Funds		<u>2227</u>
<i>This table was taken from the Financial Report presented by Acting Treasurer, Tony Beckett at the AGM. It has been condensed to fit the publication, so it is not the "official" report.</i>		

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closely with Rob as he prepares the quarterly newsletter, assisting in promoting the class on the web, and attending to the range of administrative tasks.

Finally, I wish to express appreciation to the Trustees Don Grayson, Ross Burtenshaw, and Mike Norton; Tamaki Commodore Tony Beckett, Administration Manager Dianne Litterer and Past President Andrew Swan for all they have contributed and continue to contribute to the Mistral Association. The future looks positive. We will keep you posted with news, useful information, and progress reports regarding the new hull. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or enquires.

Yours in Mistralling

Rob Mason

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The Tamaki Yacht Club launching ramp provided a few "sticky moments" with boats having to launch and retrieve off a lee shore. Overall, though all arrangements worked well. Our thanks to Tamaki Yacht Club and its staff, plus those in the Mistral class, for making it possible for another year.

Rob Ebert

Editorial

Welcome to this issue of *Mistral*, an indication of renewed interest in one of New Zealand's classic dinghy designs. Traditionally based at Tamaki, the class now also has a following in Manly, Whitianga and Kerikeri.

What's been happening?

The recent AGM, held in conjunction with the recent National Champs, saw some new faces involved in the class. Auckland Rob Mason, (#77) accepted election as President, with Rob Ebert, long standing Zephyr sailor, Secretary of the ZOA and a very recent Mistral owner, becoming Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

New Boats

As Rob Mason mentioned in this report, Class trustees, Ross Burtenshaw, Mike Norton and Don Grayson have been quietly pursuing the construction of new boats. Bonito Boats in Auckland have expressed interest in supplying hulls and have now uplifted the moulds. We are hopeful that an arrangement for new boats will be achieved some time this year.

Web Site

Information and updates on the Mistral class can be found on the Zephyr web site (www.zephyr.org.nz/mistral) in the meantime. It would be great to have our own identity in the Internet eventually, but this does come at a cost so it is something we will be working on. For example, the domain name www.mistral.org.nz is not currently allocated, but the yearly charge for owning the name is of the order of \$30, with web page hosting charges in addition to that. These can be of the order of \$15 per month.

Mistral Owners' Association (Incorporated?)

The name *Mistral Association* is available again. Our Incorporated Society status lapsed sometime in the early 1990s. The name was taken up by the sailboarders when the Mistral Imco was the Olympic Board. They are now the NZ RSX Association (Inc) reflecting the adoption of the new RSX boards. With renewed interest in the Mistral class, the incoming Executive will be looking at ways to re-incorporate the society.

Foils

Ron Bull Boats have been working with class members to develop foils for the Mistral. Class members are in the early stages of trialing these foils. So far the results have been pleasing and they may be of interest to folk. I have put the details on the web site.

National Championship Results, AGM Minutes, Photos

Unfortunately, there was not enough room for the Nationals results in this issue and the AGM minutes are not yet to hand. Old or recent photos to embellish this publication and the web site, would be welcome.

Rob Ebert

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SUBSCRIPTIONS 2005-2006

Subscriptions for 2005-6 season are \$15 and can be forwarded to The Treasurer, MOA, PO Box 55 113, Mission Bay, AKL