

Novice Skipper/Lady Skipper/ Forward Hands Race



The weather was ideal for the Novice Skipper/Lady Skipper/Forward Hands race on Saturday 16th March. The wind had been non-existent all morning but by noon a south easterly sea breeze at 8 knots started. Six yachts arrived for the pursuit start. These were *Driftwood* due to start at 1.30pm, *Gem* at 1.34, *Little Red Boat* at 1.37, *Veleva* at 1.38, *Aqua Fae* at 1.39 and *Mistral*.

Driftwood had a shared skipper role for the two novices, Laura and Denise. *Gem* was being sailed by father and daughter team,

Selina and Wil Meure, with Selina taking the helm for the race. *Little Red Boat* had owner Peter Lentz sailing, just for the pleasure, on such a beautiful day. *Veleva* had owner Stuart Mears with regular crew member Lily on the Helm. *Aqua Fae* had Sylvia Kerr skipper for the day, with husband Don and regular crew Rob Holstein. Commodore John Flowers allowed race official Pam Mann escape the starter's box for the day and to skipper *Mistral* for the race. Lorrie Dillon, also a starter, joined the crew on *Mistral* with John Flowers and John Mann. Penny Morton and Jen Bransky filled in for the starter's box.

The race was from the start/finish line to Hospital Bay buoy to the mid river buoy and back to start/finish line, two laps. By the end of the first lap *Gem* had taken the lead with *Mistral* 6 minutes behind, then came *Aqua Fae* and within 20 seconds *Veleva*, then *Little Red Boat* and *Driftwood*.

By the time the boats entered Hospital Bay for

the second time, *Gem* was the one everyone was trying to beat with a clear lead. The breeze had settled into a steady 11 knot south easterly and all the yachts were revelling in it. *Gem* crossed first having held his 6 minute lead over *Mistral*. Next came *Aqua Fae* then *Veleva*, *Little Red Boat* and *Driftwood*.

All the crews came back for the afternoon tea at the clubhouse to celebrate the successful end of the season race. The perfect weather was just the thing to encourage everyone to do more sailing.

