

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.



www.classicyacht.org.nz

ISSN 1175-804X

Issue 144 – Autumn 2023



ADB Classic Regatta 2023 snapshots

The weather conditions for the 22nd ABD Annual Regatta allowed this year's organisers to breathe a sigh of relief after high winds and Covid restrictions impacted our two previous regattas. This year, the 26 entrants enjoyed outstanding divisional fleet racing.

While the vessel lists change through the years, the vision, generously supported by our CYANZ racing custodians, goes on, as has the Annual Regatta. It is an absolute delight to see so many yachts out racing year on year, and we thank our family of sponsors for their

ongoing amazing support.

My 18 years of CYANZ Regatta racing enjoyment have flown by, from my earlier time racing on *Katrina II* in A Bermudan Division, first as a trimmer and then helming for a number of years, against some immensely qualified sailors. Later, I moved to A Gaff Division racing, with my present role as tactician/navigator on *Ariki*, where manual halyards of the same colour are tied off and new terminology (throat, widow maker, bowse, saddle) re-endorse history.

It is an immense privilege to participate in the divisional

racing of our heritage vessels – and to chair the CYANZ with help from an able Committee and fantastic Secretary in Joyce Talbot. I thank them and all CYA members for their remarkable support for our NZ heritage vessels

– **Richard Cave,**
CYANZ Chair.

Series Results [PHS]

A Bermudan: 1, *Little Jim*; 2, *Katrina II*; 3, *Ngataringa*.

A Gaff: 1, *Rawhiti*; 2, *Thema*; 3, *Ariki*.

B Bermudan: 1, *Tango*; 2, *Teal*; 3, *Orion II*.

B Gaff: 1, *Jonquil*; 2, *Corona*; 3, *Gloriana*.

Modern Classics: 1, *Taaroa*; 2, *Starlight*; 3, *Talent*.

Overall winner

CYA yacht captain, Peter Brookes is “overjoyed” that *Rawhiti* (which he co-owns with Andrew Barnes) took the trophy for the best performing boat in the regatta, as well as coming first [PHS] in the A Gaff Division. “I am so glad for my boat – I love to see her going so well.”

Peter has sailed gaffers for almost 50 years now (since crewing as a boy on his father's fishing smack back in the UK), and, having restored *Rawhiti*, knows her better

than anyone else, he says. But winning is definitely a team effort: “These are big boats. You don’t do it on your own. A good crew makes all the difference.”

Rawhiti joined the CYA fleet three years ago. Peter has three other Logans – *Lady Wilma*, *Rona* and *Kotiri* – in varying stages of restoration at his Waimauku boatyard, along with the Lidgard-designed *Matia*. “One day these will also be part of the classic fleet,” he says.

Trans-Tasman trophy

Winner of the Trans-Tasman trophy – for the third time – was Jennie McKenzie, crewing on *Frances* on Friday, *Gloriana* on Saturday and *Orion II* on Sunday. It made for three completely different days of sailing, she says.

Whether helping hoist *Frances*’ “beautiful new sails”, hauling in sheets underwater on *Gloriana* (“she is so overpowered”), or having a helming lesson on *Orion II*, it was “so much fun and I learned so much.”

Jennie has flown in for the regatta from Melbourne (where she crews on the A class Bermudan, *Mercedes III*) for more than a decade now – and she’ll be back next year. Meanwhile, she’s hoping to see a good contingent of NZ sailors in Melbourne for the Classic Yacht Cup Regatta there in November.

Racing again

The ABD Classic Regatta was the first time *Pastime* and *Waitangi* had raced against each other since 1895 – and

Pastime’s first racing in more than 30 years. “It was a huge honour to join the fleet and such a thrill to be out on the harbour amongst all those classics,” says skipper Andy Pilcher. “We raced all five races and managed to win the last one on handicap.”

To say racing her was a learning curve would be an understatement, says Andy. “In the first race we even had the topsail on backwards ... we learnt we had to keep more sail up, how expensive any manoeuvres are in terms of time, and how important it is to get a clear start. It took us all of the regatta, but we finally got there in our last race.”

Pastime was successfully raced for 11 years from 1886 by Malcolm Miller, who built her at his Lyttleton Shipyard, then over the next six decades by his son Malcolm ‘Jimmy’ Miller and later Jimmy’s nephew, Alex Miller.

Passing out of the Miller family’s hands in 1963, she continued to be raced and cruised in until 1989 when Christchurch hotelier Arthur McKee bought *Pastime* and floated her in a specially-built pool next to his tavern, so patrons could dine on board. Her sailing and racing days appeared to be over. After the sale of the tavern in 1995 she languished on the hard in a Lyttleton boatyard.

That’s when two of Malcolm Miller’s great-great-grandsons, cousins Chris Kendrick and John Erkkila, stepped in. A trust was formed, and four years dedicated to restoring their great-great-grand-

father’s yacht, working with boatbuilder Craig Wild and his son Ryan in an old corrugated iron shed on the outskirts of Hamilton. *Pastime* was relaunched in Tauranga in 2021.

Now moored between *Ida* and *Rainbow* at Auckland’s Heritage Landing, the 135-year-old is launched on a new racing career, with the CYA.

Wellington CYA represented

David Fisher, skipper of the Wellington-based classic yacht *Lizzie* and a trustee of the Wellington Classic Yacht Trust, joined the crew of *Waitangi* for this year’s ABD CYA regatta. He was one of several out-of-towners enjoying three glorious days of competition and camaraderie on the Waitematā.

“It was amazing to be part of the regatta and to see so many classics out sailing,” he says. “We don’t have that in Wellington.”

The Wellington Classic Yacht Trust formed in 2010 to save *Lizzie* (built by Ted Bailey at Balaena Bay in Wellington Harbour and launched in February 1909). *Lizzie* had broken from her moorings in Auckland and sunk. Members of the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club contributed to the salvage and transport back to Wellington, where she was restored by volunteers over two years.

Lizzie is the only purely racing yacht Ted Bailey built – and the oldest remaining Wellington-built racing yacht. “She is a pretty little boat

(she’s only 22’ on deck) and fast and nimble for her age. *Waitangi* seems enormous by comparison,” says David.

Some people refer to *Lizzie* as his boat, he says, but she’s not his in the formal sense – although he is her skipper and he does maintain her. In the past couple of years *Lizzie*’s deck has been rebuilt (“that took maybe 1000 hours”), three cracked ribs have been repaired, a wooden pattern made for the cranse iron on the end of the bowsprit, a steel fitting on the gaff replaced, and now some of the varnish is getting away on him, he says. “There’s always something to do.”

David began sailing on *Lizzie* after volunteering to help with the restoration of the 40’ *Atalanta*, built by Ted Bailey’s older brothers, Chas Jr and Walter, in Auckland in 1894, and donated to the Trust in 2013.

Atalanta, which arrived in Wellington in 1895 in time for the Anniversary Regatta and remained there for the next 80 years, also has a rich racing history. She is currently moored in Clyde Quay boat harbour and the Trust is working to raise funds for her restoration.

His intention, says David, is to encourage other Wellington Trust members to come up and sail with the CYA in Auckland; and any Auckland CYA members who would like to sail in Wellington should get in touch: “*Lizzie* regularly takes guests sailing in Friday night rum racing, and if we can make it happen, we will.”

By Penelope Carroll