



Winter Series – Race 2

July 1, 2012

Well we did say it is winter racing!!



Having missed out on a serious race for the first race of the winter series, all crews and skippers are a little toey as the day dawns a little unsettled although there will be a lovely wind from the north.

With no briefing, as per NOR, all crews meet at QCYC and take to the water.

The gentle breeze sees the four contenders in "Sundance", "Wave Dancer", "Tiercel" and "Lionheart" set their sights on a positive race with some eight crew participating for the Crew Award.

After taking the summer season aggregate award, Sundance lets go with sailing from the wharf and down the "Cut" in a defiant gesture!

Our OOD's in David and Jennifer arrive at Grass Beds for the start but the start is delayed as we see Sundance drop off a watch to Swan Rescue as timers are not working and within 10 minutes the first start signal is displayed and the countdown begins.

The course has been notified as course number one.....a triangle of Grass Beds, No 3. , Swan Spit and return to Grass beds with three laps.

At the start it is Sundance that takes the honours followed closely by the others with a trailing Wave Dancer.

The run to No 3 is easy and all take the rumb line with little influence by the ebb tide. But at the mark Sundance makes toward Swan Spit with an obvious required tack down the track whereas the others take to hardening up and taking a northerly course before tacking back to Swan Spit.

Unfortunately at this point a move by Lionheart and Wave Dancer to follow each other gives a Lionheart some grief with their sail trim and they almost go into irons, stop dead and turn toward Wave Dancer who tries desperately to avoid the nearing collision with Lionheart getting to lightly T-Bone Wave Dancer causing a small scar to WD. Not a good race here and some points toward this years "Mishap Award "already! Good one boys!

The Sundance option looks better and they are well advanced down toward and almost at Grass beds before the others round Swan Spit. This is a good lead to Sundance of some 13 minutes but not a happy lot for the others.

By the second lap of course Sundance has a good lead and the others are fairly grouped back in the course.

The sky is now threatening with very black skies to our south and west to east. The potential of a wind squall is imminent and obviously plenty of rain although most has skirted the lower end of the bay.

A word between the acting sailing captain, John Barry and Swan Rescue, determines that the race should be shortened at the end of this second lap.



There is more to come as Sundance falters with an engine performance issue entering the creek against the ebb tide, pulling into the harbour basin temporarily before being assisted by Swan Rescue up the creek to the QCYC wharf to berth.

Many thanks to David Millie and Jennifer Gilbert as OOD and saving the day.

At the finish we see Sundance first across the line followed by Tiercel 14 minutes later, then Lionheart a further 2 minutes behind and finally Wave Dancer 9 minutes behind her.

On Handicap it is Tiercel under the gentle hand of Colin Gibbs as winner of the first race, Sundance second, followed by Wave Dancer and lastly Lionheart.

Skippers and Crews returned to the QCYC Club House for quiet refreshments following the race and recalled events whilst John Barry tabulated results to everyone and congratulated them on their performance and in terms of our crew winter championship, we now have:

On 1 point and leading so far: Steve Lee, and Derek Ryan,
On 2 points: Jodi Kemp, Frank McMahon and Brian Golland,
On 3 point: Ross Houghton,
On 4 points: Phil Blewitt and Tom White.



And so be it....a good little race around the cans which has set the scene for better and bigger things as we maintain a good feeling about winter racing!!

Please note: for all crews "the Grub" would love some photos from other yachts as we need a different perspective sometimes.....all info gratefully received at the editors desk....with the title of "Whistleblower" to be awarded to the best informant!!!! Call the hot line Or the Commodore!

