

THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSIC YACHT JOURNAL



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

P.O. Box 69-172 Glendene, Auckland, New Zealand.

ISSN 1175-804X

www.classicyacht.org.nz

Issue 37 – July 2004

Fossicking about in European yards

I've spent much of the last two months in Cornwall and Brittany, checking out the old boat scene. On Ron Jamieson's recommendation, I visited the legendary boatyard at Gweek, right at the navigable head of the Helford River in Cornwall, where they are doing some quite fantastic restoration work on a wide variety of old and not so old craft. I was lucky to spend some time talking to the gaffer there about the classic yacht racing and restoration scene in Europe and was amazed at the common threads there are worldwide.

In Brittany, I went to Brest and Douarnenez, both of

which adjacent ports were preparing for their four-yearly old boat regatta in July. The inner harbour at Douarnenez was given over to old boats as a floating museum with massive restoration work going on alongside both in the open in the traditional fashion and under cover.

Then again, at Paimpol, the former base for the goëlettes, the rakish topsail schooners that once fished the Grand Banks off Newfoundland and the waters off Iceland, there was another vibrant old boat restoration scene around the inner basin. The variety of craft I saw was bewildering,



The inner basin at Paimpol. The crabber Eulalie is a jewel



and a little humbling. There are plenty of lunatics just like us in the Northern Hemisphere, a big plus for any view of the human condition.

Harold Kidd

Right: The inner harbour at Douarnenez, just chock full o'nuts!

Left: Lizzie May under restoration at Gweek Boatyard.



Prizegiving recalls some finest hours

What a fabulous night. It was great to see so many of you there and specially pleasing to see so many wives and partners present helping make the celebration of our 2003-04 season of racing such a marvellous event.

It was a pleasure to have Bill and Christine Endean, David and Bronwen Charlesworth, and John and Sally-Lou Crawford from the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron join us.

After an hour of refreshments and gourmet food with the big screen displaying fabulous photos of our recent Aircalin Classic Yacht Regatta in the background, Russell Brooke opened the formal proceedings.

Some warm words from Bill Endean, Commodore of the

Squadron, were followed by a brief update on our burgeoning Launch Division by the CYA Launch Club Captain, Ron Jamieson.

Then it was time for business ... the presentation of our array of trophies and cups to the worthy winners. Embroidered CYA burgees recording individual placings in the season's race calendar were also presented to members.

A special award was made to Bruce Bowers, Principle Race Officer for the Aircalin Classic Yacht Regatta: the orange committee boat flag resplendent with its two large holes, presented in recognition of his superb marksmanship!!

Sincere thanks to Lesley Grant who successfully captured each recipient receiving their award on camera

.....you all looked wonderful. And to Ann Hamilton who did a great job 'on the door'.

And to the staff and the chef of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron who were so friendly and looked after us so well, a big thank you!

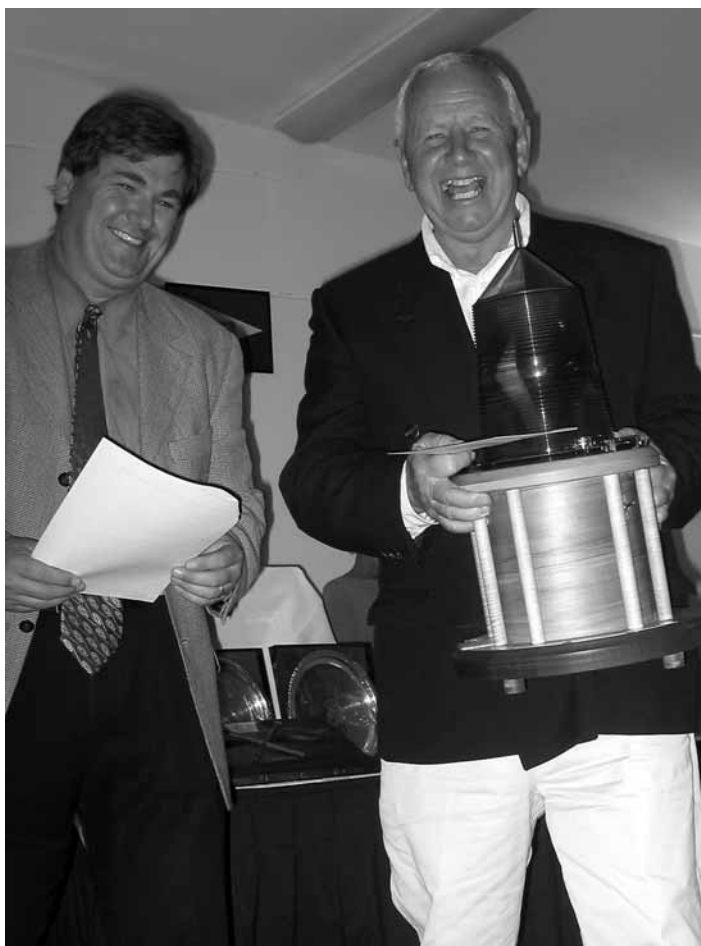
Special congratulations to:

- Tony Blake and his crew on *Waitangi*, winners of: Arch Logan Cup – First Overall Points Series A Division)
- John Duder and his crew on *Spray II*, winners of: Robert Logan Trophy – First Overall Points Series B Division)
- Ian Cook and his crew on *Ranger*, winners of: Prize Tiller (Most firsts on line in season).
- Doug Reid and his crew on *Sapphire*, winners of: 9 Buoy Trophy (Most memorable navigational manoeuvre)

Trophy Winners:

- RANGER* - Couldrey Memorial Cup (First Race in Season)
WAITANGI - Night Race Trophy (Devonport YC Race to Mahurangi A Division)
SPRAY II - Arthur Angell Trophy (Devonport YC Race to Mahurangi B Division)
PETREL - Queenie Gold Cups (Mahurangi Festival B Division)
WAITANGI - Mitchelson Trophy (RNZYS Te Kouma Passage Race)
TAWERA - Rangitoto Festival Trophy (Round Rangitoto Race)
IORANGI - Newcomb Trophy (Last race in Season A Division)
HEATHER - Tamatea Cup (Last race in Season B Division)

Joyce Talbot



Above: *Waitangi* crew from left to right: Tony Blake, Bruce Tantrum, David Willmott, Iain Valentin. Left: *Sapphire* owner Doug Reid relives his most memorable navigational manoeuvre

STOP PRESS. We have just learned that the Robert Logan Sr 39ft yacht *Ngahau*, built for Boulton of Whangarei in 1892 and registered from the twenties as B1 (won Balokovic Cup 1937) is available free for removal, or will be burnt! She is eminently restorable. Contact Harold Kidd at (09) 4180418.

Xmas coasting to the Bay of Islands

New Year's Day dawned, once again, under clear skies. We thought it appropriate to seek out a more secluded anchorage for a hearty breakfast. In towards Helena Bay on the Admiralty chart is another dent in the coast known as Taiwawe Bay in Pickmere's Atlas. It is a stunning deep water anchorage with a few secluded and unobtrusive baches. Its deep indentation into the coastline and the islands and rocky outcrops between its entrance and the open sea make Taiwawe Bay

a very sheltered spot. We left here mid afternoon reluctantly to return Mary Pratt to Sandy Bay. Returning north through the Wide Berth Islands after dropping her off, we felt compelled to go ashore on the western side of Rimariki Island. What a magnificent spot! It was idyllic dropping anchor in modestly deep and very clear water, close into the beach. It is not an anchorage to overnight in, but a necessary afternoon stopover.

An evening run up to the NE corner of Bland Bay

eventually had us anchoring in Omanupowhiri. It proved to be a great anchorage. We were able to bask in the setting sun and then in the morning awake to the most beautiful sunrise straight over the SE horizon. A late morning start was called for, especially as we had the bay to ourselves, and we dragged ourselves because we would be in need of water in a couple of days. No problem, however, with fuel on Lady Gay. She carries 1300 litres of diesel and consumes it, at the speed we were travelling, at

under 10 litres per hour.

As we moved on up the coast, we again kept in close past Home Point, in past Taupiri Bay, Elliot Bay, Pahi Bay and then out around the southern peninsula that forms Whangamumu Harbour. Usually, by this stage of a passage, the lure of the Bay of Islands is too great and one normally presses on up to Cape Brett, but this was a cruise with a difference. We were bound for Outu Bay, three miles south of the Cape. There is deep water in very close to the rocks and



Passing Bream Head



At the Stone Store, Kerikeri

small beaches, with the very steep heavily wooded hill sides of the Cape Brett peninsula rising straight up out of the water. Wood pigeons glide from tree to tree. Tui are having their say and fantails are chasing the insect life you have disturbed as you walk up into the bush.

We all knew our next day was going to be around the western side of Cape Brett so that the last night on the outside coast was tinged with a little sadness. What a great adventure it had been; thanks to Hereward Pickmere. We were determined it shouldn't end with anchoring in all of the usual haunts, so our next night was spent out at Deep Water Cove. It is a great spot to soak up the last of the sun's rays after yet another day in paradise.

Having spent all of my cruising years in a keeler it was

time to check out the Kerikeri Town Basin in a vessel more suited to river exploration, so off we set the next morning for a closer look see. Oh the joys of a more shallow-drafted vessel! After being waylaid at the jetty by some old family friends close to the town basin, not even some careful navigation could enable our journey to continue uninterrupted. Everyone on board, the skipper especially, was justly rewarded with a three hour stopover adjacent to Pirikawau Island while we waited for the tide to refloat our good ship. A diligent burst of thorough housekeeping was followed with yet another fine lunch and some cool bubbles in those long stemmed glasses (they had to sit on non-skid mats while the tide came back in).

The remainder of the time away was more like the old



Christmas cruises of old; meeting up with friends, enjoying a little retail therapy while ashore restocking the supplies, and seeking out some of the favourite anchorages from past cruises.

A Christmas cruise on the Northland east coast, in appropriate weather conditions, is something not to be missed. And the legacy

of Hereward Pickmere and his daughter Janet Watkins made the cruise so much more enjoyable with the comfort of knowing that someone skilful has painstakingly explored and meticulously charted this magnificent part of our coastline in days gone by. Pickmere was our Capt. James Cook of the North.

Chad Thompson

Classic Yacht and Launch Burgees for sale

As the proud owner of a classic vessel, flying a CYA burgee completes the dress of your craft. To purchase yours, please forward your cheque to:

Classic Yacht Association
PO Box 69172, Glendene, Auckland

Also available: launch number banners

One digit numbers \$65 per pair

Two digit numbers \$70 per pair

Three digit numbers \$95 per pair

Get your launch looking authentic with these numbers for club events.

Contact Joyce Talbot: Tel. (09) 836 4747 • joycetalbot@classicyacht.org.nz

\$45



CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

GENERAL ENQUIRIES: Joyce Talbot (09) 836-4747

HANDICAPPER: Chris Smith (09) 309-4048

RACE ENQUIRIES: Greg Scopas at 837-5136

SOCIAL EVENTS & MONTHLY MEETINGS: Russell Brooke (09) 445-0434