

# Mainsheet

## RUSSELL BOATING CLUB (INC) NEWSLETTER

June/July 1985

Perhaps the most important piece of news in this newsletter is that the Annual General Meeting will be held on:

**SATURDAY 20 JULY.**

There will be a meal and live music for dancing.

You will notice from the attached notice that the sub is going up. This is mostly attributable to the Yachting Fed's levy of \$4 a head. There's also a voluntary levy you might like to pay to the International Challenge Fund for New Zealand representatives in sailing contests overseas.

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Everyone I have talked to who was at the ball has remarked on how successful it was. From the decorations, the band and the general organisation to the knot that held the balloons up until the appointed time, the evening went with near perfect precision. The committee is very grateful to all who made it such an excellent event.

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The season just ending was a particularly successful one for the Russell Boating Club, which ran a series of eighteen races. One of the most interesting, and which required by far the most organisation, was the Tall Ships Race. It has become established as one of the country's great yachting spectacles.

The Small Boat Races have caught on and will hopefully continue to attract increasing numbers of competitors. The participants usually get thrills, sometimes spills and always a great deal of satisfaction, so roll up if you have a small boat and join in.

Since handicapping began there has been some particularly aggressive sailing. So far the events have usually been held in light conditions, with fleets of five to eight starters.

Race 12/5/85:

Line:	1 Double Trouble, Mark Managh	H'cap:	1 Seascape
	2 Flying Ant, Fred Cole		2 Waitata, Peter Taylor
	3 Seascape, Maurice Outtrim		3 Flying Ant

Race 26/5/85:

Line:	1 Double Trouble	H'cap:	1 Vixen, Ren Fox
	2 Caters Cat, Chris Hornell		2 Double Trouble
	3 Paper Tiger, Adrian Stevens		3 Seascape

Race 9/6/85:

Line: 1 Vixen	H'cap: 1 Vixen
2 Double Trouble	2 Farr 3.7
3 Farr 3.7, Fred Cole	3 Double Trouble

Race 16/6/85:

Line: 1 Vixen	H'cap: 1 Waitata
2 Farr 3.7	2 Vixen
3 Waitata	3 Seascape

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For those who don't know her, it may come as a surprise that a wooden work-boat built last century emerged as the Club's top boat following the Closing Day Race on 11 May.

Among the prizes and trophies won by Curlew, a Falmouth Quay Punt, was Cater Marine's Autohelm self steering gear. Other titles she secured include the Little Ships Trophy, the Duke of Marlborough Cup for top boat over a series of six races and the Patron's Cup for consistent attendance throughout the season. Curlew was sailed here from Malta by her owners, Tim and Pauline Carr.

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After most of the fleet experienced enormous difficulties crossing the start line in very light winds, the Closing Day Race resulted in Patea, a Stewart 34, finishing first, followed by a new yacht in the Club fleet, Taharoa (Jacky and Adrian Stevens' Townson Twilight). Winner on handicap was Beefeater (Roly Brown) followed by Tia Maria and California Jack.

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The interior of the Club becomes increasingly comfortable and attractive as new projects are begun and completed. The next improvement you will notice is the upgrading and re-covering of the squabs on the seats.

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Last time in our History Corner, we looked at the early efforts to form a boating club in Russell, and the first meetings to form the present one, the Russell Boating Club.

After the club was formed, there was much to be done to achieve the aim of providing facilities for recreational boat owners. In short order, a grid was formed, a slip with cradle and diesel powered winch was built, a sailing programme planned and handsome trophies generously donated.

But the biggest project was to acquire a club rooms building. The old fish factory in Matauwhi Bay was derelict and there was talk of demolition by the Harbour Board. With no time available for lengthy deliberations, Commodore Jim Laidlaw and his officers had to decide quickly whether to take over the shed and turn it into a club-house. It depended partly on whether the Harbour Board would give its permission

and grant a lease. The members of the new Russell Boating Club accepted the challenge and Gave It A Go.

Throughout 1974, with very little money but considerable enthusiasm, a variety of skills available and much willing assistance, working days were organised. This first hard slog culminated on a particular day: The Great Russell Boating Club Working Bee, on a Sunday in June, 1975. On this day, a great body of enthusiasts, not all of them members of the Club, set about making a transformation. In that one day, through dedication, cooperation, good leadership, tolerance and good humour, a club house was created where a disused fish factory had stood. Contemporary press clippings are complimentary: The efforts were "an example of community self-help worth noting" and the club members were "in the process of transforming one of the most ugly eyesores in the area into a smart new clubhouse."

And so the club's material needs were provided for. But what about the members? Next time, I propose to relate some anecdotes from the comprehensive files kept by Dick Fladgate, from whose powerful binoculars no special tactics or trickery could go undetected!

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Our cruising area is a very special place of wilderness with clean air and clean water. Fortunately it so far remains largely unspoilt. However, the professional staff of the Parks Board are concerned that increasing numbers of users of the Park are abusing it. They want ideas on how to cope:

**Dogs and other animals:** These are a threat to protected wildlife and domestic stock, and they can be a nuisance to park users. The Park staff plan to more actively dissuade people from taking them into reserves. The situation is now serious and prosecutions of offenders will be considered.

**Rubbish:** Some areas continue to deteriorate to the point of being simply disgusting. Everyone must look after their own trash, sealed in plastic tidy bags, until they can get to a collection point or the rubbish barge. The Boating Club is lending a hand in this regard: We are paying for the materials to build a stand for the rubbish bins on the reserve near the club building.

**Toilet waste** is becoming a serious public nuisance. Some bush areas near beaches are now potential health hazards. Take a trenching tool and bury. Spades can be bought from several sources, or hired from the Park HQ. The sea floor in some bays has become carpeted with effluent, so use the head only when under way in open water.

**Fires** are of increasing concern: Sensitive fore-dunes have been damaged and insightfully fireplaces with cooking remnants have been left behind. It is therefore likely that the bylaw on fires will be tightened by next summer. And one last thing: Firing flares on New Year's eve is a fire hazard and a nuisance, so discourage it.

Chief Ranger John Gardiner has invited opinions on these matters before a policy is written, sometime in the next few months.

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Stop Press: On Sunday: 1 Vixen, 2 Seascope, both line & h'cap.  
And what a superb kauri case produced for the club by Roly & Joan Brown!

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