

mistral

Newsletter of the NZ Mistral Owners' Association

Volume 1 Issue 5

www.mistral.org.nz

August 2007

President's Column

This has been a momentous time for the Mistral class culminating in a wonderful class championships with twenty-eight boats competing. The result was in doubt until the end of the last race. Geoff Cam and Amelia Hall finally took out the Championship title, reflecting a season of, week in week out, racing at Tamaki.

The momentum has carried on into the winter with fortnightly Mistral racing by a group of enthusiasts at Tamaki and also at Kerikeri, and a race or two at Whitianga. It is exciting to see so many boats under restoration in preparation for the coming Spring series at each club. Presently at least four are being restored in Auckland with a further one or two in Hamilton, Whitianga, Kerikeri and Christchurch respectively. The first Mistral launched in 1959, #8, *Sparkle* has recently gone to Christchurch to add to the fledgling fleet there.

With all the restoration work underway the committee has been regularly approached for guidance on doing up these boats within the class restrictions. In order to assist the dedicated labours of those undertaking the task of restoring these beautiful old boats the committee can now make available copies of the original plans and finishing instructions. (These can also be found on the website.) Approach has also been made to one person in each of the Mistralling centres to serve as measurer. These names will be brought forward to be voted on for election at the AGM. (Auckland – Matt O'Maigh; Whitianga – Robbie Moyes; Kerikeri – Jamie Adamson; Hamilton – Rob Ebert; Christchurch – Don Currie).

These measurers are willing to be consulted at the beginning of a Mistral restoration and, if necessary, during the process, and again at the end to ensure the boats comply with the restrictions and the spirit of the class. I know that each measurer will be supportive of persons grappling to resolve some of the idiosyncracies of individual boats, while still remaining within the spirit of the class. Please make reference at the earliest possible point to your local measurer to avoid later difficulties. In the meantime feel free to contact the committee with any enquires.

Along with the business and excitement of current events in the class I also would like to acknowledge the contribution of Leo Holden and Gordon Nimmo, two keen Mistrallers from past years who have passed away recently. The MOA was also represented at the funeral of Life Member Trevor Wilkin-son recently. Trevor was especially active in the development of the glass Mistral. I also extend our sympathies to Don and Judith Grayson, on the passing of Judith's mother.

We hope to see a number of good interclub events in the months to come building up to next year's class champs. On the afternoon of 1st of September prior to the 5.00pm AGM at Tamaki all Mistrallers from the various clubs are invited to join for racing commencing at 1.15pm at Tamaki.

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

Regards

Rob Mason

MOA President

Mistral Tuning Tips

Optimising Your Sails:

You are allowed to adjust the tension on the fabric of the jib luff, before the five minute gun but not after. Experiment with it. The less tension, the fuller the sail and the tighter the leech. The reverse happens if you tighten the luff. Think about these changes to the jib and the jib sheeting position and their effect on the two lower battens of the mainsail as the wind strength changes. With the mainsail, generally the lower two battens should be flat, the two middle battens fuller and the top two flat again.

Centreboard: Make sure your centerboard is tied in, you don't want to lose it in a capsized. If your centerboard wobbles in the centre case, fasten short vertical strips at the fore and aft edges to stop it moving. An off centre centerboard has much the same effect as a bucket over the stern.

Rudder: Make sure the rudder blade does not wobble between the cheeks, the tiller fits snugly and the tiller extension has no loose connections. You will feel the boat sailing much better if all the joints are tight.

Calibrate, Calibrate: Mark everything, jib sheets, main sheet, spinnaker sheets, outhaul and if you have a sliding gooseneck, the mast. Use the marks as guides only. Every fluctuation in wind strength or sea conditions can mean a variation from the marks. The forward hand, for example, can pull the jib sheet into the mark and then adjust it. Mark the spinnaker sheets so that when the spinnaker is set with the pole against the forestay the mark nearly coincides with the cam cleat. Then you don't have too much or too little slack in the guy. With the sheet, the same mark will do and jamming it in the cam cleat when setting will help stop it catching over the end of the main boom. As an additional precaution tie a light line from the end of the boom to the tip of the bottom batten.

If you want control marks for your battens take a thin strip of sail patch, fix it over the ends of the batten tips and mark them with something like a 0.3 mm draughtsman's pen against the mainsail leach. Once again they are just a guide. It is a good idea to untie your battens after sailing.

Maintenance: Wash your Mistral thoroughly with fresh water including mast and booms after every race. Give all the moving parts like cam cleats and blocks an extra rinse and make sure they work easily. Use light oil or WD 40 to lubricate moving metal parts like goose necks and parrot beaks. Don't forget the trailer. If you put a Mistral insignia and your boat's number in big letters on both sides of the bearer arms at the front of the trailer the "Trolley Dolly" can find your trailer easily. Otherwise go to the end of the queue. Also, numbers on the trailer are a requirement of the rules so that if there is a mass capsize the race officials know who is not back. You can be disqualified for not showing your numbers on your trailer.

Towing: When transporting on a road trailer, tie the boat

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**Mistral Owners' Association AGM
Tamaki YC
Saturday, September 1st, 1700hrs**

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM & SGM
3. Matters Arising
4. President's Report
5. Financial Report
6. Election of Officers
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Measurer
 - Publicity Officer
 - Program Officer
 - Handicapper
7. Executive Committee
President, the immediate past President and all other office bearers and not more than five (5) other owner members duly elected.
8. General Business
 - Sail Update
 - Hull Update
 - 50th Anniversary Regatta

(Continued from page 1)

very tightly down to the trailer, use a shaped wooden bar over the cockpit if possible, this will stop the boat bouncing when the trailer bounces. The repeated impact over time can put dimples in the hull. If you can, for the same reason, keep the boat's weight off the trailer when storing.

Other: Buying new jamb cleats? Buy the metal ones as the plastic/carbon fibre ones don't last as long.

Remember, yacht racing is very much like a game of chess on water.

The Grey Ghost

**Zephyr & Mistral Weekend
Hamilton Yacht Club
November 17th - 18th, 2007**

Hamilton Yacht Club has traditionally held a "Zephyr Only" regatta in November. Five or six races over two days. This year we are extending an invitation to the Mistral Class to join us.

Details

- Briefing 1000hrs, First Race 1030hrs, then back to back, aiming for four races on Saturday, two on Sunday.
 - BBQ on Saturday night.
 - Limited "sleep over" accommodation in the club house.
- Confined water racing, good spectator viewing.

Come and sharpen those skills.

See www.mistral.org.nz or www.zephyr.org.nz for details

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE MISTRAL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD IN THE COMMODORES LOUNGE
SUNDAY 9TH APRIL 2006, AT 8.45AM**

PRESENT A Rogers (Chair), presided over the meeting of 36 Mistrallers as per attendance register.

2005 GENERAL MEETING

Tony Beckett reviewed agreement at that meeting for D Grayson, M Norton and R Burtenshaw to be trustees of moulds; coordination of events and establishment of a promotion committee

FINANCE Detailed accounts to 30 June 2005 were approved

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected:

President: Rob Mason (available for one year only)

Treasurer: Tony Beckett (Tamaki Yacht Club)

Secretary: Rob Ebert

General Committee:

It was resolved that the following members be nominated: Derry Godbert, Robbie Moyes, Richard Keesing, Warwick Spedding.

The officers were authorised to co-opt additional committee members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were fixed for the 2006/2007 season at the previous level of \$15.00 per annum. *A Beckett/D Grayson*

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Foils: The same profile as per plan but no restriction on thickness due to older Mistrals having larger centreboard case.

Glass Boats: Bonito Boats was approved as the new manufacturer of glass boats. Orders are to be placed with Association, with all boats having a minimum weight of 64 kg.

Measurer: The committee is to appoint a suitable measurer.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30am.



Mistral Owners' Association (Inc)

Special General Meeting

Tamaki Yacht Club

Sunday, 1st April 2007, 0845hrs

Attendance: R Mason (Chair) R Ebert (Secretary) and some 20 members of the Association.

Apologies: J Adams, K & R Moyes

Chairman Rob Mason welcomed members to the meeting, held in conjunction with the Mistral National Championships.

Financial Report

Treasurer Tony Beckett spoke to accounts previously circulated in the newsletter and indicated there had been little subsequent activity to report.

He moved "*that the accounts as circulated in the newsletter be adopted*" Beckett/Mason, carried.

In response to questions, he indicated the mould for hulls had been fully depreciated.

M Norton drew the meeting's attention to the expense for caps, which was now being met by a private donation by Don Grayson.

Currently there is \$2500 in the Mistral account and no current liabilities. Some or all of this will be held on term deposit. Five subs have been paid this contest, and R Burtenshaw made a life member's donation.

Chairperson's Report

Rob Mason offered a review of the past year noting:

- A general strengthening of club sailing, based at Tamaki Yacht Club.
- Two Mistrals were now in Christchurch.
- The continued use of Mistrals in the Kerikeri Youth Training Scheme was also of continued importance.
- Interclub sailing outside of the Nationals was still awaited.
- The Sir Peter Blake Regatta attracted 15 Mistrals, making it one of the larger dinghy classes participating.
- The continued involvement of senior class members
- The contribution of the MOA Executive over the past year, namely, R Moyes, R Ebert, W Spedding, D Grayson, M Norton, A Beckett, R Burtenshaw
- Successful reincorporation of the Society
- Goal of National Class status with Yachting New Zealand
- Successful production of the new Mistral hulls in conjunction with Bonito Boats, with two boats sold to Kerikeri.
- Ongoing publicity about the class, the establishment of a newsletter and web site, class open days, NZ Herald article were all assisting the Mistral class profile. The long term goal was "bums in boats"!

The meeting also noted the passing of Stuart McIntosh, President of the MOA for the 40th Anniversary of the Class.

Secretary's Report

Rob Ebert outlined Secretarial activities for the year noting:

- Establishment of the class web site
- Four issues of the "Mistral" newsletter
- A range of correspondence relating to sail updates and new hull production
- Most members were on email and this was the preferred way of distributing the newsletter.
- A dearth of recent photos of Mistrals in action

General Business

- 50th Anniversary Regatta 2009
- After considerable discussion around the format for the 50th

Anniversary Regatta. It was concluded that:

- It should combined with the National Championships
- It be a six race series with a social function
- Tentatively set for April 4th-5th, with it being likely that daylight saving will extend to this time of the year.
- Annual General Meeting
 - After discussion, this was set down for August 5th, approximately 1700hrs, after a winter race.
- Sail Report
 - Don Grayson outlined the current situation on Mistral sails.
 - Doyle's had computerised the sail profiles, which should improve manufacturing consistency.
 - The new jib had been well received, with good sales resulting.
 - The demand for Mistral sails remains strong, with Doyle's looking to hold some in stock in order to fill orders immediately.
 - Some quality problems had been experienced. The mainsails do not have clew slugs, as requested. Some numbers had been applied incorrectly, it was not apparent whether quotes for sails included battens or not.
 - The 3.5 Contender cloth was felt to be appropriate.
 - Incremental improvement in sails remained possible under the class rules.
 - Lanny Walker advocated measuring sails, but it was felt that a sole supplier eliminated the need for this.
- Measuring
 - The discussion on sail measuring prompted comment on the need for closer attention to be paid to boats. A number had undergone refurbishment, with possible departure from original construction specifications. It was felt that boat needed to be weighed and key aspects of boats measured. Comment on the use of carbon fibre in spinnaker poles was also noted as something that need to be ruled on. The appointment of a measurer at the AGM was felt to be a priority. Lanny Walker offered to assist in this regard.
- Hull Update
 - These had been commented upon in the newsletter
 - Two Ron Bull rudder stocks and centreboards were available for sale
- Other venues for National Championships
 - Offers sought!
- Spinnaker/Non-Spinnaker Division
 - Russell Chaney sought clarification on prizes for spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions. Prizes had been established for championship winners in both non-spinnaker and spinnaker divisions, with both divisions being combined on handicap. An age division was advocated!
- Acknowledgement
 - Mike Norton sought the meeting's acknowledgment of Rob Mason's input and leadership of the Mistral class over the past year and indicated further acknowledgment would be made at the prizegiving.

Meeting concluded 0945hrs

Mistral Owners' Association Inc

2007-08 Membership Account

Invoice

Subscription				X	
			Member		\$15.00
			Associate		\$10.00
			Donation		
			Cheque herewith		\$

For Internet Banking to MOA
ASB Newmarket

ASB Bank Account 123013 0018983 00
(name in particulars field, sail no in reference field)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MEMBER

Sail No;
Yacht Name:
Club;
Name;
Address;
Home Phone;
Mobile;
Fax;
Email;

CREW/ASSOCIATE

Name:
Address:
Club;
Home Phone;
Mobile;
Fax;
Email;

Please ensure all applicable details have been completed.
RETURN THIS ACCOUNT with payment to PO Box 55 113, Mission Bay 1744
This account is now due for payment

Endnote

This forthcoming AGM marks the end of a busy year for the Association. Under Rob Masons' enthusiastic leadership, a mixture of new blood and class "elder statesman" have revived its fortunes. New boats are available and old boats are in demand. Various aspects of sail construction have been attended to. The Auckland Champs saw a pleasing 28 participants and a very close contest for the championship result. Congratulations to Geoff and Amelia for the efforts in restoring #2 and sailing

her successfully. Class mythology held that the glass boats were faster, but the results of the 2007 champs gave lie to this. Mistrals made it south too, there are now three in Canterbury, so maybe that will encourage a few more.

Measuring/surveying boats is next on the list for consideration, possibly followed by revision of the Class Rules and MOA Constitution. However, we are still a small class, so let's get those boats out there!

Rob Ebert

Robert Brooke

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SUBSCRIPTIONS 2007-2008

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