



IYFR Area 3

February 2021 Newsletter

Americas Cup 2021

Ahoy from Auckland, New Zealand.

As I write the Challenger series [Prada Cup] is under-way.

Someone said to me that the racing is boring – *it's just a procession from start to finish - none of the old tacking duels and nail-biting finishes*. But then – American Magic, while comfortably in the lead, capsized spectacularly while rounding a mark and almost totally wrecked their boat. They did get back in the water to compete against Prada for a place in the final but were not good enough to win.

Clearly the margin of error on these foiling monohulls is small – the speeds are spectacular as are the mishaps.

Prior to the Challenger series, the media had almost written off INEOS Team UK, they made changes to their boat and went on to win direct entry to the Prada Cup final. What a turn-around! But now as I write INEOS is 4 – 0 down to Prada in the final and are struggling in light winds.

So, the winner of the Challenger series is not a given at the outset.

To see video footage of racing, go to <https://www.americascup.com/>

Many of you will be reading this while in lockdown as the world tries to manage COVID-19. Here, inside New Zealand, we are fortunate to be enjoying a near-normal life [most of the time!] and it is summer. To achieve this, our borders are closed to all except returning New Zealanders and essential workers.

It is inconceivable that this situation will change before March, so the A3GM organising committee has restructured the AGM as a local event, but of course, visitors are always most welcome.

The current programme is:

March 14 (Sunday) – we have chartered an historic steam tug for a day on the water. This will include a BBQ dinner. If we are lucky, we may see some Americas Cup racing – this depends on the weather, how the competition is going, etc. If there is no racing, we will just have a nice day on the water with a swim and dinner.

AGM – We have decided there is no point in a local face to face meeting and so a Zoom meeting will be separately organised so that RCs representing all Area 3 Fleets can attend.

In the meantime, dream up innovative ways to keep your Fleets energized if you cannot go out on the water – or get together.

David Hansen
Chair, A3GM Organising Committee
16 February 2021



CHRIS MCKEEN/STUFF