



## QLYC...Winter Series – Race 3

July 22, 2012

### Winter racing in lovely breathless airs!! (with tide!)



Enthusiasm has been building in the three weeks (July 1<sup>st</sup>) since our last race and the crews were getting ready!

Again with no briefing, (as per our NOR), the stalwarts amongst the crews meet at QCYC and take to the water.

We see four contenders in "Sundance", "Wave Dancer", "Kinsale" and "Lionheart" on the water well before start time and looking at the calm seas there is anxiety as the lack of wind provides no incentive to the crews participating for the Crew Award for this series.

Frank McMahon booked a spot early in the week on board Wave Dancer sought an advantage with the lower handicap held by this vessel and nudging out Jodi Kemp who had to remain on Sundance for this race.

Again our OOD's in David and Jennifer arrive at Grass Beds for the start but the start is delayed once more as skippers contend with a flood tide and almost no wind to combat the "float" down the bay.

Doug Curlewis as skipper of "Kinsale" has already assessed the situation as very lacklustre, with a large crew on board, decides that the day will be lost waiting for a start and abandons with a venture through the heads in search of wind and hopefully a decent sail!

The course set was #5 which involved a start at Grass Beds to Wedge across to Drapers and back to Grass Beds as the first leg which would have been repeated twice more depending on conditions.

Over the radio OOD Jennifer advises of a second start sequence once all boats are behind the line....very obliging these OOD's now days!! Start time is now 11.48am.

Sundance takes a lead and finds a little wind, picks a line closer to the start boat maintains momentum with a few 360's, before nabbing the line just after the "flag drop".

Wave Dancer with Dave Hatton stopped in the tide and whilst within earshot of Swan Rescue struggled to make head way in the current....and Lionheart with Patrick Roberts dropped even further off the area drifting toward the shore and beyond Swan Spit.

Whilst Sundance had started and the others stopped in the tide there was no wind to speak of against this tide and Sundance made little ground toward the Wedge mark.



Wave Dancer was the second boat to start some 4 minutes into the race with Patrick having to motor off the inner shore about to ground and finally start some 28 minutes later.

Whilst Wave Dancer kept within reach of Sundance the tide worked heavily on Lionheart and she ended up closer to the Coles Channel mark before making any headway toward the intended "Wedge Mark"!!

The slow race continued and it was well after 1pm or an hour and half after the start that Sundance was able to make the Wedge although in the process had passed to the Melb side of No.3 and Swan Spit!! (Mind you it was a very nice sunny day out there for the afternoon!!)

Both Sundance and Wave Dancer were able to fly spinnakers between Wedge and Drapers and there was some good wind under a cloud bank passing by which assisted this part of the course.

As Sundance approached Drapers as the second mark she observed Wave Dancer rounding Wedge – so all was not lost!

At Drapers and under the headland there was little wind again and a slow pace in almost no tide assisted both Sundance and Wave Dancer to complete the now shortened course at Grass Beds after a lap of the course taking between almost three hours to over three and a half hours.

Possibly the shortest but longest QLYC race ever held.....shortest distance and longest time!!

Line honours went to Sundance with the only other finisher being Wave Dancer. Lionheart was a DNF after valiantly testing herself in the waters well out of reach of the intended course.

On handicap it was however Wave Dancer the winner over Sundance by a margin of over eight minutes!! (*The handicapper may observe that Sundance needed to cross the line an hour before Wave Dancer to win on handicap!!*)

So, on the crew points system the leader now is Frank McMahon on 3 points leading Jodi Kemp and Brian Golland who are both on 4 points.



Well picked Frank in choosing to sail with Dave Hatton on this lacklustre winter day in the trenches.

On 3 points and leading: Frank McMahon,  
On 4 points: Jodi Kemp and Brian Golland,  
On 7 points: Phill Blewitt and Tom White



And another one bites the dust....a delicate race once around the course and we still 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!**

