BLACK PEARL CLEANS UP IN THE TE HOIERE SEAGULL FLEET BREAK- OUT RUN 2020.

Saturday the 27th of June 2020 saw several keen Te Hoiere Seagull fleet members assemble at the Havelock launching ramp for the Break -out Run on an overcast & cold day. A briefing of the rules & course, blessing of the Fleet, by the Bishop, quick scramble into the boats and the start signalled by the harbour Master Steve and the Fleet was on their way, well some were, Shady Lady was stuck at the launching ramp, with an un-cooperative motor, plenty of advice from onshore spectators and with help from Karl support crew, the motor burst into life and the chase was on to catch the rest of the fleet.

OCR streaked ahead of the fleet, with Ant, Black Pearl, Mae Bee, Fryan, Rhino, Wing- it, Wai-Naki, Ruby K, Krusty Krab & Shady Lady racing to catch up. Krusty Krab was the first to break down in the channel, with support boat beside him. At the end marker one of our flash support boats powered by 225hp Johnson outboard, with Dave & happy snappa Sandra, was stationed and taking videos of the fleet passing the last beacon. Ahead of the fleet the OCR & Mac 1 support boat with Linton & Trish our 2nd happy Snappa followed the progress of the leading boats. Following the middle of the fleet was Conch, with skipper Bruce, crew, Ally & Penny giving the fleet encouragement and support.

First to arrive at the bridge and around the pylons was OCR, streaking ahead down the river, followed by Ant, who picked up seaweed around the prop and stopped, allowing the Black Pearl to pass. The middle order of the fleet changed several times, with the Shady Lady passing several boats, giving the Krusty Krab the royal salute as she passed him, broken down again.

Into the rushes and heading towards the marina was the OCR, Black Pearl, Ant broke down, Mae bee & Shady Lady chasing the leader’s home. Heading towards the entrance of the launching ramp, OCR, stopped and resorted to oar power, allowing the Black Pearl to motor pass, followed closely by the Mae Bee, Shady Lady & OCR both headed for the finish and with an executive decision, came 3rd equal. Wai-Naki came in 4th, followed by Fryan, then Krusty Krab & Ant towed in by the support boats, first time entries Wing -It, Rhino our mussel float boat and rear end winner Ruby K saw all the fleet home.

A lot of laughter while the fleet boats got pulled out of the water, on shore waiting for the fleet was the Scoby Do, a 50 year old hydro plane, which the skipper Wayne ensured everyone, it will be on the water for the next race. Up to the Havelock Hotel for after -match function and prize giving for the fleet & supporters and blessing of the food by the Bishop.

1st boat home: Black Pearl, 2nd Mae Bee, 3rd equal OCR &Shady Lady

1st team: Black Pearl,2nd Mae Bee ,1st Lady: Shady Lady

Best presented boat OCR, best dressed fleet member OCR (old cock rooster) skipper Ian, Best Flag: Wing -it. Rear End winners: Ruby K.

A lucky number koha raffle raised $326-20 for Nelson/Marlborough Rescue Helicopters ,1st prize Graham Davies, 2nd Elaine Reeves, 3rd Ally Pratley.

The organisers would like to thank our sponsors, Havelock Hotel, Port Marlborough Pirimoana Holding & Town & Country Builders. Our support boats & crew, happy Snappa’s, & kitchen crew.

Te Hoiere Seagull Fleet was formed & is sponsored by Capt. Splash & Shady Lady and is an invitation only membership with the Kaupapa (principles) around the Aroha-love & respect of the mighty British Seagull outboard. Our fleet comes in all shapes, sizes, and every colour of the rainbow. We have boats made of mussel Floats, classic wooden clinkers, plastic fantastic, rubber duckies, ply -wood and tin billies. A sense of humour and unconditional love of the Mighty Seagull outboard, being supportive of the fleet along with the fact that we don’t do boring are key requirements for membership.

Our next race will be in September, date TBC, Shady Lady has recruited a flotilla of Wahine Toa to challenge our male fleet members and we are in it to Win It!