

Huon Yacht Club News

By Jeremy Brown

Twilight Series Race 11:

The HYC twilight pursuit race held on Thursday was scooped by Mick Bartlett's *Another Girl Another Planet*, just in front of a new addition to the twilight fleet, Jon and Sharon Goldsmid's *Flying Emu*, with Jeff Sharp's *French Connection* third followed by Will Meure's *Stardust Dancer* in a photo finish two seconds ahead of Stan Pickering's *Obsession*. All boats finished within a four minute window.

Flying Emu is a 48' John Pugh mono hull steel design with a nett weight of 17 tons, positively dwarfing *Stardust Dancer* with approximately five times her sail area. The winds were (as usual this year) quite variable, ranging from 5 to 10 knots, backing and veering E – NE – SE. *Flying Emu* sailed well in the relatively light conditions. In heavier winds she should perform even better though her size seems to make for slow tacks and mark roundings. *Obsession* finally managed to come last, which will reset her handicap to something more sensible, after her run of good luck and good sailing had pushed her into the grey zone of being handicapped out of the competition with a 13 minute delay at the start.

Autumn Harbour Race 3 – to Bullock Point and Hospital Bay:

Another exciting race was held Last Saturday - three laps around the HYC harbour buoys, in NW winds gusting to more than 30 knots at times. The wind was being very unhelpful in the middle of the river, veering savagely to the north on the Bullock Point to Hospital Bay leg each lap. This pattern was christened 'The Whale Point Watusi', and in combination with the Kermandie Twist kept skippers and crew guessing what would happen next. *French Connection* was never in doubt for line honours and easily sailed away from the other four boats who kept surprisingly close together. Rod Coomb's *The Yoop* was being closely marked by *Obsession* at first but managed to get away to come second after *French Connection*, with *Stardust Dancer* fourth, five minutes after *Obsession*.

Flying Emu joined the race as a casual entry and managed some impressive displays of speed after some less than impressive mark roundings, particularly at the very tight Hospital Bay mark. The *Emu* could definitely be a star performer on the longer races like the McLaren Series and the HYC Long Distance Pennant.

On corrected time *Stardust Dancer* took first place, followed by *French Connection*, with *Obsession* third and *The Yoop* fourth.



Stardust Dancer, dwarfed as she is passed by a Flying Emu.

Coming up:

Next Sunday 19 February is set for the fourth race of the Fred McLaren Perpetual Memorial Trophy, the combined Port Cygnet Sailing Club (PCSC) and Huon Yacht Club (HYC) series. This race is from the HYC start line, finishing at the PCSC start line via the marks in Waterloo and Brooks Bay.

Please check the web page at <http://huonyachtclub.org/> for other race results, more photographs and general information about the club.