

West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

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www.hyc.org.nz/zephyr

October 2005

Editorial

This is a rather business like West Wind, reflecting a busy few months at "ZOA HQ" in the aftermath of the AGM, held at Pt Chev Yacht Club. The minutes are here in West Wind.

AGM

A number of issues surfaced at the AGM, principally sail development and the building of new hulls. As you will see in the minutes, the AGM expressed concern at the ZOA Executives' decision to sell the test sails to class members and instructed us to re-possess them for sale outside the class. We have since recovered the sails from the people that bought them and replaced them with new ones. There was also concern that the proposed new sail could be superior to the old ones. There was quite a bit of email discussion between Chris McMaster and class members about following this meeting. As a result, I believe the following is the generally agreed specifications for the new sail. It is based on the bullet points Chris asked us to confirm

Specifications for the New Sail

- As far as possible, maintain the overall performance and appearance of existing class sail.
- Maintain existing luff and leech profiles from existing class sail.
- Modify panel shapes and sizes to allow ease of construction from a CAD cutter and assembly on the floor.
- Implement, but improve the reliability of the modified batten string tensioning system currently used.
- Increase clew tack and head patches in size to prolong sail shape and life.
- Remove foot darts/take-ups and introduce the shape with a seam "similar to the test sails".
- Maintain performance of current class sail, but smooth the shape out overall and accept that this will probably increase the speed slightly in medium range conditions and maintain performance in lower and upper range.
- Maintain existing batten lengths.
- Maintain current style of fabric 3.9oz med temper, but possibly look at alternative supplier to secure continuity of supply in the future. Coloured options should be available.
- Change manufacturer's logo to Doyle.

Russell Turner and Tim Snedden met with Chris McMaster recently. Tim Snedden reports; *"We are now in complete agreement as to what is required of the new sail (as per Rob's summary above) and he is totally happy with that and understands the need to press on with urgency. Doyle's will proceed with the design of the new sail and will build a cardboard "prototype" of the new sail which they will be able to hang up in the loft for us to get a visual comparison with one of the existing sails before proceeding to build the test sail itself. Russell had prepared very a thorough dossier of photos and measurements of his own setup under various static sheet loads and mast bend (forestay) settings which he has given*

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From The Pen of Alex Aitken National President



Hi everyone. Following the AGM at Pt Chevalier in July it's been all go. There has been a marked interest in the Zephyr yacht with its classic look. A number of sailors from the Murray's Bay Boating Club have ordered new hulls, and some have purchased or are looking around for Zephyrs in good condition to buy. Interest has gained momentum with the introduction of the 500 series, thanks to the keen interest and expertise of our ZOA builder, Robert Brooke.

Hull #501 was launched in a light breeze at Westhaven, supported by Tim Snedden in #259 and Colin Maddren in #253. The three-boat sailing event was recorded in the September publication of Boating New Zealand. If you missed the edition, the article is available on our web site.

Tim Snedden and Colin Maddren were also elected to the position of President and Secretary/Treasurer at the recent AGM of the Auckland Zephyr Owners, taking over the reins from Bob Allen who is still busy fronting the 50th Jubilee/National Contest Regatta organising committee. Russell Turner continues to look after the day to day business of ZOA trading for the Auckland/North Island area and continues his involvement with the new hulls and sail development.

As already mentioned, we had an unexpected degree of interest in new Zephyrs. As a result, and on Robert Brooke's recommendation, we appointed Wayne Olsen of Horizon Boats in Silverdale to produce a production run of 5 hulls. These have all been sold, three to Auckland, one to Hamilton and one to Wellington. The outcome of this move to a commercial boat builder will mean a price increase for future hulls which I will talk about in the trading corner.

We have an upsurge of interest in the Wellington district. Graham Rowe and Chris Hargreaves are busy renovating "Liquid Limit" #173 and "Tamatea" #313. A new hull, #507, is also heading to Wellington. With all this interest there is likely to be a very big fleet for the 50th Celebration at the Milford Cruising Club.

Thanks to Rob Ebert for upgrading our ZOA web site. There are an increasing number of hits on this site. Whilst it won't replace the quarterly newsletter "West Wind" this form of information gathering and sharing, along with e-mail, is vital as a communication tool. We are looking at streamlining our accounts subscription invoicing processes as time permits. ZOA subscriptions have been received from Canterbury and Auckland, many thanks. Can we all make an effort to pay ZOA and local subs by the end of November?

The Canterbury team travelling to Auckland for the Jubilee celebration have received a substantial grant from Pub Charity funding towards travel costs. Canterbury Zephyrs will advertise the container sponsor with boom stickers, tee shirts and banners at all major contests.

Alex Aitken

Zephyr Owners' Association (Inc)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Pt Chevalier Yacht Club

2030 hrs Wednesday, July 20th 2005

Attendance: A Aitken, (Chair) R Ebert (Secretary), N May (Patron), B Heathwaite, J Wallis, C Maddren, T Snedden, D Foley, M Hempleman, R Martin, G Gauger, R Dew, R Still, K Paine, G Bridges, B Hopwood, R Turner, *R Wilson, R Brooke, D Craig (non members)*

Apologies: A Retter, K Smith, Bob Allen, David and Ian Cook, D Currie. *Accepted Aitken/Ebert*

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous AGM held at the Point Chevalier Yacht Club in 2004 had been previously published in the West Wind and were taken as read. *Aitken/Ebert*

Matters Arising: Nil

President's Report: Circulated in West Wind and taken as read. *Accepted Aitken/Ebert*

Treasurer's Report: The accounts had been published in West Wind. A Aitken presented an audited set of accounts to the meeting and provided explanation on some items. *Accepted Snedden.* R Brooke commented that the charges listed for the mould in West Wind did not reflect the true cost of its construction.

Budget: A proposed budget had been circulated in West Wind. Alex Aitken commented on the allocation of \$1000 for a commemorative booklet for the Jubilee Regatta. It was felt that this amount should be made available to the Jubilee organising committee to assist in running the regatta. He then outlined a proposal to allocate up to \$2000 as a travel subsidy for sailors attending the regatta. After discussion it was proposed:

That the \$2000 proposed for the travel grant be added to the \$1000 budgeted for the AZO Jubilee Regatta. Paine/Bridges

Subscriptions: To remain at \$20 *Accepted Aitken/Maddren*

Election of Officers

Patron Noel May presented a model Zephyr transom with a half model of a Zephyr on it as the future National Championship Trophy. He hoped that it would be presented by Des Townson at the Jubilee Regatta. He accepted election to a further year as Patron, then excused himself from the meeting, as his wife was in hospital.

It was proposed: that the 49 winners be engraved on a plaque attached to the trophy. Paine/Bridges

In the absence of other nominations, the following Officers were elected unopposed. *Ebert/Paine*

Patron: Noel May

President: Alex Aitken

Secretary: Rob Ebert

Treasurer: Alex Aitken

Auditor: Richard Ineson

Regional Representatives:

AZO: Russell Turner

HAZO: Keith Paine

CZO: Peter Stokell

General Business:

1. President's Honorarium:

R Ebert spoke to the Notices of Motion contained in the Agenda:

"That the President be allocated an honorarium of \$250 for services rendered" R Ebert/P Stokell Carried.

2. Townson Plans

"That the ZOA seek the support of suitable charities to ensure that Des Townson's design drawings are appropri-

ately duplicated and stored securely" R Ebert/D Currie

3. National Championship 2004-05

The AZO Jubilee Organising Committee had met prior to the AGM. Russell Turner provided an update of the progress and issues to date:

- Permission for use of Reserve Land at Milford YC for container storage and for the use of Lake Pupuke as an alternative venue was in hand.
- Janet Watkin confirmed as Race Officer
- Preliminary Notice of Race prepared and circulated.
- Draft Budget prepared
- Social Programme underway
- Measurement at Contest discussed. A need was seen for all boats to have measuring certificates and be subject to spot checks.
- Sponsorship applications were discussed.

It was proposed that:

The ZOA, through the Auckland Zephyr Owners' Jubilee Regatta Organising Committee, apply to suitable charitable organisations and/or potential sponsors for financial assistance for the 2006 Jubilee Regatta. Moved Foley/Snedden, Carried.

4. Building Report

#501, by Robert Brooke of the new mould was on display at the meeting. It had been launched earlier in the day at Westhaven, with Life Members Des Townson and Barry Morley in attendance, for a Boating New Zealand Photo shoot (accompanied by Tim Snedden and Colin Maddren).

Richard Wilson, outgoing Commodore of Murray's Bay Yacht Club addressed the meeting. He had recently ordered a new Zephyr (#502) and this had sparked interest in the class. Up to 12 people were interested in Zephyrs, mostly parents with kids who sailed and who wanted to do some Wednesday night sailing themselves. Considerable discussion followed. It was felt that the demand for boats was unlikely to be met by the second hand market. A number of orders for new boats may eventuate and this could outstrip the current capacity for R Brooke's programme.

The meeting resolved to consider any proposal from potential Murray's Bay owners favourably. ZOA may require a modest deposit as confirmation of interest before it explores expansion of the current building programme.

The need to continue to protect the Zephyr "brand" from "rule benders" as has happened in the P and Starling classes was emphasized. The Association was in a position to appoint additional builders, or to allow individual builders to use the mould, but there were seen to be risks to the quality of the final product in doing this. The ZOA currently has no plans to do this. The appointment of additional boat builders would be with the advice of our current builder, Robert Brooke.

It was suggested that existing owners be written to with an invitation to dispose of their unused boats.

5. Presentation

R Brooke and R Turner were presented with "beverage" tokens of appreciation for their role in the building programme.

6. Sail Report

Progress on the sail re-design was related. Dennis Craig roundly criticised the recent letter from Chris McMaster in West Wind outlining his intentions for the sail, claiming that an improved sail was a possibility. A period of considerable discussion ensued, during which it was noted that Dennis was not a current financial member of the class. However, the meeting

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confirmed that it was not the ZOA's intention to change the performance of the sail, but to improve the consistency and reliability of its manufacture. ZOA's past communications to Doyle Sails had attempted to make this clear.

Points raised were that the test sail appeared faster in fresh conditions but not in the light.

The disposal of the test sails as legitimate Zephyr sails by the ZOA Executive also came in for considerable criticism resulting in a series of motions aimed at recovering them and withdrawing them from circulation.

They were:

1. *That the remaining test sail be sold subject to it not being used in national or regional regattas. Paine/Snedden Carried.*

As discussion progressed, it became apparent that the meeting was unhappy with the existing test sails being used as Zephyr sails, hence:

2. *That the remaining test sails be withdrawn from circulation (with the owner's consent) by offering their replacement with standard Zephyr sails. Ebert/Snedden Carried.*

As a consequence it was moved:

3. *That motion one be rescinded Paine/Ebert Carried.*

And that:

4. *The three test sails be disposed of outside the class. Snedden/Ebert. Carried*

7. Web Site

The new web site at www.hyc.org.nz/zephyr was commented upon and webmaster Rob Ebert congratulated on its appearance.

Meeting closed 2220 hrs.

Chris. Chris also wants to have a look at an existing sail under load in an actual sailing situation and we have pencilled in next Wednesday (12 October) for him to come out in Doyle's RIB and have a look at me sailing, subject of course to suitable weather (ideally moderate conditions).

Auckland Activity

Tim Snedden reports that Auckland sailors have just completed the AZO winter series run by Pt Chevalier Sailing Club. A total of 11 boats turned up at various times during the 10 race series held fortnightly over 5 Sundays, with fleets of around 9 boats on most days. The glorious Auckland winter weather ensured that no race days were cancelled and the fleet enjoyed a variety of conditions from 5 - 20 knots.

Results: 1st #259 Tim Snedden, 2nd #253 Colin Maddren, 3rd=#203 Bruce Hopwood, 3rd=#15 Tony Miller.

The summer season kicks off on 16 October at French Bay. Some 17 race days planned with Murray's Bay Sailing Club included in the AZO programme reflecting the significant new group of owners emanating from that club. The Auckland Champs are tentatively set down for the last weekend in April.

Hamilton Happenings

Not much to report so far, with HYC opening about now. A group of sailors supported the Tauranga Winter Series. Jim Gilpin has moved from Hamilton to Tauranga, taking his Zephyr with him to boost the fleet there. Jim had a couple of seasons in Hamilton, promptly naming the rigging area be-

Trading Corner

New Hulls

As indicated elsewhere, we have had to lift the price of new hulls, stage one, to \$3950 (this take effect from #508). The main increase has been in the cost per hour, GST, and the glue per hull has increased from \$185 to \$245. Once we moved to a commercial boat building environment, it became clear that our initial figures for building new hulls were unrealistic.

Blue Streak Sail battens

We have had to increase the price to \$223 per set. The alternative at this stage would be to buy lengths of local made batten material and spend considerable time in shaping. It appears from the sale figures that most owners prefer to purchase the ready shaped product. We know that these battens are not ideally suited to the sail, being a bit on the stiff side, but we don't have any other source at present. Alternative suggestions would be welcome.

Sail Development

This is ongoing and we hope to have a prototype to evaluate at the National Championship. Meanwhile, I am ordering batches of standard sails to keep up with increasing demand.

Comment

Due to time factor and lack of do-it-yourself skills more owners are turning to professional trades people to renovate and paint hulls. If you look at our web site you will see a furniture maker with router equipment that can turn out centre boards and rudder blades at a reasonable figure. Also Alex Drysdale in Christchurch is offering Zephyr foils, see his ad in the Canterbury yachting handbook.

Financial Scene

We need more contributions from subscriptions to balance the administration expenses. The trading side is and should be self funding. According to the ASB savings account the closing balance at 27 September was \$11684.07. The aim is to distribute funds for the benefit of the Zephyr class and not just accumulate it in the bank. Your ZOA executive would welcome some input on this subject.

tween the club house and lockers "Bullshit Alley" reflecting the nature of the pre and post race banter that occurred there.

Canterbury Capers

The season has opened in the deep south, with the first Estuary Pennants completed, won by Don Le Page, clearly back in action after shoulder surgery kept him out of the Akaroa Nationals. Southern weather means that only the hardy sailors are active yet, but there are plenty of signs of life otherwise. Peter Drummond tracked down and re-launched #321, *Alcyone*, built in the early 1980s and rarely sailed. It was in mint condition.

Canterbury sailors are already well prepared for the Jubilee Regatta with sponsorship and travel arrangements well in hand.

Notice of Race

The National Champs NOR is included. The layout has been modified to make it fit the page. The original and the entry form are available on our web site.

Rob Ebert

Zephyr Sail for Sale

Six years old, one careful senior sailor. Good general condition. \$150 ono.

Contact: Ron Mackie ph 03 313 6498 or fax 03 313 7098

**2006 Zephyr Class
National Championship and
50th Jubilee Regatta
Milford Cruising Club, North Shore City
3rd – 6th February 2006**

The Organising Authority is Milford Cruising Club
PO Box 31027, Milford, North Shore City
in conjunction with Takapuna Boating Club.

Notice of Race

1.0 Rules

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* 2005-2008.
1.2 The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations Part 1 shall apply.
1.3 The Organising Authority will require all participating boats to display the event sponsor's advertising in accordance with Appendix 1, Regulation 20.3.1 (d).

2.0 Changes to Racing Rules

The Racing Rules will be changed in accordance with rule 86 as follows:

- 2.1 For protests where only a rule of Part 2 is alleged to have been broken, an arbitration hearing will be offered prior to any formal hearing.

3.0 Changes to the Class Rules

There are no changes to the class rules.

4.0 Eligibility and Entry

- 4.1 The regatta is open to all boats of the Zephyr class.
4.2 Advance entries will be accepted until the normal closing date of 31st December 2005, by completing the attached entry form accompanied by a fee of \$60 and mailing it to the Regatta Secretary, 1/25 Imogene Way, Half Moon Bay, Auckland. Cheques shall be payable to the Auckland Zephyr Owners Association.
4.3 Late entries, accompanied by the late entry fee of \$80 may be accepted at the Race Committee's discretion, until 1000hrs on Friday 3rd February 2006.
4.4 Each entrant shall submit a copy of a valid measurement certificate, which shall accompany the entry form.
4.5 To be eligible to compete in the national championship each competitor shall be a financial member of a club recognised by the competitor's national authority.
4.6 Each competitor in the national championship shall be a current financial member of the Zephyr Owners Association.
4.7 There is no entry fee and no eligibility requirement for the Jubilee Sailpast event.

5.0 Schedule of Events

- 5.1 *Registration:* Friday 3rd February 2006 from 0800 hrs to 1000 hrs at Milford Cruising Club.

- 5.2 *Briefing:* Friday 3rd February 2006 at 1000 hrs at Milford Cruising Club.
5.3 *Racing Schedule:* A total of 9 races are scheduled. The Jubilee Sailpast will not count towards the national championship.
6.0 Sailing Instructions
The Sailing Instructions will be available at registration on Friday 3rd February 2006.

Schedule of Races

Date	Warning signal	No. of races
Friday 3 rd Feb 2006	1200 hrs	3
Saturday 4 th Feb 2006	1000 hrs	Jubilee Sail Past
Saturday 4 th Feb 2006	1300 hrs	2
Sunday 5 th Feb 2006	1000 hrs	3
Monday 6 th Feb 2006	1000 hrs	1

7.0 Racing Area

The races will be held on the Hauraki Gulf in the proximity of Milford Beach, or, in the event of untenable weather conditions in the Hauraki Gulf, the racing area will be on Lake Pupuke at the discretion of the Race Officer.

8.0 Courses to be Sailed

The course(s) will be triangular and/or windward/leeward.

9.0 Scoring

- 9.1 Five races will be required to be completed to constitute a series.
9.2 Competitors worst score will be excluded after 6 races have been completed and competitors two worst scores will be excluded when 9 races have been completed.

10.0 Prizes

- 10.1 The following prizes will be awarded:
Zephyr Championship Trophy
Zephyr Championship runner-up
Zephyr handicap trophy
Zephyr Championship – female
Zephyr Masters Champion – 60 years and over
Zephyr agegroup Champion – 50 to 59 years
Zephyr agegroup Champion – 40 to 49 years
Invitation race winner

11.0 Team Support Boats

- 11.1 Team support boats will be permitted but must register with the Organising Authority at Registration.

THE ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

National President

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National Secretary

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SUBSCRIPTIONS 2005-2006

Subscriptions for 2005-6 are \$20 for the NZZOA, and \$10 for local associations in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch. If you are outside these areas, the \$20 NZZOA sub can be forwarded to Alex Aitken, or Rob Ebert

Practice for the Nationals!

*Simulate Big Fleet Sailing
Dirty Air, Limited Option Taking.*

**Zephyr Weekend
Hamilton Yacht Club**

November 19th and 20th, 2005

Six Races over two days

\$15 entry

NOR on ZOA Web Site

ebertr@wave.co.nz