

## Twilight 7<sup>th</sup> December and McLaren 2 on 9<sup>th</sup> December Kermantie Challenge

After last week's cancellation of the Twilight race due to a thunderstorm, this week's make up race saw five boats ready to race. The forecast had been for rain but at the start of the race no rain had fallen. This week's set course was 3 laps from the start to the Hospital Bay mark to the mid river buoy and back to the start/finish line. The wind at the start was light, about 4 knots, and the race officials were worried that the wind would die out altogether.

*Stardust Dancer* and *Sea Gems* started together at 6pm, *Kalista* at 6.11 and the two faster boats, *French Connection* and *Another Girl, Another Planet (AGAP)* at 6.26 and 6.37 respectively. The conditions were very light with calm patches.

By the time that *Stardust Dancer* and *Sea Gems* were heading for the start/finish line for the end of the first lap, race officials Lorrie Dillon and Pam Mann, realised that the course would have to be shortened. They decided to make the next and last lap from the start/finish line to the mid river buoy and back and when they saw the two leading boats become becalmed at the start/finish line for 20 minutes felt justified in their decision.

When the breeze freshened to get them moving, the other yachts in the race were nearing their position. The wind, from the southwest to the southeast, brought heavy rain with it so *Kalista* decided pull out. The finish to the race was a close one with *Sea Gems* just 3 seconds ahead of *Stardust Dancer* and *French Connection* 14 seconds after her. *AGAP* finished 6 minutes after them in fourth place. All the sailors were wringing wet but enjoyed the competition for the end of the series. The next Twilight (2<sup>nd</sup> Series) will be on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Again the weather forecast predicted rain and strong winds in the morning and easing in the afternoon for the McLaren 2 Kermantie Challenge. The McLaren series of races is between the Cygnet and Huon Yacht clubs as half of the series is held at Cygnet and half at Port Huon. Nineteen yachts had expressed an interest in competing but on Saturday morning only 6 yachts confirmed they would be racing. At Port Huon midmorning wind gusts topped at about 25 knots but quite often the further down the river gets stronger wind. *Redback* was the only Cygnet boat to compete with *AGAP*, *French Connection*, *Kalista*, *The Yoop*, and *Stardust Dancer*.



The course was from the start line to the Bullock Point buoy, then to the Hospital Bay buoy and back to the start/finish, line three laps. By the start at 1pm the breeze was reasonably steady at 12 knots and all the boats got away smartly. Throughout the race the wind stayed around 12 to 15 knots with small interludes of 20 knots. By the completion of the first lap *Redback*, *AGAP* and *French Connection* were just ahead of *The Yoop* then *Kalista* and *Stardust Dancer*.

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The second lap saw the placings remain the same and still reasonably close together with only 21 minutes between the first and the last boat. These placings remained the same for the finish with Redback crossing the line in great style in 1 hour and 20 minutes.

The handicap placings were first *Stardust Dancer*, second *The Yoop*, third *AGAP*, fourth *Kalista*, fifth *French Connection* and *Redback* sixth. All were pleased that the wind was less than forecast.

TRY SAILING DAY. This coming Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1pm, (weather dependent) the Huon Yacht Club invites members of the public interested in sailing, to join us for an afternoon on the water. Several of our regular racing yacht skippers have kindly offered to take members of the public out on their yachts so that people may experience sailing. They would like to encourage anyone interested, in the hope they may crew regularly on some of the boats. Open to 18 years and over, limit 2 persons per yacht. Bookings are essential as places are limited. Location Huon Yacht Club, Shipwrights Point, Port Huon. Contact Don Kerr on 0407266660 for further information and bookings.