

West Wind

The Newsletter of the NZ Zephyr Owners' Association

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Auckland Zephyr Championships French Bay May 7 – 8th 1999.

Eleven boats contested the Auckland Zephyr Championships, hosted by French Bay Boating Club over the weekend of May 7 – 8th 1999.

Three races were held on Saturday, with a final race part of Sunday club racing. Weather conditions on Saturday were ideal. A SW breeze filled in with the tide and was probably about 8 – 12 knots for most of the races. Race 1, a triangle/windward/leeward/windward, got underway in a good hiking breeze. A bit of a melee on the starting line prompted by a sharp luff from Alan Retter enabled Alan Retter, Don Waterer and Dennis Craig to start in clear air, leaving Bob Allen, Rob Ebert and Keith Smith locked together in irons! The right hand side of the course, out of the incoming tide clearly paid off initially, and Alan Retter went on to a narrow win over Dennis Craig and Don Waterer, suggesting the competition would be keen! Bob Allen showed good boat speed, and made up several places by sailing up the middle of the course.

Race 2 was a windward/leeward. Improved starts by Rob Ebert and Bob Allen saw them take a middle course. Rob Ebert rounded ahead of Bob, well ahead of the remainder of the fleet, who stuck with the previously favoured right hand side. The run to the finish was closely contested, with Rob Ebert winning by virtue of a couple of surfable waves close to the line.

Race 3, a windward/leeward/windward, saw the fleet more spread out across the course. Bob Allen, who had shown good boat speed all day, rounded the first mark ahead of Alan Retter and Rob Ebert and never looked threatened. The end of the first day's racing saw Alan Retter, Bob Allen, Rob Ebert and Don Waterer together in a narrow points band.

Race 4 on Sunday was the decider. The wind was slow to arrive, requiring a delayed start of about 45 minutes. Race Officer Bill Falconer began the start sequence at the first hint of a breeze, and was rewarded by a 3-5 knot westerly which filled across the course just in time for the start. Bob Allen, Alan Retter and George Clark had the best of the first beat, with Rob Ebert and Don Waterer not far behind. A few seconds only separated the first few boats, with Alan Retter's win over Bob Allen, George Clark, Rob Ebert and Don Waterer enough to secure the championship.

Handicap honors went to class newcomers George Clark, followed by Phillip Welham with Waiuku Commodore and 1998 Nationals host Mike O'Connell third.

Class veterans Ted Frankham and Keith Smith made their own contributions to the event. Ted compiled the results and Keith celebrated a seventy-something birthday on Sunday duly acknowledged by a cake and chorus of Happy Birthday at the prize giving! George Clark demonstrated his

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FROM THE PEN OF ALEX AITKEN National President



The scene in Zephyr circles has slowed down. Canterbury and Hamilton have finished sailing for the 98/99 season and have gone into a state of hibernation. Auckland, I believe extend their season through to June.

The next happening in the calendar is a round of AGMs of local associations and the national body. May 31st is the cut off date for the Zephyr Owners' Association annual balance and during the month of June I will prepare the accounts for Richard Ineson to audit.

In discussion with Rob Ebert we have pencilled in a date for early August to present the annual report and the venue is likely to be Hamilton. The 1998 AGM in Christchurch was well attended and the Executive looks forward to a good turnout this year. Hopefully, Auckland and Waiuku will send through a car load each to show your support. Rob Ebert is in charge of the date and venue.

I had the opportunity to visit Auckland in April and attended a meeting of the Auckland Zephyr Owners. Around 10/12 owners attended the meeting at French Bay Boating Club chaired by Rhys Burton. Rob Ebert also travelled up from Hamilton to attend. Garth Naulls (Commodore of the French Bay Club), gave an overview of the past, present, and future membership of the club and where the senior fleet of Zephyr sailors and boats fit into the scheme. I was impressed with figures quoted that indicated an upsurge of junior and family membership. This is good news for the ongoing viability of the club. My thanks to Garth for showing concern and interest for the well being of the Auckland fleet.

The pattern of trading in sails, masts and rigging has been very pleasing. We expect to make a reasonable profit and the proceeds will help to boost our overall funds. We are down to two new sails in stock (one for alloy mast and one for a wooden mast). The current retail is \$525.00. If you are contemplating a new sail for the coming season please put your order in. The next batch of six will increase the individual retail price to \$585.00. There have been fluctuating increases in the price of sail cloth which the manufacturer has absorbed in the past season. Requests have been made for coloured sails. Boyd and McMaster will make these for a retail of \$585.00 providing the cloth is available in New Zealand and is made with a batch order. If coloured cloth has to be imported specially or an order is received for a one off sail then the retail will be \$675.00. Please note that ZOA receives a discount for placing a bulk order. The net profit to your association in dollar terms after admin costs is approximately \$35.00 per sail.

Spars and Rigging - Barry Saunders of Bay of Islands

(Continued on page 2)

Andy Holland on Sailing

Two questions I am often asked are; Why are you still sailing? And why do I sail a Zephyr? I sail because I enjoy the sport and after 50 years I am "still trying to work it out"! Why do I sail a Zephyr?. Number one, it is a great boat for young and old - what other class do you see 20 year olds

Andy Holland is a well known Canterbury yachting. He is a life member of the Waimakariri Sailing and Power Boat Club and the current owner of Zephyr #77 Irritate. He is a very experienced sailor with experience in a wide range of classes over the years, latterly the Phoenix, Zephyr and Sunburst. Andy is always giving encouragement and friendly advice on how to read the wind, current and tides, and pay attention to

batTLing it out with fifty plus skippers for the top positions?, - and number two it promotes great comradeship among all the competitors.

The hardest thing for me is to see new members in the class trying to be competitive straight away and becoming discontented and losing interest in sailing when they don't finish at the top of the fleet. Remember, you are sailing against top sailors all

of whom have been sailing many classes for years, so patience is important as success won't happen over night but it will with time. Here are some pointers that I would like to share with you.

- You must have boat speed, which means if you buy an old boat it must be light in weight with excellent spars, sails, foils and boat finish. If you can't do this, then buy a top boat with all the above, it could be cheaper (believe me!).
- You have to be prepared to sail as much as possible, not just racing. It is worthwhile getting out in all conditions especially the types you are not confident in, and just work it out in your own time. Never be afraid to ask others for advice.
- The most important part of any class is the start. "Top Start" equals "Top Finish". However you must stay in contact. Remember there is not much difference in boat speed, so you must keep within contact or you will drift off the pace and settle back in your old position. This is not always an easy task but remember a good way to defend your position is to stay "to weather and ahead" and keep your eyes open. Watch for sail shape, i.e: twist in the sails, how flat your boat is, what knocks and lifts are others getting. This is the time to learn so don't waste it. When I said "stay in contact and protect your position" time and again you see a bottom place boat get a good start and sail really well for a lap or more then they disappear. Sometimes it is because of a "flyer" being taken. (Flyer: this is when you get on a good lift and keep going until you're well outside the rumb line). Remember, lifts are great but at some stage you must get back, so stay within contact as the success rate of a flyer is about 1 in 10, but when it does come off the gains are huge.
- We would all like to sail in "our" conditions, but as we know this doesn't happen (especially when you really need it!). So tune your boat to suit medium weather and in the light and heavy conditions work hard. Concentrate in the light and Finish in the heavy.

(Auckland Champs Report continued from page 1)

enthusiasm for the class by going for a pre-race sail on Sunday, only to return sheepishly confessing to leaving his bungs out. It required a strong crew to lift his boat back on the cradle and the volume of water exiting his transom had bystanders muttering about Resource Management Act consents!

Race Officer Bill Falconer wasn't called upon to make too many hard decisions, and appeared to enjoy himself to the extent of musing that he thought he could see himself in a Zephyr! Non sailing AZO Secretary Rhys Burton, plus local skipper Andrew Geddes and ex Cantabrian Daniel Jamieson lent their support to the Saturday night barbecue, and French Bay generally made us welcome.

The local city council supported the event by resealing the road past the club. Unfortunately their timing was a bit off, so we had to wend our way past the heavy machinery laying the asphalt to get to the rigging area!

(President's Report continued from page 1)

Spars and Rigging confirms he has one mast and boom section in stock and delivery is around two weeks. The price remains stable for this coming season.

Cedar hull #258. This is now on display at the French Bay Boating Club, Titirangi. The price is \$2800.00 ex Auckland. I have contemplated offering terms through the association to prospective buyers and would welcome enquires. Contact Dennis Craig 09 817 3150 or Rhys Burton 09 817 7548.

Daniel Jamieson (#325 Bad News) and newly married, has shifted from Christchurch to live in Glen Eden just over the hill from French Bay. Daniel is very competitive and is likely to knock some of the top fliers off their perch.

Christchurch Zephyr Skippers can look forward to a Wine Tasting and Prize Giving evening planned for June to be held at the Christchurch Yacht Club. Geoff Hutt is publishing details. Looking forward to this social event.

Boatex'99 will be held at the Westpac Trust Centre, Addington, Christchurch, 27-29 August 1999. This is an opportunity for Canterbury Clubs to promote themselves and the Zephyr Class will be featured.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes with the Zephyr Class so let's all work towards making the 99/2000 season even better.

Trading Corner: In my Presidents Report to the AGM, I make reference to making sure that the trading section returned a surplus. Thank you all for your support.

In the past trading year we sold:-

- 8 new sails
 - 2 sets of battens
 - 4 alloy masts
 - 3 alloy booms
 - sundry rigging
 - 1 cedar hull #257.
- We have in stock:-
- 1 cedar hull #258
 - 1 fixed gooseneck
 - 1 mast plug
 - 1 sail for wooden mast (\$525.00)
 - 1 sail for alloy mast (\$525.00)

The new batch of sails will sell for \$585.00 each.

Auckland Zephyr Championship Points French Bay, May 7 - 8 1999										Auckland Zephyr Championships Handicap Points					
Skipper	1		2		3		4		Total	Skipper	1	2	3	4	Total
	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place							
A Retter	0	1	10	5	3	2	0	1	13	G Clark	3	15	5.7	0	23.7
B Allen	8	4	3	2	0	1	3	2	14	P Welham	17	0	0	16	33
R Ebert	10	5	0	1	5.7	3	8	4	23.7	M O'Connell	11.7	5.7	11.7	8	37.1
D Waterer	3	2	5.7	3	8	4	10	5	26.7	E Frankham	15	8	3	15	41
D Craig	5.7	3	14	8	10	5	15	9	44.7	B Still	10	10	8	14	42
G Clark	11.7	6	15	9	13	7	5.7	3	45.4	K Smith	13	3	13	13	42
B Still	13	7	8	4	11.7	6	13	7	45.7	A Retter	8	17	15	3	43
M O'Connell	14	8	11.7	6	14	8	11.7	6	51.4	B Allen	14	14	10	5.7	43.7
K Smith	15	9	13	7	16	10	14	8	58	D Waterer	5.7	12.35	17	11.7	46.8
E Frankham	16	10	17	11	15	9	16	10	64	D Craig	0	16	14	17	47
P Welham	17	11	16	10	17	11	17	11	67	R Ebert	16	12.35	16	10	54.4

Canterbury Zephyr Sailing 1998-99 Season

Russell Wenham, Racing Secretary

The 1998-99 season was a busy one for local skippers with South Island, Canterbury and National Championships being held in the region. As well as these events, the Estuary Pennants series was also sailed, leaving only a few days for club racing. This is a problem that the Canterbury Yachting Association has been discussing and Zephyr sailors may notice a change in the 99/2000 program.

There was one dominant feature of the season, this being the white hulled Zephyr with number 309 on the sail. Glen McKenzie was in a class of his own as he dominated the seasons events. Glen's results in an older non-cedar hull puts paid to the theory that to be competitive a cedar hull was the only way to go. Daniel Jamieson in "Bad News" (325) also sailed consistently well in an older boat.

Other encouraging signs for the class was the number of skippers updating their rigs and sails. A number of older boats have been restored and given new lives in the hands of Trevor Wenham and Peter Crofts.

New faces seen in the Zephyrs, albeit in borrowed boats, were Wayne Cook sailing Ron Mackie's "Windbag 2" while Ron gets over knee replacement surgery, and Sue Coombe sailing "Zippy" while Sandy Hammond gets over having a child. So far Sue has proved to be a light wind flyer. Other guest appearances have come from Laser sailors Bruce Adams and Jason Russell.

Another notable feature of the season has been the closing up of the fleet. The competition and skill level of the bunch has markedly improved. This is due to a number of boats regularly racing and retaining and improving their fleet positions. It is not uncommon to see boats out sailing on the sly in the evenings. Hello Jeremy and Louise!

I hope that all Zephyr skippers have a warm winter and those of you who have not had their boats out for a while, dust them off and take them out for a sail. It's not until you get out in your boat that you realise how much fun these yachts are to sail. Remember Zephyrs like the water not the land!

Winter racing on the Christchurch Estuary has got underway. Light easterly and sunshine greeted a fleet of twenty five boats for the first in a series of four races over the winter period. Mount Pleasant Yacht Club is hosting the series. Ron Mackie, Peter Croft, Russell Wenham (sporting

a new sail), Alex Aitken and Robin Ward made up the Zephyr team. Ron is trying his hand after a fourteen month absence. Despite the fact that Ron is struggling to regain form after knee operations he lead the Zephyr fleet in all three back to back races. Richard Ineson was there with his Laser and Graeme Hore sailed his new Sunburst. Dates for the next three races in the series:- June 20, 1010 hrs. July 25, 1430 hrs. and August 22, 1300 hrs.

If the conditions and time are right, you are most welcome to join the fleet. There is a charge of \$4.00 per day, part of this

Canterbury "Zephyr" programme for 1999/2000

This is a sneak preview of the programme that will be printed in the CYA Handbook. Give it some thought and pencil in the events you would like to participate in. Keep in mind the weekend at Pigeon Bay and make that a family, social time. The Masters Games in Dunedin is well worth considering. We had a fleet of eleven Zephyrs in 98 and it turned out to be a great social event.

Date	Event	Club
October 03	Estuary Pennants 1	MPYC
October 16	Zephyr Canterbury Champs 1	CYC
October 30	Zephyr Canterbury Champs 2	MPYC
November 21	Estuary Pennants 2	MPYC
December 11	Zephyr South Island Champs	PBBC
December 12	Zephyr South Island Champs	PBBC
January 30	Zephyr Canterbury Champs 3 & 4	WSPBC
February 5	Waitangi Weekend Masters Games	Dunedin
February 13	Estuary Pennants 3	MPYC
February 20	Canterbury Champs 5,6&7 Canterbury 2000 Regatta	CYMBC
March 5	Canterbury Interclub Match Racing	WSPBC
March 12	Estuary Pennants 4	MPYC

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South Island Zephyr Championships 1998-99		
G McKenzie	Pilatus	1
D le Page	Front Runner	2
D Jamieson	Bad News	3
R Ineson	Wave Dancer	4
B Beere	Echo	5
J Wearne	Twilight	6

Canterbury Zephyr Championships 1998-99		
G McKenzie	Pilatus	1
D le Page	Front Runner	2
R Ineson	Wave Dancer	3
D Jamieson	Bad News	4
B Beere	Echo	5
A Holland	Irritate	6

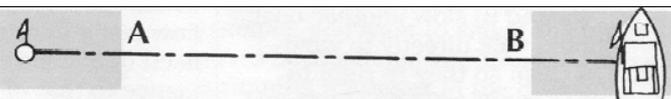
Oborns Nautical Estuary Pennants 1998-99		
G McKenzie	Pilatus	1
A Holland	Irritate	2
J Wearne	Twilight	3
R Ineson	Wave Dancer	4
G Mantell	Accolade	5
H Thomas	No Idea	6

Tactical Tips

Adapted from Speed and Smarts #50

At the start, avoid the ends of the line.

The start of the race is not usually the time to take a lot of risks. With the whole race in front of you, the goal should be to get a good, clear air start that will allow you to follow your strategy. Try to stay away from the ends of the line. The areas near the pin and committee boat are usually congested and offer a reduced probability of accomplishing the above goals. At almost every start, rule out the shaded areas in the diagram



above and think of the starting line in terms of A to B. This is a conservative approach that gives a high probability of a good, (but not great) start.

Hamilton Happenings

The yachting season is well and truly over here in Hamilton. The Prize Giving has come and gone. Roger Walker cleaned up at the Prize Giving, taking the Club Champs for the umpteenth year in a row, but he did not have things all his own way on the race track throughout the season. The Zephyr class has seen some good racing and some good fun this season. The winds have been generally light, the notable exception being the closing regatta which got blown out, costing Rob Ebert a broken mast.

A couple of boats have changed hands and #100 has moved back to Hamilton, so we hope to see some more new faces in the class next year.

With Prize Giving and then our club AGM out of the way, it was down to winter activities. Zephyr skippers were well represented at the HYC golf match, held recently. About thirty people, golfers and non golfers braved an overcast day for several hours at Westlands Golf course out to the west of Hamilton, and recovered with a lunch and prize giving back at the club. Some of our more senior fleet members are pretty handy on the golf course.

The ZOA Annual General Meeting is down for Hamilton this year, on August 10th. The quorum is ten people, so it will be up to the local ZOA members to make this an official meeting!

ZEPHYR OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Voting for Proposed Amendment to Zephyr Class Rules

General feeling at the 1998 Annual General Meeting in Christchurch was that the requirement for deckposts could be omitted from the Class Rules. The following amendment is therefore proposed to Rule 2.1.1.

*Hulls shall be supplied with deck beams, gunwales, carlins, deckposts, centretwart, centrecase and mast step permanently fitted. Deckposts are optional (delete **where there is an immediately adjacent bulkhead**). No alteration to the hull as supplied shall be permitted except as provided for herein.*

A Notice supporting the above amendment has been signed by six registered owners. A proposed rule change must be approved by two-thirds of the registered owners who have voted. Details must be circulated to all registered owners at least six weeks before a vote is taken (*see West Wind October 1998*).

I support the proposed changes to Rule 2.1.1 making deckposts optional. Yes No (*Circle your preference*)

I declare that I am a financial member of the Zephyr Owners' Association.

Name:

Boat Number:

Address:

Boat Name:

Date:

Return to Rob Ebert, 25 Hibiscus Ave, Hamilton, by 10 August 1999.