



Light winds made for some interesting sailing with the Huon Yacht club on Thursday night's 3<sup>rd</sup> Twilight race of 2018. Mick Bartlett's Elliott sports boat *Another Girl, Another Planet (AGAP)* started last behind Jeff Sharp's *French Connection* and gradually caught up with and then passed the entire fleet, but not without a brave fight for first place by John Townsend's *Sabre* which performed very well under the light conditions. *Sabre* eventually relinquished the lead just short of the finish line after leading for much of the race. The wind dropped to such an extent that some of the yachts were stationary for extended periods, and most of the yachts were near stationary at some point in the race. Tony Cumbridge's *Sea Gems* eventually retired almost within sight of the finishing line. *French Connection* crossed the line in third and Wil Meure's *Stardust Dancer* persevered, as did the volunteers in the starters box and eventually found some breeze to bring her home in last place, well after the other

yachts. Placings were First *AGAP*, second *Sabre*, third *French Connection*, and fourth *Stardust Dancer*.

Light winds were forecast for the Harbour Race on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of January. It was plain to see from the start however that the forecast had not factored in a stiff sea breeze, ideal sailing conditions for some of the boats. The breeze lasted for the full two laps from Port Huon to Waterloo and back. Only three yachts competed, these were *Sabre*, *Stardust Dancer*, and *French Connection*.

*Sabre* ran a starboard tack along the starting line of which Mark Richards would have been proud. The other yachts were on port tack and technically had to give way, however Jeff Sharp and his crew on *French Connection* simply crossed over the line astern of *Sabre* and lost no time despite the opposition's carefully planned tactics.

*French Connection* sailed a flawless race and finished second on handicap. She had her blue spinnaker up from Waterloo back to Port Huon on both laps and made it look easy, barely needing to tack at all. No one was more surprised than the crew of *Stardust Dancer* to learn that they had managed to win the race on handicap by one and a half minutes. *Stardust Dancer* had some problems with her spinnaker



Twilight Series 2 Race 3 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and Harbour Race 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018

and was content to stay within several hundred metres of *Sabre* for most of the race. *French Connection* was placed second and *Sabre* third.

This week saw a number of new sailors racing including Angus Ireland on *French Connection* and Brian Rustell on *Sea Gems* on Thursday night and Brian and his wife Sandy on board *Sabre* for Saturday's Harbour race. Four international guests who were staying at the Shipwrights Point camping ground joined in the barbeque on Thursday night to tell us a little about their adventures in sailing the North Atlantic. Visitors and new and old faces are always welcome at the club.