



April 2018

## **AROUND THE MARINA**

In fresh conditions on 8 April race six of the summer series was sailed. For Kama II it was a brief affair. During the starting manoeuvres the forestay parted company causing immediate retirement from the race. Kama II returned to her berth with the mast intact and held aloft by the foresail and spinnaker halyard.

The yacht Kaimai Express has arrived from Auckland. Owned by Claudia and sailed by our local sailors they had a tough passage south with headwinds in Bay of Plenty and for the dash from Cape Palliser.

Grahame and Sue Eathorne's newly acquired Mull design yacht Verdict, is sitting temporarily on pier A. The yacht has been tested for provision of morning tea and found faultless. If Grahame is seen wielding a hammer it is just because he has been having a few teething problems with the lock to the companionway.

Quetzalli seems to have been the only Seaview boat that took the opportunity to make a visit to the Sounds for Easter. Max and Mary grabbed the nice weather on Thursday afternoon and had an easy sail that included a bit of motoring. Friday and Saturday were very pleasant in Tory Channel. The forecast for Monday was adverse so they headed back on Sunday. It was a pleasant trip until abeam of Cape Terawhiti. The wind was light, the tide was running at maximum speed to the southeast meeting a large swell from the southeast. At the point where Max could see a mountain of water ahead, Quetzalli was turned rapidly to starboard. They did not escape all of the rip but it was over quickly. At 1630 they were safely in their berth.

Am Meer has successfully finished the Solo Trans Tasman race. Geoff achieved a second place in the IRC race.

Clear Vision achieved a second place on handicap in the Wellington Lyttleton race organised by the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht club.

## LONG HARBOUR RACE

If the forecast is for wind from the northeast at ten knots easing to five knots for a time in the afternoon then it is easy to expect that Wellington harbour will be smooth. On Sunday 15 April the harbour was smooth. Sixteen yachts were ready for the 10am start of the Long Harbour race but the wind was still being prepared.



Nearly an hour later a light draught from the west southwest arrived and the starting sequence began. A cluster of boats rounded the mark and then tacked to port to clear the tanker at the Seaview wharf. Tactics were important at this stage. The wind was in a stream along the eastern shore whereas out by Somes Island the sea was still glassy and stayed that way for the next hour. Half an hour later the wind backed to the southwest and freshened. The new direction meant the front lead was directly to windward needing a sequence of short tacks to stay in the wind stream. Celebrity and most of the cruising division yachts



headed out towards Somes. Chickadee and the rest of the combined division boats made significant gains by taking the more direct course.

New to the fleet was Haydon Braddock's trimaran String Theory. Like many multi hulls it had considerable speed in the light airs but the leeway when close hauled meant the yacht did not pull away from the fleet until near the Front Lead. The greater distance sailed did pay off for line honours.

In the cruising division there was battle between Impulsive, Chickadee and Roxana IV. The lead swapped five times during the race. They were lucky to have the wind to carry out their battle.

Aboard Freedom six zigs and five zags got the yacht to the Front Lead. During that action the crew had to snatch their lunch break. Once around the Front Lead not all of the yachts hoisted spinnakers, but that did not deter the small crew aboard Freedom. The spinnaker rose in what has become its accustomed manner and provided adequate speed in the wind that had not reached more than ten knots.



We had the company of a couple of yachts from other club races on the harbour while our own competition, stretched their lighter legs, and were heading for Point Halswell. It was 1317 when Freedom rounded Halswell, the spinnaker was lowered and headsail reset for the beat to the south end of Evans Bay. Seven tacks were needed to get to the shoal pile and it was nice sailing despite the tack angles being a little wide.

Once around the pile the spinnaker went back up but it was clear that the wind was listening to the forecast and easing. All of the boats maintained good speed until 1430 and then the progress over the ground dropped rapidly. Aboard Freedom six knots became four and by 1500, when we were abeam of Mokopuna, the speed was one knot with a strong suspicion that was caused by tide. In the next hour Freedom covered half a nautical mile and we could see that the leading yachts in our division had already finished. We knew we could not cover the remaining two and a half miles within the half an hour time limit

so lowered sails and motored back to the marina. Kaia and Out to Lunch made the same decision.

The winner on handicap in the combined division was White Heat by 19 seconds from Sika II. Roxana IV won in the Cruising division.

## **SPRINT SERIES**

After a week of wild northerly winds Sunday 22 April was calm, cool and at first glassy calm. By the time the eight yachts were in the starting area there was a light south westerly wind, and the sea was still calm. Y Not was the start vessel and promptly at 1300 the three Cruising division yachts were heading over the line to the windward mark. Fellow Sea led the way, then Out to Lunch and finally Chickadee.



On the downwind leg Chickadee elected to sail a direct course whereas Out to Lunch was having a private battle with Squid Vicious and tacking downwind. That is a tactic employed on America Cup yachts but is not usually beneficial to cruising boats. Thus at the bottom mark, Out to Lunch and Chickadees' position had reversed and stayed there to the finish. Fellow Sea took line honours and won on handicap in all three races.

In race two there was a starting problem. Chickadee misread the signals and started when there was still a minute to go. Thus the results were Fellow Sea followed by Out to Lunch. In the third race Fellow Sea was again the winner and Out to Lunch second

In the combined division Squid Vicious led the way and won all three races for line honours and won on handicap. She looked impressive at speed particularly



when rounding the bottom mark. Also very impressive was the performance of Shardik. The five knot wind was not the pressure that the Lotus 9.2 yachts revel in but somehow Simon and his crew achieved two thirds on line and managed to beat Madness to a second placing on line in race three. All that was despite problems hoisting the headsail prior to leaving the berth. Thirty minutes before the start Simon was half way down(or up) the forestay trying to clear an obstruction. The crew felt it was their superior abilities that made the difference.

Mint Condition did not shine in the conditions and that perhaps was the lack of the light weight oversize headsail and a temporary spinnaker problem. The twist vanished as soon as the halyard reached the masthead and the sheet hands had applied serious pressure.



By the end of race three the wind faded and the fourth race was cancelled. It had been a lovely comfortable sailing day.

## **BIOSECURITY CHALLENGE**

You may be interested to hear about a science and technology challenge that NIWA have initiated as part of an international research collaboration in marine biosecurity with researchers and government from New Zealand, Australia, the USA and Canada. NIWA are seeking new solutions for the control and eradication of pests in marine environments. This requires novel ways to locate pests underwater and to remove or kill them in an acceptable way. For the initial phase of this work, NIWA have engaged the R&D crowd-sourcing platform [InnoCentive](https://www.innocentive.com) to get international reach for the competition. Anybody can sign up as a Solver to the challenge and they are encouraging as many bright minds as possible to take part. The competition runs until 10<sup>th</sup> May and there is a posted prize of \$US10,000 for the best idea. Their aim is to review the best ideas and to look at which may be taken forward through further R&D.

You can find out more about the challenge at the InnoCentive website.

<https://www.innocentive.com/ar/challenge/9934049>

<https://www.niwa.co.nz/news/new-brains-sought-to-get-rid-of-marine-pests>

(mirrored at: <https://www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz/new-brains-sought-to-get-rid-of-marine-pests/>)

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