



The Irwin Memorial Trophy Race

Saturday, February 25, 2012



The day started early with high and blustery winds but with the expectancy of moderated conditions to 15 odd knots during the afternoon.

At briefing ten yachts announced their intention to sail with the Commodore and Club Captain signifying a great day on the bay again!!

Jill thanked everyone for their assistance and attending the post Champagne Chaser BBQ and afters held at the Cruising Yacht Club last Saturday...a very successful afternoon and evening!

OOD's Ian and Bev Lee and Jennifer Gilbert put the course to the gathering based on the expected conditions with a good windward leg from Grass Beds to Swan Spit onto No.3 and return to Grass beds with an expected three laps of the course.

A good ebb tide was certain to provide some attention to detail for the skippers approaching the non moveable marks!

It was noted that some skippers did not have their mind on all things nautical at briefing... with Peter Crofts of Maud fame, giving a nudge to the security gate (under the view of camera) and dark glasses of Russ Watson, (Nellie) looking the worse for wear post Friday night, along with Jock Lee's concentration given his (Christabelle) handicap on the day...could be a good thing this trophy!!



Well it was out on the water that it counted and as crews took to the water it was still gusting around 20 knots and most yachts had already opted for a reef in the main!



Whilst last week the coffers were boosted by some donations and a good bag of gold coin from briefing the Treasurer is always "counting out the money" There is never too much!!

The official start was contested by some and mandatory by others as the time advanced past the due time. Div 1 was away with Nellie, Rosie and Tintagel making it ahead of Drizabone.

By Div 2 all got away cleanly with Christabelle, Chinon, Maud and Wave Dancer mixing it up.

In Div 3 Imagine took a great line to start and then Sundance needed 360 to set a jib before strangling Imagine over the line...and heading down the course.



On the first lap it was a line of boats heading around Swan Spit down to No3 and across to Grass Beds again ...being lead by the smaller boats in the fleet but quickly being overtaken by our Div 2 group.

Interestingly on the grapevine apparently Maud hit the Rounding Mark Buoy at some point and therefore her demise was by misadventure and obviously crew inattention...

On the second lap a good close save by Drizabone as she approached No 3 with the tide pulling hard but Tom Fricke quickly tacked back and saved the day....Drizabone's rag draped on this mark would not look good!!

Imagine was making good time against Sundance as both took on the leaders in the final lap.



Sundance also, with the aid of the tide, tried to almost leave paint on the Swan Spit Pile but was saved by the skill of the helmsman...good work JB ... rest day at work on Monday!!

Imagine took time against Sundance in the windward leg and both had Chinon by the last leg which provided a good contest with Imagine under spinnaker being run down by Sundance under a goosewing set.

At the end it was Imagine across the line first followed by Sundance and Chinon third.

Under handicap it was Christabelle the winner with Imagine second and Nellie third.

Interestingly a tussle between Rosie and Nellie throughout the race close matching each other before Nellie pipped Rosie on the line....Good work to the boys!

Tintagel provided a lacklustre race under the



conditions and probably accounted for some nervousness given a wayward rope around both the motor and rudder as she left the mooring had left the skipper wanting!!

And, to top off a great day of adventure.... Steve Lee in Chinon needed a tow back to the boat ramp by Swan Rescue due to motor failure!!





Here we have a shot of Chinon being followed by Imagine and Rosie leading Nellie on the last lap of the course.

And of course Rosie trying very hard to hold off a fast finishing Nellie to no avail in the end!!

And that's all folks!!

See you all next week for the Cec Anderson Race 4 in the series....

"You have to be in it to win it!!" or talk to the handicapper!!

