



# QLYC....Summer Series – Champagne Stern Chaser! December 1, 2012

## Does it get any better than this?? Champagne Racing!

The Queenscliff Music Festival has gone and it is the beginning of December with lead up to Christmas....the Champagne Stern Chaser looked to be a changeable affair with "Huey" seemingly making things difficult!!



At briefing a large gathering saw westerly winds light to 15 forecast but later looked very difficult with over 25's late in the day from the south.

Commodore Jill enhanced the atmosphere with tantalising thoughts of champagne and goodies post-race at QCYC whilst wishing the assembled a top race in the interim.

OOD Ian and Bev Lee had the times in hand from Ian Curtis our Sailing Captain outlining a long list of start times with Rosie out first and Sundance a 42 minutes at the rear of the field.



Defiance and David Cross were still bemoaning their handicap as



skippers signed on and 32 sailors sought some confidence from the times given!

On the course, as the yachts circled the OOD and ensured their synchronisation of watches, the weather started a slight turn and storm clouds combined with high cloud had many yachts take to reefs in anticipation.



The Course itself was #5 in the series with a Grass Beds start to Wedge Pile across to Drapers Pile and back to Grass beds and three odd laps of this triangle until finish time at 4pm.

As the start time came and went Rosie took to the course with Drizabone and Fancy.



Fancy (Paul van Prooyen) decided he knew best and beat the starter but declined the offer of the OOD to return and was disqualified!!

The (fancied!), Defiance next off 9 minutes in a flying start with big "Russ Watson" ensuring weighting the high side!

Maud took her turn followed by Christabelle off 17mins ahead of Lionheart and Zen at 29 minutes out.



Imagine should have taken the second last spot out but failed to show with crew Gus having to jump the 2pm ferry....leaving Sundance to leave ahead of her at 2.12pm. Imagine finally started 5 minutes later! The best starter of the day goes to Christabelle starting just 10 secs after her time!



As Sundance gybed to take to the start her Vang parted and with the boom high, ...quick work by skipper John and crew made the mark and on a hardened mainsail repaired the offending Vang in transit to the mark...good work skipper!

Sundance started only half a lap ahead of the leader in the field who were approaching the creek pile.

The first lap saw all yachts strung out around the course but as time progressed they drew closer with Christabelle, Defiance and Drizabone outstanding, although Lionheart held off Zen throughout the course in a fierce tussle.



At the end of the second lap the main contenders for leader were Defiance, Christabelle, Maud, Fancy (DSQ) Sundance and Drizabone.



Lap times at the back of the field were around 40 minutes whilst at the front of the field they were around 55 minutes.

As the clock wound down and the field took Wedge for the last time Fancy being overtaken by Sundance forced Sundance higher and she approached Rosie at cross tacks being called on Starboard by Sundance .. Rosie reacted slowly with Sundance making a "duck" to avoid her and both ending up on the same tack...a near miss!!



On the run to Drapers it was Defiance from Christabelle with Drizabone and Zen followed by Maud and Sundance.



At Drapers Drizabone rounded ahead of Sundance who quickly pounced to chase Christabelle and Defiance for the lead.

But in the final run to Wedge it was Defiance easily outrunning Christabelle in second with Sundance third some 200 metres on the course.

A great win to Defiance with David Cross and Co taking the begrudged handicap and the champagne!! Well done and take a bow!!

Back at QCYC club house a celebration in true QLYC standards with our Commodore Jill ensuring the savouries, platters and nibbles were enjoyed by all ... Combined with some swift "bar work" by co Commodore Brian upstairs and downstairs!

Congratulations to all who participated and enjoyed a superb day on the course under the guidance of OOD's Ian and Bev!

**Remember:** Next week is a return to Series Racing on Sat Dec 8<sup>th</sup> with briefing at Midday and hopefully some Army charges to assist us out there!! Be Prepared!  
**AND** as if you want more ....one of the famous "Off the Beach Messabout Days" ....was held on Sunday and a separate report on this is shown elsewhere for your enjoyment!!  
We did enjoy a BBQ lunch plus ....!!

