



## Short Handed Sailing Association of New Zealand

### Press Release 4: Round North Island Race – 2020

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With just two days until the start of the 2020 Evolution Sails Round North Island Race the excitement is building across the fleet – the excitement that is for everything but the forecast for the start of the first leg of the race from Auckland to Mangonui. Across the fleet, the preference is clearly for a downwind or reaching start to set off around the North Island but the weather looks set to deliver 15 – 20 knots from the North, meaning a beat to start the race.

For Ken Ormandy skipper and owner of Gale Force having some close competition has changed the game with a different strategy to this race compared to last year's Round New Zealand (RNZ). "Last years RNZ race was a big adventure for us, this year having four Elliott 1050s will make for some intense racing" – Ken Ormandy. Keep an eye out for Gale Force to be at the front of the Elliott 1050 pack.

For Logan Fraser, skipper and owner of C U Later, a Ross 8m, a lot of hard work has gone in to finally getting to the start line! "The 3-year plan of converting and cajoling the C U Later from a sports boat into a coastal/ocean racer is almost complete. As expected, the battle just to get to the start line of this epic race has been monumental and as is the case when finances and resources are limited, it all comes down to the last few days. We would never have made it without some incredible support from the local sailing community. All the boxes have now been ticked off and the last few little details are being added and we cannot wait to get out on the racecourse and actually go sailing. Crossing the start line is going to be a massive achievement, crossing the finish line..... now that's going to be epic!"

While an upwind start won't favour Fraser or crew Nicolas Henry on the C U Later you can expect to see these skippers fight back the second the wind swings - reaching or downwind angles will favour C U Later in Division 4.

For Josh Tucker and Damon Jolliffe, skippers of Motorboat II, this race has been a long time coming given they started planning this campaign before they had even got to the dock after finishing the last RNI in 2017 onboard Sunfast 3600 Racing.

Chatting with Jolliffe it's clear these boys are ready for 2pm Saturday and to get out there and do it. "We both love the SSANZ RNI, it's the pinnacle of NZ Offshore keelboat yachting and this edition is the main reason why we bought Motorboat II. Yes, we did a short sail around the country last year (SSANZ RNZ2019) but that was just part of the build-up for this race. Since we bought the boat in 2018 we've done a huge amount of work and modifications to the boat and we are now at a point where we can honestly say there's nothing more we can do except go out there, give it our best shot and hope for a little luck along the way. All the hard work is done, now we just need to go sail the boat."



Weather is on the mind of many of our fleet as the race nears. We asked Jolliffe how he was feeling about the forecast – “We haven’t really looked too much into the weather yet as the start is still a few days away. It doesn’t really worry us, we know that by the end of the race, we will have had everything from a park up, to downwind hooning, to upwind bash crash and everything in between, so we are really just arguing over what order they are going to come in. We’ve ordered a 48 hour - 30-knot FRO & Staysail blast reach to Wellington so hopefully that arrives.”

You can expect Jolliffe and Tucker to put everything they have into every leg and be pushing hard to be well ahead of the pack, not only in Division 3 but across the wider fleet.

All our skippers agree on one thing though – the 2020 Evolution Sails Round North Island fleet has some great boats and exceptionally talented sailors across the fleet and it’s anyone’s guess as to what the conditions will do to the fleet for the start of the first leg and who will slot into early favourite spots by the time the yachts finish in Mangonui, 154 nautical miles later.

#### Race Tracking:

You can track the fleets progress on the SSANZ website [ssanz.co.nz](http://ssanz.co.nz) as the boats are all carrying YB Trackers which will update every hour while racing, or you can download the YB app.

#### Further contact details

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#### RNI Background

The SSANZ Two Handed Round North Island Race (RNI), proudly sponsored by Evolution Sails, is New Zealand’s most iconic yachting challenge and the 2020 edition will feature 38 yachts from 28 to 52 feet. This is 13th edition of the race, 43 years after the inaugural event was first planned by Sir Peter Blake and Martin Foster!

The race starts in Auckland with the first leg to Mangonui in the far north (154NM), Leg 2 is from Mangonui to Wellington (550NM), Leg 3 from Wellington to Napier(200NM), and the final leg from Napier returning to Auckland (367NM). The race is expected to take approximately 2 weeks in total to complete.

Thirty-three feet separate the smallest to largest boat, so the diversity of this fleet will bring with it not only great line honours racing for the larger yachts but an epic handicap battle across the fleet.





With 26 of the total 38 yachts between 34 and 40 feet we can expect some very tight racing in the middle of the fleet and each leg will go down to the wire on handicap.

Making it to the start line of this epic race is a challenge in itself. Each yacht must have a Category 2 Safety Certificate issued by Yachting New Zealand, have completed a 250 Nautical Mile qualifying passage with both Co-Skippers on board. The Co-Skippers must both also complete Advanced First Aid training, Advanced Sea Survival qualifications, and provide a medical certificate deeming them fit to compete. Each yacht must meet an extensive list of safety requirements and have completed safety drills, all of which are in addition to preparing the boat to ensure it is ready for this epic race and getting as many miles under the keel as possible two handed before the race. Many of the fleet used the SSANZ Anzac Enduro Race as their qualifying race and have also used the SSANZ Lewmar Triple Series, PIC Coastal Classic, RAYC White Island Race and other races to build up two handed time on their path to the start.

**Ends**