

EDITORIAL:

To our many members serving in the Armed Forces overseas, the Officers and Committee of the Richmond Yacht Club send their warmest greetings.

It is a long time now since this war started and many of you chaps have been away from these shores a considerable time. Thanks to your efforts and those of thousands of others, New Zealand has been spared the rigours of war and the flag of the Richmond Yacht Club is still able to fly over the water of the Waitemata Harbour.

Those of us who find it our lot to stay here at home have realised our responsibility to our members overseas and have done our best to foster the sport of Yachting in those difficult times. We feel that our efforts have been successful and are keenly looking forward to the day when peace returns and we are able to welcome you all back and enjoy again together the sport we love.

It is with these thoughts in our minds that we wish to contact you per medium of this Newsletter. It is felt that a line or two now and then telling you of the activities of the Club and of the sport in general will be of interest and bring before you the efforts we are making to keep the sport, and this Club in particular, alive until the war is over.

At the outbreak of war His Majesty the King urged his people to carry on their lives normally. This has been the policy of the Richmond Club; and although we have missed the presence of large numbers of boats, more especially the bigger classes, and their crews, our racing fixtures and social activities have always been well attended. The Club has actually grown considerably during the war period and now has a registered membership of about 700. Our thanks are due to the Auckland Harbour Board for providing the Yachting Fraternity with the boat harbour at St. Mary's Bay, now known as "Westhaven". The facilities provided have proved ideal for their purpose and since our establishment in the new Clubhouse there, the future of the Club has been assured. The Clubhouse contains 100 dinghy lockers and as these are all occupied we are already contemplating ways of obtaining more accommodation to meet the demand of post war expansion. The Club is now in a very sound financial position. Thanks mainly to the efforts of the Committee and Ladies Committee; in conducting dances in the Westhaven Cabaret which has become one of the most popular Cabarets in Auckland, an average of 500 people attending on Saturday nights.

The 1944-45 Season is now well under way and we hope in the near future to be able to send you more notes of interest and trust that these letters reach you in your various locations.

--C.M.D.--

BEACH COMBING.

Westhaven was still as a millpond and across the bay came the sound of St. Matthew's bells, while the white hulls of the launches glistened in the sun as they swung idly at their moorings.

But ashore was a hive of industry. A beautiful morning had brought a full muster of willing hands scraping, whistling and papering. The roaring song of the blow-lamp was heard no more and the aroma of fresh paint permeated the atmosphere, capturing the dreamer in a magic spell.

"PRIZE" and "RAMBLER" were ready to go afloat and ways and tackle were in hasty preparation. "NGA TOA'S" mast was brought from hibernation while "AORERE" and "CYRENA" seen slipping from their moorings were incentive enough to the weariest back.

And so to the new pole on the Westhaven jetty, and three more masts were stepped in a busy weekend.

"WAIONE" is now afloat and is looking her best. She has been completely burnt off and the painstaking efforts of her owner are justly rewarded by the picture she makes at her moorings.

"RAWENE" and "RAINGER" too, are looking their best and it gives any yachtsman's eyes a treat to see the latter's long stick again dwarfing the rest of St. Mary's Bay.

Each weekend sees more craft afloat and this season their numbers seem to have increased appreciably. Things certainly seem to be on the up and up; in the yachting world at least, although most of the craft are short of crew, and many craft lay covered up awaiting the return of men from overseas.

The "OTIRA" boys are making the most of their furlough, having the boat ready for the water this week-end.

Sunday, November 24th., was a perfect sailing day. The boats returning from the Point Chev. races were a great sight; M's, V's, X's, T's & Y's, greens, reds, yellows and blues, all together in rainbow pattern, carrying extras, cracking on all sail to reach home before sundown, while up the harbour came the weekenders with eased sheets and each with a bone in her teeth.

The general trend of conversation now is Xmas arrangements;

"PRIZE", "NGA TOA", "MANGAWAI", "ARORERE" and "RAMBLER" will carry the Club flag North while others are talking of Mercury Bay, The Barrier and the race to Tauranga which has been revived this year by the Tauranga Regatta Committee.

The Sanders Cup is to be raced for again this season and trials are at present being conducted by the Takapuna Boating Club for the selection of a crew to represent the Waitemata.

The Z Class has developed into a large fleet of boats, it being necessary to race the craft in two divisions. Consequently the boys are very keen and some good racing should be witnessed during the trials.

At "Drunken Bay" Mr. Roy White has made a great job of his private slipway. He intends mooring his C Class yacht, "JEANETTE" in the bay permanently, off his back, and has also provided her with grids. "JEANETTE" is at present ending her first winter on the slipway and keeping her company is Chuck Taylor's "DOLPHIN."

Competition is very keen in the M & X Classes. The M's have been augmented by "MARORO" with Bob Stewart at the helm. With Ron. Gurr as forward hand she promises to be a hard proposition. Spot Riley has also built a new M Class boat.

New additions to the X class are "TASSIE" and Max Pelham's "ELAINE". These restricted classes are growing and should boom in post war days.

The skimmer type of boat is growing very popular amongst the Y class and given their day these craft show the older boats their heels. An endeavour was made by enthusiasts to form a new class for these boats but the motion was lost at the Association Meeting on the grounds that there were not enough boats to warrant breaking away from the Y Class. However, these boats will increase for while not the best of heavy weather boats they are both comparatively easy and inexpensive to build.

"SCOUT" is now owned by Leo Bouzaid who races her consistently. Ted Hayes is building a larger boat in which no doubt he intends to cruise further afield.

C.E.

.....where can I get some silk for my Settee?
"Lingerie next counter Miss, said the shop assistant."

Dumb Bertha reckons the modern dance is a naval engagement.

RACING NEWS.

Ideal weather prevailed for the first Club Fixture of the season. A moderate south-westerly breeze freshening towards the close of the day made racing ideal. Fifty boats participated.

The stirring finish in the V. Class together with the new boats in the X. Class kept the spectators happy and the Racing Committee busy.

Prominent among the new boats was the X. Class boat "Elaine" owned and skippered by M. Pelham of Orakei. A new development of the Skimmer type, sailed by R. Croad of Pt. Chevalier, did not sail as well as expected of such boats.

RACING: M. and V. Class

Matara and Manaia got away first followed by Mawhiti, Kaitere, Mercedes and Lotus. Mercedes worked to windward and gradually drew ahead of the fleet with Matara and Kaitere close in to leeward. On the run down harbour from the Herne Bay mark, Kaitere set her masthead Spinnaker and gradually drew away into the lead, with Matara well back, followed by Mercedes and Manaia, however on the boat up to the pile beacon Matara caught Kaitere and held her to a slight lead. On the run back to the finishing line both Matara and Kaitere ran too far in and grounded, Kaitere stopping, but the crew were able to luff her without losing the Spinnaker, meanwhile the Matara was in the same trouble, the skipper lifting the rudder right out; finishing on a flat run 17 seconds ahead of the Kaitere.

T. and Y. Class.

There was a good start in this race, Oreti led Demon Ayasha, Perfect, Rebel and Rangī-Aotea over the line. First round the Pile Beacon was Oreti followed closely by Demon and Prelude, the new Skimmer, Prelude passing Oreti and maintaining a long lead to Shoal Bay mark. On the beat up to the Watchman Prelude dropped back and Demon sailed to the lead with Perfect, Scandal and Ngaire close behind. The first boat home was Perfect with Oreti and Demon second and third.

X. Class.

A very keen start in the X. Class found Davina slightly ahead of Stella and Elaine, with Tassie, Content and Scintilla following. Davina and Elaine made short boards all the way to the Pile Beacon on the run to Shoal Bay Mark. Content took the lead, followed by

Elaine, Davina, Scintilla and Tassie, Content carried away her bobstay and had to retire, Davina taking the lead on the beat up to the Watchman, with Tassie and Elaine very close. On a flat run home to the finishing line Elaine, a new boat, sailing remarkably well took the lead and led Davina, last Season's Champ. over the line by about 15 seconds. Tassie finished Third.

Z. Class.

Twenty boats went to the start with Tawaki away first, followed by Shark and Korero. A close finish by Tawaki with Swish Javelin and Fury resulted in a win on Handicap for Swish with Javelin second and Fury Third.

Army Doctor "Have you any physical defects?"
Draftee: "Yes Sir, No GUTS."

Now that's what I call a fine servant.
"Yes! She has been in our family for hours!!"

OPENING DAY: NOVEMBER, 11th 1944.

Conditions for the Official Opening of the Yachting Season, proved ideal, a fresh sou-westerly breeze gave the boats plenty of leading around the courses. All the boats finishing before four-thirty.

Close starts with keen racing in the 18 footers and the popular Z Class were the highlights of the day.

Spectators were numerous and the Clubhouse was a busy scene all day for the armchair critics.

DETAILS OF RACING:

M. Class: The M's got away to a splendid start, with Mararoa in the lead, closely followed by Mercedes, Manene and Marahi.

The Mararoa maintained her lead around the Herne Bay mark closely followed by Mercedes, Marahi and Manaia. On the leg to Shoal Bay Manaia and Mercedes drew up with the leading boat and maintained her advantage for the rest of the course. As they came down to the finish the three scratch boats, Marahi, Mararoa and Mercedes crossed the line with about a minute between each of them.

RESULTS: Marahi (Scr.) 1. Mararoa (Scr.) 2. Mercedes (Scr.) 3.

KEELERS: Four Keelers went to the starting line, first away was the Scout, Cyrena following with the Gipsy and Speedwell next. The Cyrena

lost a good three minutes by standing up harbour. Naiad was late but made up the loss of time slowly. Scout was first around Rona Buoy with Gipsy hard in her wake. Gipsy later passed the Scout, and excepting for the Speedwell which kept up with the Leaders, the other boats started to fall back. Scout was first home.

RESULTS: Naiad (14min.) 1. Speedwell (3min.) 2.

X. CLASS: Scintala, Tassie and Gale went away in that order, followed by Davina, Content and Sonata. The fleet was soon strung out with Davina away to leeward but sailing well. Elaine was in the bunch. On the leg to the Shoal Bay mark Sonata sailing very well took the lead with Davina further back. Elaine had the misfortune to carry away some gear but prior to that did not appear to show her previous winning ability. On the slog to the watchman Davina crept up taking the lead from Sonata with Content a close third. On the run to the finishing line Davina maintained her lead.

RESULTS: Sonata (3½) 1; Davina (Scr.) 2; Clyde (7) 3.

Z. CLASS: Over 40 boats went to the line. The best start of the day was witnessed in this event. The boats being bunched together, the gun going for the start, when it appeared that the majority would have to be recalled for crossing too soon.

RESULTS: Pupuke Division: Javelin (4½) 1. Tanya (3½) 2. Zippa (2) 3.
Takapuna Division: Mahia (1½) 1. Tere (3½) 2. Shark (5½) 3.

V. and S. CLASS: Fifteen boats went away to a first class start. Matara took the lead to the Horne Bay mark. Kaitere closely following. Marara maintained her lead to the Shoal Bay mark. With Athenia and Kaitere giving Matara all the necessary competition. Matara was first home.

B.F.

Agent: (Showing house) "You have no children, dogs, radio or Piano?"
Tenant: "No! but I must tell you - my fountain pen leaks."

Speeches, says Dumb Dora, remind me of the horns of a steer -
a point here and a point there - and a lot of bull in the middle!!

FEW NESTS ARE FEATHERED IN. WILD GOOSE CHASES.

SOCIAL NEWS.

On Tuesday night, 17th October, the Ladies Committee organised a party in the Club Rooms in honour of Mr. & Mrs. Hill's daughter Gwen, who is to be married shortly to Serg. Major Yates. It took the form of a Kitchen Evening.

Curly Huggins started the show off by showing a selection of Movie Films. The most popular of which was of course, the doings of Charlie Chaplin. Miss Joan Hill, who is no relation to Mort Hill, made some fine music on her piano accordion. At this stage Boy Belve played a few bum notes on the piano. This item was received with great applause.

10.30 supper and a scrumptious feast it was, with tea, coffee, or a glass of beer. Our past Commodore, Boy Belve, then called upon our Commodore to say a few words, much to this poor chappie's surprise and dismay. We then cleared the tables and chairs and had a highly enjoyable dance. Just as the Commodore was leaving in his car, another car bonked into the side of his ship, making a terrific dent, thus ending a highly enjoyable, and to Gwen Hill, a profitable evening.

Our last dance on October 14th was a roaring success with 540 patrons. There was a spot of congestion in the kitchen owing to the shortage of cups but the members of the Committee were there in force and did a great job. We have been unable to reinstate a free bus or a free launch. The bus owing to the shortage of petrol and the launch owing to the danger caused by over-crowding. However, the crowd still rolls up and the profits still roll in.

On Saturday, the 28th, it was our turn once again to conduct a dance at Westhaven.

As our shipment of 14 dozen cups had not then arrived we were looking forward to a very hectic evening in the kitchen. About 450 patrons turned up, so that there was not quite so large a crowd as at the last dance, and owing to the fact that the Committee were in the kitchen in force once again we did not experience any difficulty.

The Club House is still dry and now the Club members have become used to the idea, we have no trouble in keeping it so, although we must admit that about 11 o'clock some of our tongues begin to hang out. However, the only remedy is another cup of tea until the clock strikes midnight.

Mrs. McKinnon is still running our stall, and making a fine job of

it with the assistance of Mrs. Hill.

Last week Fred Hay was unable to occupy his usual post of ticket seller, but his job was ably carried on by Jack Craig.

The number of Americans at our dances has steadily dwindled until at present there are not more than two or three.

On November the 18th the weather was extremely dirty, with a gale blowing from the west. The races that afternoon were postponed and the prospects of our dance being highly successful were extremely slim. However, a number of stalwart supporters turned up and we sold 300 tickets. This was pleasing to the boys and girls who do the work in the kitchen as it meant a soft evening for them, but our honorary Treasurer was not so pleased with the receipts. However we managed to clear the expenses and bank a few pounds.

We still find that Al. Clark's band is the most popular and now that she has left us to attend to her maternal duties her husband has ably fulfilled her place.

B. B. T.

NEWS OF MEMBERS OVERSEAS.

Lieut. Ray Thorpe is in Ceylon with his brother Rup.

Lieut. Norm. Hope has become spliced to Billy Nicks.

Lieut. Jim. Frankham is in Auckland on leave and has occupied his new house above the old R.Y.C. Club house.

Lieut. (A.) Jimmy McAndrew has left his old ship the Mauritius and is on a course in England.

Cpl. "Chuck" Belve after being home on furlough and getting engaged to Nota Cassey has returned to Italy.

Lt. Cmdr. Clive Renner after being married to an Irish lass in England returned to Auckland, alone, got himself involved in a tram accident, broke an arm, spent six weeks in hospital and is now practically recovered. Buster Belboth the great footballer recently joined Scheme B and is now in England.

Lieut. Buster Coughlan has returned from the Islands and is demobilised.

Cpl. Roy Cox has returned from the Pacific and is passing the time at Papakura.

Lieut. D. Ross owner of M. Boat Marita has returned on furlough and is racing her while here.

A.B. Bob Taylor our Secretary has been demobilised from the N.A.P.S. or more commonly known as the Sewer Patrol.

Sgt. Bill McKay owner of the Impudence is here on furlough.

P.O. George McKendrick is demobilised from the Navy and is busy building a 45 foot keel yacht.

If you cannot be a Private, join up with the Red Cross, and be a Corpuscle!!!!
