

## Huon Yacht Club Twilight race 1<sup>st</sup> February by Daryl Watson

The twilight race on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of February was a beautiful night for sailing in just about every respect with a good steady, moderate, westerly breeze and comfortable weather. Seven yachts turned up in total and enjoyed these near perfect conditions. The race went for three laps around the bay plus the “sausage leg” as it is called, at the end of the race which consists of a run from the starting buoy opposite the yacht club and down to the “mid-river buoy” and straight back to the finishing line again. Perhaps the “sausage leg” gets its name from being a straight run down the river and back, or perhaps a final run just before the traditional barbeque before the end of the race.

Phil Mitchell's *Kalista* won the race on handicap in a time of 1 hour and 26 minutes. She never looked like losing once all the boats were away and racing. It is suspected she may have got rid of some extra ballast that she has been carrying around since her trip up the east coast of Australia, but this is yet to be confirmed.



Jeff Sharp's *French*

*Connection* came in second place, arriving at the finish line just two and a half minutes after *Kalista* which was a considerable feat, given that she started 14 minutes after *Kalista*, perhaps highlighting her advantage over her traditional rival, *Another Girl Another Planet (AGAP)* in the stronger winds.

The gap on handicap between first and last boat was just under 12 minutes which perhaps was on account of the steady winds and a handicapping system which aims to even out the differences between boat speeds. There were few if any obvious mistakes made by any of the yachts.

Mick Bartlett's *Another Girl Another Planet* was last across the line on handicap but did it in the fastest time of around 1 hour and 12 minutes.

The other competitions within the race were between Doug Hick's *Saraband* and John Townsend's *Sabre* for third and fourth place with *Saraband* finishing just 20 seconds in front. Tony Cumbridge's *Sea Gems* and Wil Meure's *Gem* battled all night for fifth and sixth spots with *Sea Gems* finally winning against the ketch by about 1 minute.

All in all, it was another good night of sailing on our scenic Huon River.

The results of last week's Long Distance Pennant was *French Connection* first and *Gem* second. This Saturday's race 3<sup>rd</sup> February was cancelled due to other commitments.