

PIC Coastal Classic Yacht Race 2015

NZL_Scotsman

Race report

The Coastal Classic is one of New Zealand's best known and popular races with up to 250 boats racing up the coast between Auckland and the Bay of Islands. This year was a slog for the real boats with mostly upwind with the wind from the Northwest. Two of the races I've taken part in were upwind and it can make for a long uncomfortable night. Life is a bit more comfortable from the armchair but the finish off Russell was very tense as I crossed the line second only two seconds ahead of Tyger. Kenza was well ahead with another superb performance.

I was online for only a few minutes after the start and made it around North Head, but my DCs a few minutes later were poor and I lost at least a minute sailing too high. A lot of care is needed with the Seacart polar, no matter how often we sail our trusty tri. Sailing low and fast through the knock after Tiri helped and there was a crucial dig inland off Bream Bay. After only an hour or so on starboard, it was back to a long board on port until well north of Cape Brett. We were well offshore by then. After the final tack we were around the Cape and with a bit of island dodging the sheets could be eased at last for the last few metres to the finish.

The podium times of just over 13 hours compare well to the 28ft tri Charleston that took 13h46. TVS won yet again in 9h23 and our friends on Promise with NZLyachtyakka on board took over 26 hours and finished second on line & handicap in their division.