

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MISTRAL OWNER'S ASSOCIATION 13TH September 2008

The 2007-2008 year has been an encouraging year of strong growth for Mistral dinghy sailing in New Zealand. Highlights have included the growth of inter-club events, strengthening of local club sailing of Mistrals, restoration of wooden boats and launching of new fiberglass boats, and preparation for the 2009 Jubilee.

The growth of interclub events such as the Peter Blake Memorial Regatta , and also good weekends at Whitianga and Hamilton built interclub camaradie. The pinnacle of the year was the class championship at Tamaki Yacht Club. This regatta proved to be the largest two person non-trapeze dinghy class championship in New Zealand in the 2007-2008 season. Special thanks goes to Kathryn Sampson for her work as Mistral Owner's programme officer arranging interclub events. The Peter Thompson all-comer's trophy will provide added impetus to interclub mistral sailing in the coming season.

The ongoing renaissance of has been nurtured by good weekly local club racing. Tamaki Yacht Club has experienced continuing growth with a regular all year fleet drawing on about sixteen active Mistrals. At the height of the summer season 8-12 Mistral crews consistently provided some spectacular, 'down to the wire', racing. This enthusiastic sailing continued unabated with half a dozen 'hardcore' boats even on the coldest winter day's, with good camaraderie around the Bar and BBQ following. Most notable were the number of couples, families and children and teenagers becoming involved sailing on a weekly basis.

Kerikeri's very active training programme continues to build a highly enthusiastic youth and family mistral which is consistently represented in major interclub events resplendent in their club colours. Rob Ebert has made a solid effort with the fledgling fleet of Mistral at Hamilton Yacht club drawing new families children and teenagers into freshly restored Mistrals. In Whitianga the Mistrallers were delighted to welcome Radar Goldsbury back to their fleet after America's Cup sailmaking with Prada syndicate in Valencia. The rate of Mistral restoration in Whitianga has been phenomenal, with the ongoing production line of top class restorations out of Robbie Moyes workshop and Barry Goldsbury's beautiful restoration of #69 Spindrift enhancing Mercury Bay Yacht club Mistral scene. It was good to know of the Fledgling Mistral fleet in Christchurch including the first Mistral ever launched #8 Sparkle. Well done Don Currie and friends.

A key strategic aspect of the wave of growth in Mistral sailing is the wonderful surge in stunning restorations of old Mistrals to highly competitive racing dinghies. The Mistral Owner's Executive and the restrictions subcommittee have been busy working to update the class restrictions in order to assist restorers in their work. Good progress is being made and will hopefully be complete, through due constitutional process, well before the end of the coming season.

A further key aspect of the class development is publicity and marketing the class with the aim of attracting people into purchasing second hand and brand new Mistral, and becoming regular sailors in a local Mistral dinghy sailing clubs. To this end Rob Ebert (Secretary) and Amelia Hall the Publicity Officer, have worked hard on publicity, along with myself and others. Already the new-look website is drawing favourable comment. Peter Montgomery has been very supportive in giving us interview slots on Saturday Morning ZB Sportstalk before major class events. Tony Beckett and Debbie Hall have kept race results going in the Eastern Courier in Auckland. Matt O'Maigh and Kathryn Sampson displayed # four and Simon Manning's new fibreglass #119 at the Centreboard dinghy open day at Torbay in August.

This season our 50th Anniversary looks very promising. Already Kathryn Sampson and the Jubilee sub-committee have been planning ahead for the celebrations on the weekend 3rd – 5th April 2009.

This report is my final report as President. I would wish to acknowledge the work of Rob Ebert who also completes his term as Class Secretary while remaining on the executive, and also Warwick Spedding who is retiring from the executive. It has been a privilege to work closely with Rob and to benefit from his outstanding administrative contribution to the class over the past few years. Warwick's committed support and timely wit have added much to executive meetings. I also thank each of the class Heritage Subcommittee, Don Grayson, Ross Burtenshaw, Mike Norton, and Tony Beckett (also hardworking Treasurer!), for their wisdom and practical support, time and encouragement; for the Regional Reps Robbie Moyes and Derry Godbert and each Executive and Sub-Committee member for the countless hours given so generously.

I commend Matt O'Maigh as he steps into President. I respect Matt's experience drawn from over 20 years in the class. I know he has a committed passion to see the class move forward together. Matt has my full support as I step into the role of Past President. I look forward to seeing you each at various regattas and club meets through the year.

Warm Regards
Rob Mason
President. 2006-2008