

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 69 – April 2010



Ivor Wilkins Photo

Rawene beats up the Waitemata towards the city during the Southern Trust Classic Yacht Regatta

Two most recent restorations go head to head at regatta

By Steve Horsley

Arriving at the Viaduct Basin on Wednesday in preparation for the Southern Trust Classic Yacht Regatta, we tied *Ngatira* up alongside *Rawene*. It is over 60 years since these two fine Edwardian yachts have raced together under gaff configuration.

Friday, Race one: First time flying the topsail. We

had a good start to starboard and were heading towards Kohimarama like most of the fleet, being lifted in the light, but *Katrina* and *Rawene* were coming up on port. *Katrina* passed, just, and we called starboard on Jason, skippering *Rawene*. He was stuck with bowsprit hooked to the lee of *Katrina* and couldn't tack out quickly so we were forced to port. The breeze

was too light to be making quick tacks so we held on and to our great satisfaction began to lift 10 degrees then another 10 and another. As the rest of the fleet pursued the left we made incredible gains to the right, leaving the other gaffers struggling in the fickle wind shifts to the left. That's luck some say, we didn't see it that way. This was *Ngatira's* first real

regatta outing and we just kicked butt. She was first gaff round Northern Leading and Resolution before waterline length and considerable sail area overhauled us in the form of *Thelma*. We had the jump and, as often is the way in racing, it's the ones out front that benefit. We held onto *Thelma* and watched as

Cont. overleaf

Battle continued ...

Tony headed for the finish boat and a light patch... could we beat *Thelma* too? She held us off but only by 1 minute and 25 seconds. A great result for the first day but a hard one to repeat. *Ngatira* 1 - *Rawene* 0

Saturday, Race two: It was a stark contrast to Friday with 20 knots gusting 25. After hoisting the main pre-start, we ran off with plenty of twist in the gaff. The resulting crack as the gaff jaws split seemed to spell the end of our regatta. Dropping the main and inspecting the damage it was decided we could proceed, albeit with lashed-up jaws and a reef. Another good start over *Rawene*. In these conditions the bigger gaffs showed us their skirts and we concentrated on *Rawene's* steady gains. They passed abreast at the Islington Buoy; we did a wide turn and came up on their windward hip. In the stronger breeze *Rawene* had the edge as well as a full main and pulled ahead several boat lengths. The final beat to the finish was



Ivor Wilkins Photo

Ngatira racing under topsail for the first time since her restoration

match racing, with *Rawene* and *Ngatira* working up the Rangi shore. *Ngatira* gained slowly and passed in front on one tack. *Rawene* regained the lead next tack and stayed there by a whisker, crossing 10 seconds ahead. *Ngatira* 1 - *Rawene* 1.

Race three: I was not feeling happy about the conditions and the gaff jaws but this was racing at it's best. I groaned inwardly when the next

race course was announced. *Rawene* stayed with full main and *Ngatira* reefed. Conditions freshened. An unprintable start from Jason had us out by a good margin, again they pulled us in on the run downwind to eventually overhaul us and remain ahead to take out the next race by 1 minute 29 seconds. *Ngatira* 1 - *Rawene* 2.

Sunday, Race four: 15 knot forecast spelled no topsail for us but we held onto *Rawene* running down to Issie Buoy, rounding three boat lengths behind. With a tight reach to Navy buoy, we gained then lost with *Rawene* now six boat lengths ahead. The breeze eased so we hoisted the topsail and started pulling *Rawene* in. Jason replied by hoisting a large light weather jib but our disturbed air made short work of that and we passed. Much joshing took place between *Rawene*, *Ngatira* and *Wraith of Odin* as we ran down and round the bottom of Motuihe to find the rest of the fleet parked.

Pulling ahead we went close and worked the shore but *Rawene* tried out in the channel. This looked like our defining moment, but it was short lived as *Ngatira* parked and we watched helplessly as *Rawene* sailed round and over us. At this point we dropped anchor and had lunch to save ourselves being sucked back in the tide. I knew that *Rawene* with a building breeze would be the first to gain and, true to form, it filled in through the Motuihe Channel. We needed to win this race to win the regatta on points. It was follow the leader, Friday's race a distant memory. Working the shifts up through Motuihe Channel and Rangi, we started to gain on *Rawene*; it was match racing all over again. *Rawene* crossed 2 minutes 1 sec ahead. *Ngatira* 1 - *Rawene* 3.

It was a fantastic regatta. Our highlight was this very close racing between two old rivals, Bailey vs Logan. Congrats to *Rawene*, Jason and his crew and the CYA.



Ivor Wilkins Photo

Ngatira's crew prepare for battle



Ivor Wilkins Photo

Moderns in age old battle

By Steve Cranch

A record 18 modern classic yachts lined up on Friday 12th February for the beginning of the Southern Trust Classic Yacht Regatta, now into its 9th year. This year we had a truly diverse range of yachts from the little Townsons *Nocturne* and *Crimson Dynamo* through to a couple of legendary yachts, *Young Nick* and *Castanet* up to the mighty *Ta'aroa*. There were even two 22' mullet boats from the 1970's, *Scullet* and *Orion*.

Friday's harbour race saw fickle winds with several changes in direction. *Hornblower* led the pack away with some smart tactical sailing while a number of top boats, including *Achernar* and *Princess*, sailed into a large wind hole and parked

up, effectively ruining any chance they had.

Saturday's Race 2 provided a building fresh SW breeze and some great racing. The final beat to the finish was quite a challenge for some boats. By the start of Race 3 the SW was very fresh. After a short beat to the top mark there were some fantastic spinnaker rides down towards Motuihe Island followed by a long challenging beat back to the top mark so they could do it all again. This race took its toll, with a number of boats failing to finish and a couple not starting due to gear or crew damage and, in our case, both.

With a broken boat and damaged arm I was unable to sail in the last race on Sunday, but had the privilege of joining Colleen and Dick

Fisher on their lovely ex pilot launch *Akarana*. This gave a whole new perspective and a fantastic view as the whole fleet of classic yachts lined up for the start in completely different conditions from Saturday.

A light SW breeze and heavily overcast skies painted a very dramatic scene. The course for this race was around Motuihe. The fleet was beautifully spread out on a broad reach showing off all styles shapes and sizes of classic yacht.

The run down the back of Motuihe produced a number of tactics, some choosing to cut in close, whilst others appearing to sail off over the horizon only to arrive back at great speed on a different angle at the NE corner of Motuihe. Unfortunately about

here the wind decided to shut up shop for a while and the northern side of the island was littered with becalmed classics hopelessly trying to make the best of any little puff. As is usually the case with these situations, when the wind finally returned an hour later, it greatly favoured some yachts while leaving others to watch their competitors sail away.

It was a fantastic and varied weekend with some very close racing between boats and of course the wonderful camaraderie that goes along with classic yachting, the tall tales, catching up with old friends and making of new ones back in the Viaduct after the day's racing ...

Right: Australian ketch
Wraith of Odin racing
 in New Zealand.
 Below: Rick McCay's
 bridgedecker *Luana*

One of the very best

By Harold Kidd

The Auckland Anniversary weekend produced a feast of classic yacht sailing, this year made more memorable by the two Australian yachts that crossed the Tasman for the party, *Wraith of Odin* and *Fair Winds*. We saw them in action first at the splendid Mahurangi Regatta which was blessed with great weather and a good sailing breeze, despite dire

predictions from VUW and the Met Office.

The Mahurangi Cruising Club had record entries, nearly 150 yachts and launches with great support from CYA members as always.

It was significant as the first outing for Steve Horsley's *Ngatira* under sail, and she looked superb, Pittar's *Meteor* of 1897 reincarnated, once again brilliantly bearing aloft the Bailey torch. The

big Logans were all there, so it was wonderful to have a reminder of Bailey greatness. *Ranger* had an oops with a lurking outlying rock at the northern end of Te Haupa Island, but pride received greater dents than the lovely yacht.

Line honours in the Mahurangi Cup race went to *Thelma*, expertly sailed by Tony Blake with Bruce Adams, making a welcome return in his pretty 1936

French-built cutter *Petrel*, first on handicap. Our Chairman Steve Cranch won the Modern Classics event on handicap in *Rainbird*.

Twenty three launches, mainly CYA members, put on another good display with a Mark Foy race to a mark south of Waiwera and back, won by Rick McCay's fine January 1920 bridgedecker *Luana*.

It was definitely one of the best Mahurangis yet.



Alan Houghton Photo



Alan Houghton Photo

CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

GENERAL ENQUIRIES:

CLUB CAPTAIN YACHTS:

CLUB CAPTAIN LAUNCHES:

EDITOR:

WEBSITE:

Joyce Talbot (09) 836 4747 or admin@classicyacht.org.nz

Jason Prew (09) 846 4721

Chris Miller 021 961 936

Harold Kidd harold@ktmlaw.co.nz

www.classicyacht.org.nz