

Steinlager II - Charter Fri 3 Oct - Sun 5 Oct 2019

by Wendy Rozenberg



This is the third time LBYC has planned a charter - so to fill the spaces we had people from the RPYNC, EBYMBC, Christchurch, Levin and even two guys from Timaru.

We meet aboard Steinlager II on Friday morning for a briefing by the Skipper Andre. He was supported by three crew from the Trust, Tony, Bridget and Alex. Thank you to the crew who made the weekend so enjoyable. We got meals cooked, snacks and cups of tea on deck at regular intervals.

There were about 31 of us aboard so it was quite a task to keep us all fed - on one stove in a small kitchen.

Most people had flown up early that morning from Wellington - the Timaru guys had left at 4 am, driven to Christchurch then hopped on a flight. Some had taken the train and/or the bus from Wellington.

Left the berth out about 12.30 - sailed under the Harbour bridge - just for fun, not a lot of clearance - then out to Hauraki Gulf. We did see Team NZ boats, but they were just leaving as we arrived - we did get a wave though.

Most people got a turn on helm or grinders - or whatever they wanted to do. We had good breeze! Dropped anchor at Garden Bay. Waiheke - most went ashore - for a walk - couple went for a swim!!

Then moved to behind Waiheke Island for the night. Air was crisp - so we were all in bed early - 9pm. Too early for me - long night on a hard bed!! Some had better lilos than others - the experienced ones - so I got some tips!! Boat was rocking a bit - waves slapping against the hull. But I think we all got some sleep.

Saturday was the best day sailing - good winds - doing 10-11 knots - on a good lean. Got the Mizzen up and some other red sail - so we had four sails up at one time. Sunny Day. We stopped to have a look at Mansion House, Kawau Bay - it was closed, but some walked around. All looking forward to going to Kawau Island Yacht Club for some of the evening - but no one was there - website said - Opens Labour Weekend! This was catastrophic for some as beer would be on the menu at this point. We managed to find a few beers and some wine to keep everyone happy. Rather ironic that a boat called *Steinlager* would run out of beer!

Saturday night got to bed about 10 - think we all slept better - more tired, wind burnt, and it was calmer.

Sunday rain threatened - after scrambled eggs for breakfast - we headed back to the Viaduct - wind dropped, sun came out, so we had to turn the motor on - almost like glass as we motored in. Saw gannets flying around and some vessels and windsurfers out. One we saw going was incredibly fast -- up on a foil. Great to see.

The boat show had been on during the weekend so there were lots of flags, boats on display and people, as we came back to the berth.

Got back to Viaduct about 3pm – the harbor authority has to open the walking bridge to let us in. We went our separate ways - someone had shopping to do - before the flight home. Some of us went for a drink in this real old Irish pub down the wharf area - Danny Daloon's.

Then we grabbed Ubers to the airport. One person was looking forward to the overnight bus home, and I heard they thoroughly enjoyed it. We saw some of the team at the airport and on my flight - which gave us beautiful clear views, as we flew over Petone wharf too.

It took me about two days to stop rocking again, so Monday at work was a challenge!!

It really was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone who loves sailing. So much history with this yacht. By each bunk there is a number with a name of a famous New Zealand sailor in it.

Thanks to Mel Hines for organising this again and everyone who came along to make it a great weekend. Thanks to The New Zealand Sailing Trust who are keeping *Steinlager II* and *Lion New Zealand* in the water available for youth and adults to experience.