

Two in a row for *Obsession*

By Jeremy Brown

McLaren Series:

A total of ten boats came out for the second race of four in this year's Fred McLaren Perpetual Memorial Trophy, the combined Port Cygnet Sailing Club and Huon Yacht Club annual competition, held on Sunday 11 December. This race of the series is traditionally held on a HYC harbour course, from the start line at the club house to Brabazon Point, back into Hospital Bay and across start line again for a total of three laps.

A fresh southeasterly wind was blowing steadily at the start and kept up all afternoon, if anything getting stronger as the race went on. Five boats from PCSC battled with five boats from HYC in excellent sailing conditions. Dave O'Neill's *Redback* pulled away at the start and never looked back, taking first place after 94 minutes, well ahead of Jeff Sharp's *French Connection* in second place. Third place was won by Lenny Holland's *Gomez*, who recovered from a near fatal broach with her spinnaker in a particularly gusty moment on the course. Paul Macmichael's *Dinkum* had the misfortune to drift gently onto Pipiriki Reef – she did re-float, but subsequently resigned from the race.



True Blue crosses Obsession's bow in close contest, in McLaren race 2

On corrected time the race was won by Stan Pickering's *Obsession*, with Rob Cooper's

Komodo in second place, followed by *Redback*, then Steve Pile's *Catherine M*, *French Connection*, Robbie Seabrook's *True Blue*, Mick Bartlett's *Another Girl Another Planet*, then *Gomez*, with Rod Coomb's *The Yoop* in ninth place. *Dinkum* did not finish.

The next McLaren race will be held on Sunday 15 January. This race will start from the PCSC at 11:00 AM, to circumnavigate Huon Island and back to the PCSC line.

Surges Bay Race:

Three HYC boats took part in the JR Cairns Memorial Trophy race to Surges Bay on Saturday afternoon. The race started in a fairly light southwesterly which became very unstable as the afternoon went on, backing to the south and becoming 25 knot squalls with rain at times. Reefed mainsails were deployed on a strong reach there and back again. Line Honours were taken by *French Connection*, crossing the line a mere ten minutes before *Obsession* and fifty minutes before Will Meure's *Stardust Dancer*. On corrected time the race was won by *Obsession*, then *French Connection* with *Stardust Dancer* last. *Obsession* and *French Connection* were very evenly matched, with *Obsession* nipping at her rival's heels throughout the race. *Stardust Dancer* was under-powered at first and put up more sail, and then became overpowered in the wild and blustery gusts.



Obsession powers over the line to take second consecutive win

Coming up:

This year's sailing season for HYC recommences on 5 January with the first race of the

second twilight series, then the third race of the Long Distance Pennant to Green Island follows on Saturday 7 January.

Boxing Day festivities are planned at the HYC club house commencing at 11:00 AM – all welcome!