

Huon Yacht Club Twilight (8th February) and Harbour Race (10th February) by Daryl Watson

A fleet of seven yachts lined up for the twilight race of 8 February 2018. The latest entry was a small red yacht called *Far*. Conditions were mostly light, less than 5 knots, with the wind swinging between North Easterly to South Easterly with occasional wind speeds of up to 11 knots.



At times there was little to no breeze at all as sails drooped and sailors tried everything to get their yachts to inch forward. Doug Hick's *Saraband* had hit the lead as three yachts converged together on the buoy in Hospital Bay during the first leg. Ecstasy soon turned into agony in the space of few minutes however, as so often happens in sailing, as *Saraband* realised that she had gone around the buoy in the wrong direction. She ended up becalmed on the other side of the buoy and was disappointed to eventually radio in to retire from the race.

The delight on the faces of the sailors of the other two yachts, *Gem* and *Far*, soon disappeared after hearing of *Saraband*'s misfortune. *Sabre*, *French Connection* and *Another Girl Another Planet (AGAP)* quickly made up ground and passed *Gem* and *Far* while exiting Hospital Bay. After initially looking dangerous, *Far* fell into a hole in the wind near the end of the Port Huon wharf. The other yachts edged by, further out, toward the centre of the bay, ruining *Far*'s chances of success on the night.

The other little red yacht in the fleet, John Townsend's *Sabre*, skilfully helmed by Dennis O'Neil seemed to creep away unnoticed at first and somehow managed to open up a big lead and keep sailing while the rest of the fleet struggled along. The other yachts hoped for the breeze to pick up and allow them to make up ground on a second lap. The breeze did not pick up by much however and the race was cut short to one lap of around 2.3 nautical miles due to lack of wind and the risk of sausages burning on the barbeque. *Sabre* stole the show on the night and took first place, eight minutes ahead of Mick Bartlett's *AGAP* and fifteen minutes ahead of Jeff Sharp's *French Connection*. *AGAP* ended up sailing for only 50 minutes and did not have much opportunity to overcome her 32 minute handicap, but such is life.

Tony Cumbridge's *Sea Gems* came in with a creditable fourth place only five minutes behind *French Connection* which was also a great effort with Wil Meure's *Gem* crossing the line in fifth place with *Far* finishing in sixth position.

Huon Yacht Club Twilight (8th February) and Harbour Race (10th February) by Daryl Watson

By contrast, Saturday's harbour race on 10 February was raced with north to north-westerly winds of up to 20 knots. Wind strengths varied throughout the afternoon. The racing was very enjoyable, despite only two yachts competing. *French Connection* put in a polished performance to take out the three lap race around the harbour in a time of just one hour and forty nine minutes. She used her spinnaker on each of the three laps coming out of Hospital Bay and averaged around 5 knots



with top speeds of around 8 knots. *Gem* took over three hours to complete the course but looked good as she powered through the course in the stronger winds with top speeds around 6 knots and an average speeds of around 3 knots. There was a twenty minutes gap between the two yachts on corrected time with *French Connection* also winning the race on handicap.