

# 3-7 News

December 2007

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## Calendar

<b>Mar 9</b>	<b>Manukau Regatta French Bay</b>
<b>Mar 15, 16</b>	<b>Taupo Regatta</b>
<b><u>Mar 21 – 23</u></b>	<b><u>NATIONALS ROTORUA</u></b>
<b>Apr 12, 13</b>	<b>Waikato-Thames Regatta Ngaroto</b>
<b>Apr 25, 26, 27</b>	<b>Anzac Regatta Takapuna. <u>Auckland Champs</u></b>

## SAILING NEWS (Positive!)

### NORTH ISLANDS TAURANGA 17 ENTRANTS !!

Plus - we got wind that had been forecast by NOBODY.

For 4 races on Sat we could wire most of the time upwind in an unexplained Easterly. YAY! And even Sunday turned out interesting, with a patchy sea-breeze that gave us 2 more races, often trapezing upwind.

No real off-wind blatts, but how much can one ask for when the forecasts are for boring drifters??

**Derek Scott** (new owner of 372) dominated to such a degree that he has to be a front-runner for the Nationals now. Look over his placings and consider that he returned to re-start in two races!

### 3.7 Fleet

Sailed:6, Discards:1, To count:5, Entries:16, Scoring system: My scoring system													
Rank	Fleet	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total	Net
1st	3.7	372	Derek Scott		Navel Point	1.0	(2.0)	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	9.0	7.0
2nd	3.7	381	Alan Paine		HYC	2.0	(4.0)	3.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	15.0	11.0
3rd	3.7	384	Ben deFluiter		TYPBC	(4.0)	1.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	19.0	15.0
4th	3.7	308	John Elliott		Hamilton	3.0	7.0	1.0	3.0	(12.0)	6.0	32.0	20.0
5th	3.7	375	Rhys Johnston		Plimmerton	8.0	(9.0)	5.0	6.0	3.0	8.0	39.0	30.0
6th	3.7	328	Brett Gray		Rotorua	6.0	3.0	7.0	8.0	(10.0)	7.0	41.0	31.0
7th	3.7	88	James Smyth		TYPBC	7.0	5.0	6.0	5.0	8.0	(11.0)	42.0	31.0
8th	3.7	365	David Laing		Rotorua	5.0	8.0	8.0	(12.0)	9.0	4.0	46.0	34.0
9th	3.7	103	Darrell Civil		Rotorua	(17.0 DSQ)	6.0	11.0	7.0	5.0	5.0	51.0	34.0
10th	3.7	383	Naomi Paine		Hamilton	(10.0)	10.0	9.0	10.0	6.0	9.0	54.0	44.0
11th	3.7	305	Phil Ash		Manly Sailing Club	(17.0 DSQ)	13.0	13.0	9.0	7.0	12.0	71.0	54.0
12th	3.7	244	Chris Mitchell		Point Chevalier	(17.0 DSQ)	11.0	12.0	11.0	11.0	10.0	72.0	55.0
13th	3.7	393	Mark McMinn		Hamilton	(17.0 DSQ)	12.0	10.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	78.0	61.0
14th	3.7	172	Nicholas Wells		Te Atatu Boat Club	11.0	14.0	14.0	(17.0 DNC)	17.0 DNC	17.0 DNC	90.0	73.0
15th	3.7	388	Matthew Vaughan		Hamilton	9.0	(17.0 DNC)	17.0 DNC	17.0 DNC	17.0 DNC	17.0 DNC	94.0	77.0
16th	3.7	220	Jonathon McMullan		Hamilton	(17.0 DSQ)	17.0 DNC	17.0 DNC	17.0 DNC	14.0	14.0	96.0	79.0

Both Alan Paine and defending Nth Island Champ Ben de Fluiter pushed Derek hard, and even grey-haired old me managed to catch a lift, get in front, and narrowly hold Derek out at the finish line in race 3, but overall it was no 372 that stood out. (A very nice-looking new North sail, built by Derek.)

Great, close racing throughout the fleet, and a much better contest than I had feared we would get. Tauranga has to remain a popular venue.

### Auck Anniversary Regatta - Harbour Blast

5 of us entered. Rohan Cooke was well-placed at the end of the first lap as the wind started to come in. As I remember, he withdrew after a capsize and maybe some broken gear.

The first lap was a boring drifter.

The second lap was at times scary: a 15 knot SW breeze funnelled around buildings/wharves to give us big gusts and big holes. Some wild moments in the washing-machine swill.

**Definitely worth trying again next year. A reasonable Easterly would make this course a real reaching blast.**

305	John Elliott	Flatfoot 14:38:00 1
187	Bruce McCallum	Fernando 14:43:35 2
305	Phil Ash	Arthritix 14:52:10 3
172	Nick Wells	Full Narna 15:05:19

# Coming Events

**Manukau Regatta French Bay Sunday 9 March** Entry \$10, Race 1 - 11am. See previous emails.

**Taupo Regatta 15 & 16 March** I have just looked at the NOR. You had to enter by post by March 1<sup>st</sup> to pay only \$35 and get one regatta T shirt per boat. If you enter on the day you pay \$55, and get no T shirt unless you pay extra for any that may be left over from postal entries.

To my mind, a late entry of \$35 without a T shirt may have been fair. Taupo have now said: "Stay at home, and we will put an extra \$20 in your pocket – not to mention big petrol savings."

I will not be attending: I think Taupo are highly overrating themselves. Although the venue is pretty, I have never experienced really steady wind at Taupo (and I have been to this regatta nearly every year since the mid-80's); nor have I always admired the standard of Race Management on the Senior Course. Priced right out, so Adios.

Anyone keen to attend can easily find the NOR on the YNZ website.

## **NATIONALS**

Recent emails have said it all: now you pay the **late entry fee of \$60**, but that in itself is **cheaper than any standard entry fees at recent Nationals**.

The **\$25 meal for Prizegiving** only brings the overall price up to the normal level for Nationals at many other venues. (Menu recently emailed out. Email me if you want it sent again.)

**This is an incentive for you to attend. Use your brains and do so! If Rotorua do not get a boost through good attendance they will not be offering lower prices again !! And we sailors will be the losers.**

**Positive reasons for attending:**

- 1) I will be there.
- 2) **Excellent Race Officer. Brian Gray knows the courses we like, knows the local conditions, does not dither and delay.**
- 3) **Best of NZ's Lake venues that I have sailed at. Can be fluky, but can also give sea-like conditions with steady breeze. (Much more than I have seen at Taupo.) Let's hope for wind.**
- 4) **Great competition likely. Mark O'Brien, so dominant 2 years ago, is arriving back from England just in time to pull his boat out of storage, and race. Defending Champ Kevin Holland is coming with at least 2 other South Islanders. Heaps of other frontrunner threats: Derek Scott, Alan and Malcolm Paine, Bruce McCallum, Ben de Fluiter, Alex Vallings (current Interdominion 12 foot Skiff Champion) ....**
- 5) **New blood: a Wellingtonian or two, some new Aucklanders, and some keen young sailors from Hamilton. Watch for Tim: he is still school-age, but he has won the Hamilton Y C Champs, as well as the HYC Regatta.**
- 6) **We are serious about measurement conformity and sailing during races, but we very rarely have protests, and there is generally a FRIENDLY spirit on and off the water. (Just don't say anything nasty about my van.)**

# More Sailing News

**Hamilton Y C Christmas Regatta** No wind, only 2 races, more fun afterwards than during.

Rank	Fleet	Boat	Sail No	Helm	R1	R2	Total	Net
1	3.7	Flatfoot	308	John Elliott	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.0
2	3.7		229	Tim Griffiths	3.0	1.0	4.0	4.0
3	3.7	Farr Out	388	Matthew Vaughan	4.0	3.0	7.0	7.0
4	3.7		381	Alan Paine	2.0	7.0 DNF	9.0	9.0
5	3.7		220	Jonathan McMullan	5.0	4.0	9.0	9.0
6	3.7	Pleasure & Paine	393	Mark McMinn	7.0 DNC	5.0	12.0	12.0

## Clarks Beach N Y Regatta

Light winds in general, but some wiring and fairly good racing, mostly late in the day with the late-arriving sea breeze. Just as well, since Phil Nicholls kept me up all night on Jan 1...

1	Lance O'Connell	2,1,2,1,3,1,1,2	(Phil did not turn up till day 2, meaning that DNF for the first 3 races was 6 points, but thereafter was 7 points.)
2	John Elliott	1,4,3,3,1,3,2,1	
3	Bruce McCallum	3,2,1,5,2,2,7,7	
4	David Laing	4,3,4,2,4,5,4,3	
5	Phil Nicholls	6,6,6,4,5,4,3,4	(Bruce and Maarten could not stay for the final day. Bruce could have made 2 <sup>nd</sup> ..)
6	Maarten van Rossum	6,6,6,6,6,6,7,7	

**HAMILTON Y C RAGLAN SEA TRAINING CAMP Jan 13 – 16** normally for Starlings and smaller.

I normally avoid these things because I have seen no long-term benefits from all the training schemes that clubs love to do: we had better retention rates in our sport before all the training programmes were instituted.

But recently some enterprising P skippers tried other boats like the Laser before moving on to a Starling. Then at a training session Damien Langley let them try his 3.7.... Now we have 4 young Hamilton sailors in 3.7's instead of Starlings. Physically, they are all now too big for Starlings on the lake, so this is a good move.

As a result, I was asked to 'mentor' these guys (given my consistent refusal to 'coach' since I tried being club coach in 1984), so I too went to Raglan Camp.

The best sailing days I have had this season !!

Sea Breeze came in just enough for planing, wiring reaches each day. In a steady breeze we could wire all the way across the harbour and back, practising a gybe at each end. I had thought I would have to get them to do follow the leader stuff, but the sheer pleasure of a steady breeze (almost unknown at Hamilton) meant that all they wanted to do was get time on the water doing wiring reaches in a good breeze. The strange thing is that after all these years, I felt just the same: a good wiring reach is heaven. Why do silly practice starts, etc? (Actually, why do we race?)

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day the breeze rose to 20+, meaning you had to spill power and try to blatt upwind. So we reached broadly + gybing way down the harbour, then tried to push the boat (kicker on, dropping main and going for it) going upwind. I think all 3 were going better upwind after an hour or two. Plus it was sheer enjoyment.

That is the kind of 'training' I like. I fear that I enjoyed it more than the young guys.

The trouble is, we could try to organise a big class event for this sort of thing, and get no wind. We were lucky at Raglan, but may not be next year. Do we have a casual always-available ideal venue where we could all agree to turn up on certain days and just do blatt/mentoring? Good water and good wind are the requisites. That cuts out tidal venues and small, wind-obstructed lakes.

**Come to Rotorua at Easter, and risk some good sailing!** emails will follow.

John Elliott