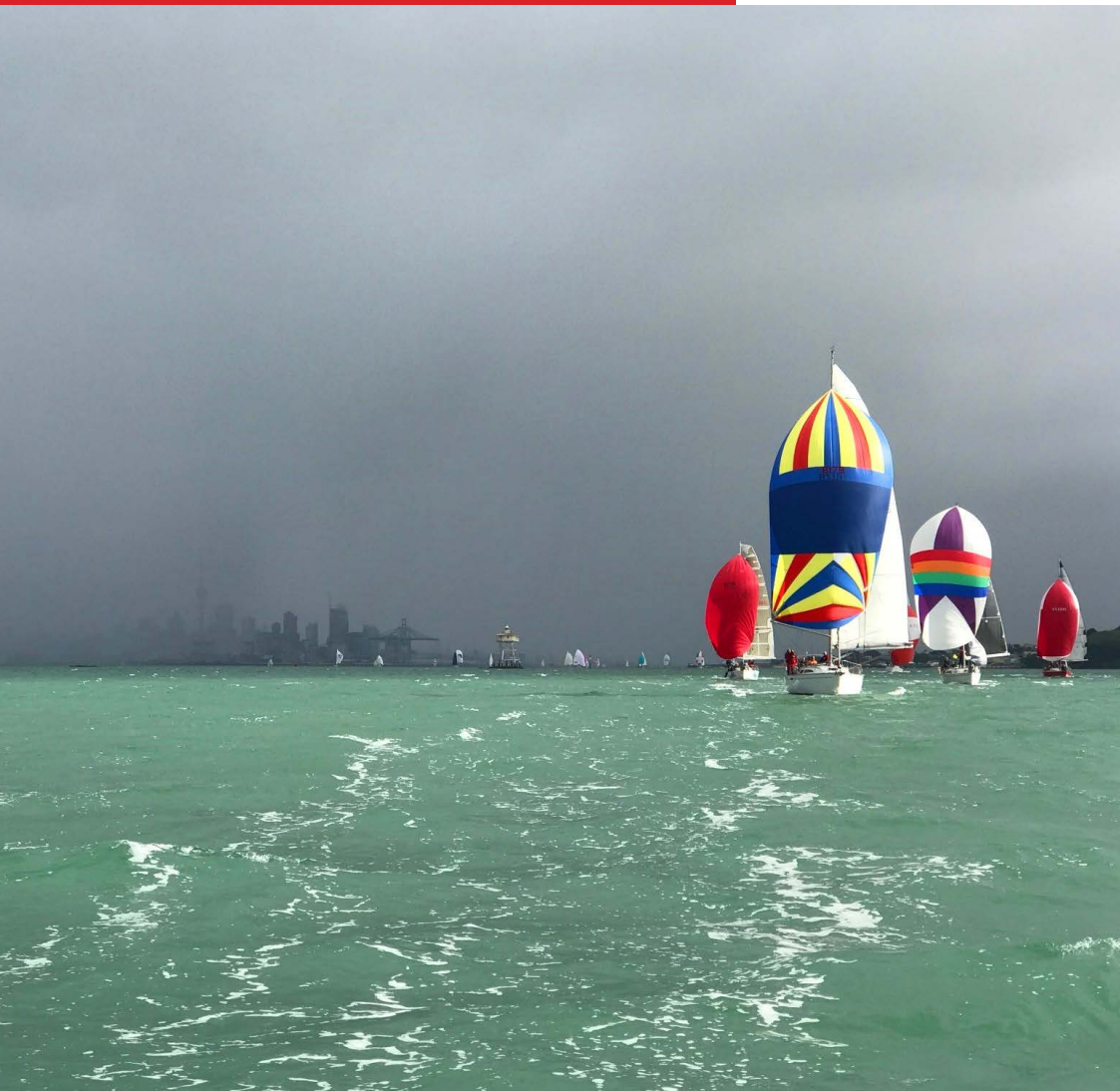


PLAIN SAILING

AUGUST 2019



RICHMOND
YACHT CLUB



FROM THE FLAG

BY MARK BECROFT
NEW RYC COMMODORE



August already? The end of the mulled wine and the winter series.

We have enjoyed some great racing again this season, from bluster and trips to the sailmaker for spinnaker repairs, to serene afternoons on the glistening waters of the Waitemata.

What else has happened recently at RYC? At the AGM we had a change of Flag Officers. Andrew Burr has stepped down from the Commodore role and Mark Becroft has taken over the role. I would like to say thank you to Andrew for the efforts he has put in to lead the committee for the past two years. The committee is functioning very well at present, which makes my job much easier. Fortunately for us, Andrew will be remaining on the sailing committee. This is another valuable role within the club.

I would like to acknowledge some of our members who received awards

for services to the club. The Blake Memorial Shield was awarded to Jacky Bush, who has stepped out of her comfort zone and taken on the sponsorship role. This is one of the more challenging roles on the committee. Life membership was awarded to Kevin Murphy, a stalwart of the club for many years. The Alan Wright Trophy was awarded to Gary Vogels and Keith Hall, of Flojo. Together they have participated in nearly every Friday Night Special race for the past 21 years. Thanks also to Rodney and Kate Janes for again editing our Annual Handbook.

Spring is in the air, I can feel it. Spring Regatta / Gold Cup is the next major outing to start September. This is a great race to get the crew worked up for the Coastal Classic and honed for Wednesday night racing.

I look forward to seeing you all on the water, or back at the club. ▶



THIS ISSUE

BY CHRIS CRONE
EDITOR

Welcome to the August issue of Plain Sailing. This issue features a round-up of this year's AGM and prizegiving (congratulations to all of this year's winners!) followed by an

article by Ocean interviewing some of Richmond's women sailors. Mark and Keith tell us about a recent delivery to Napier, Richard gives us a summary of the 2018-19 Vining Single-handed Series and Trish fills us in on what skippers can do to help the tower during racing.

We want your stories! Email magazine@richmondyc.org.nz ■

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Stella Pye has uncovered a piece of Richmond history - the club's first newsletter! *"I found the newsletter in my father's memorabilia a few years ago, and from its date and issue number realised it might be of interest to the club. My father, Eric Morton (1921-1986) and his older brother Lewis were keen sailors here in Auckland during the 1930s-50s, and good friends with Whist Martinengo (a surname well known to RYC). When this newsletter was published my father was serving with 2nd NZ Division in Italy and I can only assume that is where he received the newsletter. Clearly it was of importance to him as he kept it all that time."*

Read the full 8-page newsletter at:
www.richmondyc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/RYC-first-newsletter.pdf

RICHMOND YACHT CLUB (INC.)

NEWS-LETTER NO.1

NOVEMBER, 1944.

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.

WELCOME



New Members

Johann & Pat Strauss
Azura, Nova 28
Veteran Family

Tony Orec
Lovesail, Catamaran
General

Richard Chitty
Bunbury, Reactor
Veteran

New Crew Members

Dave Stafford
Guy Russell



UPCOMING CALENDAR & EVENTS

August 2019

- 7th Pot Luck Lunch
- 11th Winter Series Race 8
- 23rd Winter Talk - Katana around NZ
- 25th Winter Series Race 9

September 2019

- 4th Pot Luck Lunch
- 13th Members' evening
- 28th Spring Regatta / Gold Cup Race 1

October 2019

- 2nd Pot Luck Lunch
- 2nd Wednesday Night Race 1
- 4th Friday Night Special Intro
- 5th/6th Single-Handed Series Race 1 & 2 (PCC)
- 11th Friday Night Special Race 1
- 12th Gold Cup Race 2
- 16th Wednesday Night Race 2
- 25th Coastal Classic
- 30th Wednesday Night Race 3

November 2019

- 1st Friday Night Special Race 2
- 2nd Gold Cup Race 3
- 3rd RYC Single-Handed Race & Single-Handed Series Race 3
- 6th Pot Luck Lunch
- 8th Friday Night Special Race 3
- 9th Westhaven Triple Race 1
- 10th Single-Handed Series Race 4
- 13th Wednesday Night Race 4
- 15th Cruising Series Race 1
- 22nd Friday Night Special Race 4
- 27th Wednesday Night Race 5
- 30th Cruising Series Race 2



AGM ROUNDUP

The 115th Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Yacht Club was held at the clubrooms on Friday 28th June.

Our club members heard reports from our Commodore, Secretary and Treasurer and participated in robust discussion as well as the election of committee members and new flag officers:

Commodore: Mark Becroft

Vice Commodore: Richard Limbrick

Rear Commodore: Parizad Dantra

Presentations were made to Margaret Harvey, Trish Beken, Rodney Janes, Steve Morriss, Hans Swete and Andrew Burr to acknowledge their volunteer efforts. Life membership was awarded to Kevin Murphy.

An abridged version of the Secretary's Report follows:

Racing

The 2018-19 Season opened on September 29th with the Spring Regatta, which included the RAYC Gold Cup fleet. All 32 Gold Cup boats and 23 RYC boats completed the race.

The Wednesday night and Winter series sponsored by CRC, New World Birkenhead & Sailutions remain the backbone to our racing calendar. 68 and 39 boats respectively have competed in each series.

The Winter series now includes division B [.73-.80] to create more competition in the middle of the fleet.

The Vining Single-handed series had 21 entrants and continues to provide camaraderie and competition.

The Marsden Cove Marina Route 66 fleet was joined this year by Gulf Harbour Yacht Club, their 17 boats bringing the fleet to 56 boats. We weren't blessed with a persistent breeze and unfortunately 21 boats Did Not Finish.

The Cruising series was not well supported this year. As a result, the sailing committee will be looking to change how we deliver this series. Feedback from members is welcome.

The Harbour races with one single-handed and two His-N-Hers races was moderately supported. We have a plan to increase involvement in this set of races.

The Richmond regatta (previously the Associations regatta) was not run. Until we get a significant number of requests and commitments this event will remain off the calendar.

The Victoria Cruising Club Friday Night Special remains popular but down a little last season. We continue to aim our promotional material to those who are likely to become long-term members and potential boat owners.

Sponsorship

Our main sponsorship came from long-time supporters: CRC, New World Birkenhead and Victoria Cruising Club (for the Victoria Friday Night Special). We also received continued support from Lidgard Sails, who were the main sponsor for the Route 66, Harken Fosters, Mariner, Burnsco, Advantage Doors, Coolstore Construction, Vining Marine, Ropeye, Musto, Floating Dock Services, Coastguard Boating Education, Safety at Sea and Mount Gay who this year also provided sponsorship for the Route 66. In 2018-19 we also welcomed new sponsorship from Banjo Brews and Sailutions, the

latter supporting both the Summer Wednesday night series and the Sunday winter series. It is great to have them on board.

We greatly appreciate all our sponsors' support, and look forward to continuing our relationship with them.

Social events, Venue hire & Bar

Quiz night last year was another winner. We had a great turnout and raised some well-needed funds to donate to the PCC Youth Sailing School. The other winter dinners were not well supported.

The weather gods were against our cruising series again last year. The notable cruises on fine weekends included a singalong party at Waiheke and the Mahurangi Regatta weekend. Our thanks go to Lidgard Sails for another great breakfast, which gave us enough energy and perseverance to again walk all over Panmure YBC in the annual Tug'O'War.

The cooked breakfasts before our winter racing started well, but soon fizzed out. This year we are offering toast and spreads, which is much easier to manage.

The venue was again well-utilised with a wide variety of daytime and night functions throughout the year. Private functions were down a little, but we have a wide variety of yachting and local groups using the clubrooms. We have three new volunteers to help behind the bar.

Publicity

Our new website has been live for a little over a year. We have also been using Facebook to promote our events and get our club members to interact with us and each other. We would like

to explore new ways of interacting with our club members. Come and talk to one of us and share your ideas and thoughts to make our club even better.

Club Captain's Report

A reasonably quiet year regarding the Club's maintenance after the previous year of high activity. This year has seen a couple of working bees. Whilst there are further working bees scheduled, this coming year's major undertaking will be the replacement of the section of roof over Lomocean Design Ltd.

TROPHY WINNERS

Club Champion: Noel Cole Trophy

The Noel Cole trophy is awarded to the skipper who obtains the best handicap points score for eight races listed in the club race calendar, with no more than four races counting from any one series.

Congratulations once again to our Club Champions Christel Townley and Reg Sparrey of T-Rex.



Centennial Cup

The Cup is awarded to the club member who takes part in the most races over a year, running from the Winter Series through to the last summer race.

It was this year awarded to Ken Kok of Roadrunner.



Maurice Livingstone Cup

The Cup is awarded to club members who “go the extra mile” with their sailing. It was presented to the club by the Livingstone family in memory of Maurice, who was lost overboard in a Spring Regatta in the 1980s.

This year, the committee awarded the Cup jointly to Nigel Garland and Cory McLennan for their participation in the SSANZ “Round NZ” race 2019.



Alan Wright Trophy

The Trophy is awarded to club members who have shown exceptional determination.

This year it was awarded to Gary Vogels and Keith Hall of Flojo for participating in almost every season of the Victoria Friday Night Special since its inception.



Blake Memorial Shield

The Shield is awarded to an outstanding committee member. This year it was awarded to Jacky Bush for her exemplary efforts in the Sponsorship role.



SERIES WINNERS

Cruising Series	C Div	Peppermint Planet
	E Div	Aldebaran
Westhaven Triple Race 1 (round Rangitoto)	B Div	Peppermint Planet
	C Div	About Time
	D Div	T-Rex
	E Div	Roadrunner
Westhaven Triple Race 2 (Kawau Night Race)	B Div	Peppermint Planet
	C Div	Hotdogger
	D Div	T-Rex
	E Div	Roadrunner
Westhaven Triple Race 3 (Haystack Race)	B Div	Higher Ground
	C Div	Pepe
	D Div	T-Rex
	E Div	Aldebaran
Winter Series 2018	A Div	Hotdogger
	C Div	Sweathog
	K Div	Club Marine
Spring Regatta 2018	A Div	Transformer
	C Div	Club Marine
	E Div	Roadrunner
	H Div	Moody Blues
	M Div	Attitude
	Z Div	Beep Beep
Wednesday Night Series	A Div	Alegre
	B Div	Black Pearl
	S Div	Atomic
	C Div	Patere
	E Div	Harken
	D Div	T-Rex
	H Div	Pinto
	R Div	No Worries
RYC Single-Handed Series	PHRF	Clandestine Jet
	A Gen Handicap	Clandestine Jet
	B Gen Handicap	Atamai

WOMEN @ RICHMOND, PART I

BY OCEAN MEAD



I read an article recently by CNN titled, “Where are all the women in sailing?”

It sounds bold to assume that no women are taking part, but when you’re out there on start lines for the big events like Sydney-to-Hobart and the America’s Cup - it’s impossible to deny that female faces are few and far between. Of Team New Zealand’s 91 staff for the last cup campaign, five were women and none of them were part of the boat crew. The industry says the boats are too physical for women and most don’t have the

experience to sail them.

True or not, it’s easy to sit here and demand the industry step-up with profiling more women in the sport. But change often comes from the grassroots level, providing opportunities from the bottom in order to feed upwards progression. We’ve got some incredibly talented female sailors in the club, whose achievements I had not heard about until recently. Let us introduce them...

Name: Trish Beken

Boats: Chico Too – a Chico 30, and previously Wishbone, a Reactor 25

How did you start sailing?

I was offered a job and immigrated to NZ in 1997 on my own. I joined clubs to meet people and someone told me about the Friday Special Series so I joined RYC and signed up. After 2 years of Friday Special and crewing for RYC members, I plucked up enough



courage to buy Wishbone, with the advice and support of RYC members.

Who are your favourite sailors/role models?

Kay Cottee, Naomi James, Emma Richards, Ellen MacArthur, Isabelle Autissier, Tami Oldham, Joshua Slocum, Robin Knox-Johnston, Pete Goss (to name a few).

Do you follow competitive sailing?

It is great that modern technology has made trackers so easy to have, it is fascinating to watch on the screen all the boats competing not just in big races but also local ones like Route 66 and Coastal Classic, and now even some Hauraki Gulf races.

Personal sailing achievements:

The Solo Trans-Tasman race took the most courage but my first Coastal Classic came a close second, as I had far less experience then, followed by the first time I ever sailed Wishbone on my own - there was quite a bit of psyching up before I let go of the mooring line!

Another achievement I am proud of is learning to hand-start Wishbone's first engine when on my own - I didn't have the strength to crank it with just one hand whilst holding the decompression lever with the other, so I devised a system involving a piece of elastic, a pulley and my ankle so I could crank with both hands and let the decompression lever go at the crucial moment by lifting my leg.

Name: Parizad Dantra

Boats: Harken (MRX), Hydraulink (MRX)

How did you start sailing?

I started sailing as part of Sea Cadets back in India - I was 12 and I was hooked. I have taken every opportunity to say yes to sailing ever since. I started sailing by accident and I keep sailing by design.

Who are your favourite sailors/role models?

Peter Burling - his calmness in the face



of competition is something to aspire to.

Do you follow competitive sailing?

Yes – any events – but mostly America’s Cup. More competitive sailing events should be televised.

Personal sailing achievements:

My proudest achievement so far is putting a team of girls together to sail the MRX nationals. Most of these young ladies had no prior sailing experience – but what I knew to be true was proven – a love of sailing and a keen-ness to learn can turn an ordinary land-lubber into a rum-drinking sailor. We have now been sailing for two years and we are only getting better with time.

Other fun facts:

I once sailed a nationals with 55 boats and we were the only girls’ team. Taken for the fairer more docile sex – it was a lot of fun seeing the boys’ expressions when we used to sail past them and were extremely competitive at mark roundings and the start line. We made a couple of boats capsize – they were so shocked when we yelled for waters round marks.

Name: Nicole Steven

Boats:

Own: HobieCat 16 – named Hobie-Wan Catnobi
Sail with: Hydraulink ladies crew led by Parizad

How did you start sailing?

I was introduced to sailing by my boyfriend who joined Hydraulink (MRX) in the 2017 winter sailing regattas. He took me along one day and I got to do some trimming. After seeing my bruises that night, he brought me gloves and knee pads, and invited



me along again. I didn’t grow up in a sailing or boating family, but I love the outdoors and was hooked.

Who are your favourite sailors/role models?

I don’t follow any famous sailors currently, but all the women in the MRX races are very talented (and ballsy – oh my gosh, the starting line antics are crazy).

I watch the other bow-woman to see if I can pick up any techniques. I think it’s really important to have all women sailing together, because it gives you a chance to do roles and tasks which, in mixed-group sailing, sometimes the men take ownership of.

Other fun facts:

On our Hobicat, we have strapped camping gear and food to the trampoline and gone on overnight camping trips with it in the Bay of Islands and to Motutapu Island! ■

Look out for Part II in a future issue of Plain Sailing...

A DELIVERY TRIP TO NAPIER

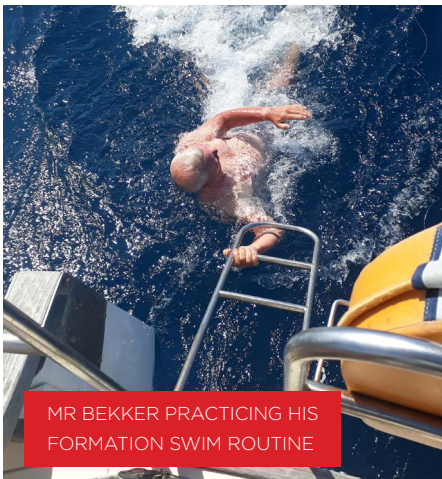
BY MARK BECROFT AND KEITH BEKKER

It all started a couple of months earlier with an email from a stranger: “Was I interested in sailing a Lotus 9.2 to Napier?”

The owner, an inexperienced sailor, had moved to Napier and now wanted help to sail his boat down the coast.

Keith and I got the boat keys from Westhaven Marine Brokers and gave the boat the once-over. She looked pretty sound. We removed the furling genoa to have a new UV strip fitted, helped to anti-foul the hull and made ready for the trip. A date in mid-March was chosen to fit in with our various racing and RYC commitments.

We motored out of the marina on a Thursday afternoon and continued to



MR BEKKER PRACTICING HIS FORMATION SWIM ROUTINE

motor on through the afternoon and evening and early morning. Sunset on the oily waters was amazing as the eastern sea rolled slowly through tones of turquoise and mauve.

We went around the top of Colville just before dusk and set a course between Cuvier Island and Great Mercury. It seemed easy to hold our course as there was a white light showing towards the eastern end of Great Mercury and the lighthouse was clear on Cuvier. Unfortunately, the white light on GM came closer and was later joined by a red light. We had to throttle back as a large fishing boat powered across our bow. We found a suitable star to steer by and made it safely past the Mercs.

At 07:30 on Friday morning we finally hoisted the sails just off the Alderman Islands and sailed off with a 12 kt nor'easter. By 14:30 the iron genoa was rumbling again as there wasn't enough breeze to push us through the confused seas. We were amazed to see a flying fish skipping across the tops of the waves near White Island.

We rumbled up to East Cape in the middle of the night and got quite confused when a white flashing light appeared off the port bow. After hastily checking the chart, we decided it must be a fishing buoy. We did not bother checking the chart for the next three hours. At daybreak we saw a couple of large fishing boats coming towards us. The longline was probably theirs. Soon after that we rumbled past a seal relaxing on the oily calm surface of the sea.

We motored and motor-sailed through Saturday and the breeze finally filled in as we headed in past Mahia Peninsula

at daybreak on Sunday. It was a lovely reach all the way into Napier. We had the deep-sea fishing line over the back and managed to pull in three tuna as we raced across Hawkes Bay. Filleting them was uncomfortable. I put a cushion against the leeward sheet winch to lean against and worked in the scuppers. I had got up to five fillets when Keith commented that there were only three fillets to go. With that, he pulled in a nice Bonito. I told him to pull the line in after that. I had a sore chest the next day from leaning on the winch.

We berthed the boat at Napier Marina and helped to set up the mooring lines so that we knew the boat was safe. We marinated the fish in brown sugar, flew back to Auckland the next afternoon and smoked the fish before the RYC committee meeting that evening.

Sadly, we did not have enough breeze during the trip to teach the owner how to sail. ▶

2018-19 VINING SINGLE-HANDED SERIES

BY RICHARD LIMBRICK

Once again we were fortunate to have the support of Vining's for this season.

Without the commitment of such a generous and supportive naming sponsor this series wouldn't have been as successful as it has been. Kiwi

Yachting and Mariner Insurance have also been significant supporters of the series over the last few years and as a group we are also indebted to Kate for the amazing support that she provides on behalf of the Richmond Yacht Club.

The final race of the series, hosted by Devonport Yacht Club in April, marked the end of another successful single-handed season. The series has grown from strength to strength over the last six years with newcomers, as well as the regular enthusiasts, making up the fleet.

This last series involved the 16 series entrants competing in a range of races from shorter inner gulf and harbour races through to the Route 66 and Coastal Classic.

The opening weekend, hosted by the Ponsonby Cruising Club, heralded light winds leading to the shortening of the courses on both days. The fleet overnighted at Bucklands Beach Marina before resuming racing again on the Sunday. These away weekends have proved popular with contestants.

The third race of the series was hosted by Richmond with the fleet testing their skills around a harbour course.

The fourth race was hosted by Bucklands Beach Yacht Club with the course, starting at Motukorea beacon, taking the fleet around Motuihe Island, up to Northern Leading Buoy and then back to Motukorea for the finish. The day started very light however as the fleet approached Northern Leading the breeze freshened giving a boisterous fetch back to the finish. The tide in the Sergeant Channel was strong with a number of boats just holding their own off the beacon. Black Hornet was the first to break the tidal grip with it only

requiring a slight puff to get it moving.

Christmas soon came which sees the skippers reconfiguring their boats for the summer cruise and a break in the single-handed calendar for a few weeks.

The first race of the New Year was the Richmond Yacht Club's Night Race to the Mahurangi. Darkness brings a new challenge for the single-hander and the stories of wrapped kites and tangled lines improved in the re-telling over a few rums, into the wee small hours. Bucklands Beach Yacht Club are superb hosts and the away weekend in February was, as always, a lot of fun.

Single-handers also made up a number of the Route 66 fleet however the very light winds on the day saw many take a shorter route to Kawau.

Congratulations to Pete on the Bondi Tram on his second placing, in the single-handed division, of this race.

Results-wise, consistency paid off and Andy sailing the Clandestine Jet emerged as the series winner with Alan on the Zilch second and Tony on the Monotone third. Alan on the Zilch was also the winner of the Bucklands Beach series with Manawa and Monotone second and third respectively.

Once again a huge thank you to our series sponsors and to the sponsors of the other single-handed series run by the participating clubs; Ponsonby Cruising Club, Bucklands Beach Yacht Club and Devonport Yacht Club. 2019-2020 is promising to be another challenging season. ■

BONDI TRAM AND
MONOTONE KICK OFF R66



SMALL COURTESIES ARE REALLY APPRECIATED

BY TRISH BEKEN

The tower and patrol boat crews work hard to make racing a pleasurable experience for skippers and crew.

We endeavour to get all the right flags up at the right times, accompanied by the correct sound signals. We carefully mark off every starter and check they all come back to the finish line. We do our best to select the most appropriate course (not always easy with our fickle weather!) and shorten it where necessary to get as many boats finished as possible. We take every care to get the correct finishing order and times, and swiftly enter them into the Top Yacht program so results are

ready for prize giving. We are certainly not perfect and everyone makes mistakes, but we do try hard to do the best job we can. Most of us have previously been active racers, which helps in giving us inside knowledge when trying to give you the best possible racing experience.

On the other hand, many skippers and crew have not been on our side of the fence so I thought I would let you in on some small courtesies that take very little time or effort on the part of skippers but would help to give us the best possible race management experience in return.

- Stay out of the ferry lane under the harbour bridge (see page 28 of the RYC handbook) - we are the ones who receive the complaints.
- Don't cross the start line when other divisions are starting or other boats





are finishing as you can obscure the view from the tower or finish boat, leading to uncertainty over who was over at the start or which boat was ahead in a close finish.

- Stay out of the start box when it is not your start (illustrated on page 24 of the RYC handbook) – not only is it inconsiderate to those who are about to start but it also makes it harder for the tower crew who are trying to record which boats are starters for each division.
- Report any incidents that happen out on the course to the Race Officer, so we are informed if we receive an external complaint.
- Let the Race Officer know if you retire from the race – this saves the finish crew from waiting needlessly in the tower or out on the finish line until the cut off time, and then spending time trying to track you down by radio and mobile to make sure you have not come to grief.

- Remember if you can't get us on VHF you can call or text our RYC mobile which is 021 276 4332 (text is better if we are in the process of starting or finishing at the time).
- Have your sail number on all appropriate sails with high contrast colours, and we really like easy-to-read boat names. ▶







RICHMOND YACHT CLUB

Officers

PRESIDENT **Hans Swete** - Transformer
COMMODORE **Mark Becroft** - Maggie May
VICE COMMODORE **Richard Limbrick** - Cool Change
REAR COMMODORE **Parizad Dantra** - Hydraulink MRX
TREASURER **Steve Morriss** - Belle
SECRETARY **Dagmar Bellamy**
CLUB MANAGER **Mark Becroft** - Maggie May
BUILDING MANAGER **Keith Bekker** - Manawa

General Committee

Jacky Bush
Jeremy Cope - Revolution Blues
Chris Crone
Jo Dooley
Gordon Dyer - Apparition
Tony Evans - Predator
Liz Henderson

Office Hours

ADMINISTRATOR **Kate Herstell** - Mintaka
Winter: Tues - Fri. 10am - 3pm. Summer: Tues - Fri. 10am - 4pm.

Richmond Yacht Club, Inc
Westhaven Seawall
173 Westhaven Drive
PO Box 46 324
Herne Bay, Auckland 1147

RYC Mobile: +64 21 276 4332
Office: +64 9 376 4332
Email: info@richmondyc.org.nz
Web: www.richmondyc.org.nz

Magazine

We would like to hear your stories and feedback! To submit news, stories or photos email us at: magazine@richmondyc.org.nz



Thank you to our generous sponsors.



NEW WORLD
Birkenhead

