

Twilight Race 11th January

This week's twilight race was held in ideal conditions. The breeze held constant from the east at 8-10 knots. Four of our regulars ventured out and were joined by a surprise entry, a brand new boat on its first ever sail. This was Scott Sharp's new boat *Crusader*, a 30 foot Elliot, which was given a handicap that started the yacht 2 minutes after *Another Girl, Another Planet (AGAP)*. *Sea Gems* started at 6.03 and *Sabre* 9 minutes after that, then *French Connection* at 6.25 and *AGAP* at 6.34. The Course set was from the start/finish line to the Bullock Point buoy, to the Hospital Bay buoy, then back to the start/finish line, three laps.

By the end of the first lap *Sea Gems*, *Sabre* and *French Connection* were still in the order they had started, but *Crusader* had overtaken *AGAP* and was 1 minute ahead. As *Sea Gems* approached the start/finish line at the end of the 2nd lap, Race officials Pam Mann and Pauline Evans realised that the course would have to be shortened, to conform with the time constrictions, so the decision was made to change the course of the last (3rd lap) to the shorter (Sausage) leg from the start/finish line to the mid river buoy and back to the finish line. By this time *Sea Gems* was still ahead of *Sabre* by 3 minutes, next was *Crusader* 1 minute behind *Sabre*. *AGAP* followed 5 minutes *Crusader* and just 6 seconds ahead of *French Connection*.

As all the yachts approached the finish line, Tony Cumberbridge skipper of *Sea Gems*, said he had been so intent on determining where *Sabre* was in relation to their position that he hadn't realised how close *Crusader* was to them. *Crusader* crossed the finish line 1 minute ahead of *Sea Gems* and *Sabre* crossed just 2 minutes after them. Next was *AGAP* another 3 minutes later and *French Connection* another minute on. Another exciting finish with all the boats within 6 minutes of each other. As *Crusader* was not entered for the Twilight series the results were first *Sea Gems*, second *Sabre*, third *AGAP* and *French Connection* fourth.

The third Maclaren race (Huon Island Race) was held on Sunday 14th January. The course was from the Port Cygnet start line around Huon Island and back to Port Cygnet. The Four yachts from the Huon Yacht Club competed and these were *Crusader*, *Another Girl, Another Planet (AGAP)*, *French Connection* and *The Yoop*. *Crusader*, showing her style and speed, was first over the line but was placed second on handicap, with *AGAP* third, *French Connection* fourth and *The Yoop* ninth. All yachts acquitted themselves well.

