



## Cec Anderson Series – Race 1

- January 21, 2012

### A very brisk day for our fleet!

There was an air of uncertainty around the briefing at the Harbour in Queenscliff as the skippers and crew gathered for the first race in the Cec Anderson Series.

A weather warning for increasing wind late afternoon and already there was evidence of gusts to 20 knots although sheltered in the harbour!



As can be seen ....discussions on weather and prevailing conditions were the order of the day between crews..

At the end and following a quick briefing with Ian Curtis (Captain) and Ian Lee leading the OOD, six yachts signed on for the race with a number of cousta boats deciding not to pursue the course as set.

Before racing commenced there were challenges in "The Cut" at the entrance with an ebb tide and easterly stiff breeze the water "stood up" and made for some difficult conditions as sailors made their way to Grass Beds for a three division start.

Interestingly Tiercel took sometime to get organised and found herself down toward Drapers before the start and whilst Div 1 with only Tintagel as a starter took some time to manage finally getting the main up...(only after a quick trip home after it was left behind!!) and then deciding on the No 3 jib...was late around 4 minutes at the start.

Div 2 got under way with Tiercel dragging her heels behind Zen...quick out of the blocks and Chinon right on the money!

At Div 3 Sundance took the line as she normally does with the Tiercel not too many minutes in front after a late start.

The course was Grass Beds to Drapers Pile to Swan Spit across to Wedge and return to Grass Beds with three (3) laps to be completed. A DNS was recorded for Christabelle who declined a start.

Chinon had difficulty in the leg up to Drapers against Tiercel but the Chinon achieved later and gained the upper hand after rounding the mark...Sundance was taking the challenge and caught Tiercel around



the second mark before settling down and gathering in Tintagel toward Grass Beds and Chinon around Swan Spit in the second leg.

Zen however had left her mark and was never headed as she took to the lead with the bit between her teeth....

Sundance and her crew with the wind in her nostrils could almost not smell the gannets on the Wedge mark given the gusts and the strong tide of some 3 knots which ebbed all day and took to the smaller craft to make things more difficult.



The order of the day was a "reef and a No 3" for most as the conditions moderated a little after the first leg although one would have to say....The OOD and crew found things difficult standing at the start / finish mark...

Apparently conditions were less than comfortable and the OOD and crew spilt their tea from the cups and had significant difficulty with getting the cream on the eats!! Such was the day!!

At the finish which was shortened by a lap to only two laps of the course....Zen comfortably from Sundance by 6 odd minutes.



No doubt Zen has caught the eye of the handicapper in this one!!

The best was yet to come and to quote a known bystander ....

"The seas at the entrance to the Creek (east wind, good ebb and some backwash would have struck terror into any average coward!!"



And of course Zen had more than their share of drama as they entered the creek on their return....as a result!!

In the final result it was Zen who captured the prize whilst Chinon was second and Sundance third. Others followed in Tintagel and finally Tiercel.

A good course and brisk conditions made for a spritely trip around the marks... which our late old friend, past Commodore, Honorary Life Member and sailor, Cec Anderson would have thoroughly enjoyed.

The Cec Anderson series of races is run in honour of this truly great local sailor from the past.