



## QLYC....Summer Series – Ray Maki Race 3 - Sternchaser November 3, 2012

### A great day and a great race!

All things considered the day looked perfect with light winds and clear sky for the “Skirtchaser” as Colin Bishop likes to call it...must be something else on his mind!

A larger crowd of skippers and crew turned out to briefing under the burgee of QLYC including ten additional crew, courtesy of the Army establishment, through our connections at the Fort.



(Incidentally the Fort closes normal operations as of next Saturday and becomes an “archive”, right on the start of the 150 celebrations of the Borough of Queenscliffe commence. Something ironic about this methinks!!)

Commodore Jill and Sailing Captain Ian addressed the meeting with a sad note re the tragic passing of Colin Gibbs daughter on Friday...our condolences to Colin and his family from all at QLYC.



With ten yachts signed on the fleet looked to be set for the perfect race and OOD Ian and Bev Lee assisted by Jennifer Gilbert chose course six (6) which was a triangle Grass Beds to Swan Spit to Wedge Pile and return to Grass Beds over three laps. The duration of the race determined that two and one half hours duration was presented based on handicap start times.

A view of the course and the conditions meant a windward and two spinnaker legs for those game enough to go with the flow. Good luck to the Coutas!

A milling of yachts around the start was evidence of some cautious behaviour of tides and light breeze thought to influence start sequences given a period of 43 minutes from first to last yacht starting.

At the flag plus a few minutes it was Rosie away followed closely by Fancy, Wave Dancer, Defiance, Maud, Lionheart with a gap to Chinon then Zen and Kinsale, and lastly Sundance!



Chinon took to her spinnaker well across the start but Zen took some time to organise her kite which put her at some disadvantage on handicap. Sundance also took problem with her spinnaker with a loss of clew sheet adding to a slower first leg.





At Swan Spit (first time), Rosie was holding and taking to Wedge with Wave Dancer, Wave Dancer and Defiance closely followed by Fancy...but at Grass Beds it seemed a chase had ensued with Rosie, Wave Dancer vying for the lead to Swan Spit and Chinon now taking charge.

At Swan Spit on the second lap the breeze had stiffened and Wave Dancer was leading toward the finish off Wedge but Chinon taking her on....Defiance was well in it but struggling with Fancy and Maud.

Kinsale had trouble with her foresail furler and dropped behind whilst Zen was out of contention. Sundance was gathering the front runners and was a good three hundred metres astern of the leaders.

Having to tack to the Wedge mark there were three contenders with Sundance running the leaders in Chinon and Wave Dancer looking dangerous.

With two hundred metres to the Wedge Sundance had the line but Chinon and Wave Dancer were pointing under the mark and needed to tack to finish.

Unfortunately Wave Dancer slipped further down and as she tacked Sundance sailed over her bows to finish in second position. (pic B4 finish!..right)



Congratulations to a well-oiled machine in Chinon with Steve Lee at the helm who finished ahead of Sundance by 50 metres who also put Wave Dancer to third by around 50 metres.

A very exciting race as all sternchasers are and this was a good challenge for all.

Thanks to the additional sailors from the Army and their fortitude in a great race.

**Remember:** Next week it is the Coles Cup to Portsea return with briefing at Middy.



And lastly a pic of the winning keelboat in the Queenscliff to Geelong held a couple of weeks ago ...holding the trophy that was awarded for a fabulous sail!! Congratulations to John Barry and crew!

