



CORIO CRUISERS

The name of this group belies the nature of the competitive spirit that exists in this select group of yachts. We are a very eclectic mix of yachts, temperaments, experience and crew gender and numbers, but each time we are out there the competition is keen. You might not have expected to see a luffing duel in this fleet but Peter Bone on Baltic has a very determined approach to protecting his wind (see photo of Fabulous Action with spinnaker, being luffed).

Some are in the Corio Cruisers fleet because their large vessel is not particularly suited to the tight tacking required on Windward-Leeward or Triangular Olympic Courses, some because the lack of experience and/or the changeability of their crew might making sailing on tighter courses an unsafe, or utterly frustrating,

day on the water for the skipper/owner and more experienced crew and their opposition boats. Some are in this fleet because they just like club courses with long legs with or without spinnaker and some just because they have had enough of Division 1 and 2 racing.

Baltic (Peter Bone), French Connection (Brian Marshman), Fabulous Action (Jonathan Apted), Celeste (Mal Eaton), and Sundancing (Ian Robottom) sailed almost every race, Bad Influence (Michael Bakker and Geoff Wolffe) and Elixir (Chris Williams) sailed 10 of the 17 races whilst Bundaberg (John Kint) and Seabreeze (Geoff Newman) sailed 7 and Snowbird (Terry Reichl) and Lupa Wylo (Geoff Sadler) joined us for 5 of the races.

Fabulous Action had a good start to the season and also did well in the last few races but fell away mid-

season. Baltic had a reasonable start and finish to the season but had a blisteringly hot period between races 8 and 14 when they won five and came second once. Celeste, usually the line honours winner, started and finished the season well but when Baltic was hot, Celeste was not, and she scored poorly mid-season. Sundancing had some good results, particularly over the middle third of the season, but it was really a season for Ian and crew to learn just how to get their new (to them) vessel going at her best. Elixir, Bundaberg, Snowbird and Lupa Wylo had some good results but had too many DNC's to be near the top in the season point score.

The Corio Cruiser division provides a good mix of male and female crew members, experienced sailors and novices in good numbers and an opportunity for

skill development and learning from older hands, a good introduction to racing in a less sharply testing environment than Division 1. It also provides plenty of "Adrenalin Opportunities" as per the other photograph showing a stream of (mostly) spinnaker-flying Corio Cruisers trying to judge their rounding of Hopetoun No 7 allowing a large freighter to go through ahead (just) of us. It was tight but we did "Keep Clear of Big Ships"!

We look forward to sailing next season and invite any and all who do not currently race, or those who do but seek a different experience, to join us for every race, some of them, or even just a few races next year. It is about participation, camaraderie, learning and enjoyment.

Jonathan Apted