



QLYC...Winter Series – Race 4 August 12, 2012

After a week of rain etc...Winter racing at best!



This winter has been one to remember with rain and miserable gloomy days...!!!

However, our crews were looking forward to something special here and the day looked good for the 4th race of the series....and with three weeks break, the crews were getting anxious!

Again with no briefing, (as per our NOR), the four keel boats and a cuta boat front the starter at Grass Beds.

Today we have the "all girl crew on Swan Rescue" with Lady Commodore Jill and Secretary Jennifer Gilbert giving the orders.

The starters were "Sundance", "Wave Dancer", "Lionheart", "Tiercel" and lastly the Couta Boat "Swan Bay" commanded by Greg Nielsen whom we haven't seen for quite some time....back for some revenge are we??

The OOD's are ready and the time ticks down to 11.30 am with the appropriate flag drops and horn accompanying....the tide is on the turn and the wind around 10 to 12 knots...just the day for a good sail.

The Course is No 9 and basically a rosette from Grass Beds to a number of piles and return with the chance of a shortened course. Marks in order are Drapers, Wedge, Pope's Eye, Swan Spit and No 3.

An excellent start by all, with Swan Bay sliding down the line to put off all good starters..... and the rest taking a fast line ahead of Tiercel slightly astern.

Straight up to Drapers is the word and Sundance leaps into the lead with confidence ...perhaps too much one might say!!



At Drapers Sundance takes it to port and is followed quickly by Swan Bay....however a bird whispers in JB's ear on Sundance and suddenly both vessels return to take the mark correctly as a starboard mark...

Well it was JB that set the courses for the winter series...slightly ironic!! (careful as the Mishap Award beckons!!)

This brings the field back together and literally the race is starting over...almost!...back to Grass Beds and off to Wedge and it is Sundance followed by Swan Bay, then Lionheart closely with Wave Dancer and lastly Tiercel picking up the rear.



At Wedge and return to Grass Beds there is little change in placings before the fleet heads off to Pope's Eye Pile and return. This leg is a little more arduous and some tacking required before the quick return to Grass Beds....the wind has picked up a little off shore but at Grass Beds it remains a fickle component of the race.



The fleet headed by Sundance and Swan Bay heads up to Swan Spit and returns to a shortened course flag at Grass Beds (effectively eliminating the last leg to No3 and return).

The dual between Lionheart and Wave Dancer is evidence of good sailing by both skippers and crew as seen as they round Swan Spit on the final leg!

Sundance leads the charge to the finish with Swan Bay finishing some 17 minutes later followed by Lionheart (third) and

Wave Dancer (fourth) with Tiercel (fifth) completing the field home some 40 minutes behind the winner.

Only 30 seconds separated Lionheart and Wave Dancer over the line...nice work lads!



On handicap it was Wave Dancer with Skipper Dave Hatton taking the gravy to Sundance second and Swan Bay third. Congratulations go to all on a magnificent sailing day and particularly to the return of Swan Bay under skipper Greg Nielsen...welcome back Greg!

So, on the crew points system the leaders now are Jodi Kemp and Brian Golland with 6 points leading Frank McMahon on 8 points. (However Frank is in qualifying as front runner having sailed on three boats in the series.)



On 6 points and leading: Jodi Kemp and Brian Golland,
On 8 points: Frank McMahon,

On 11 points: Phil Blewitt and Tom White

And another good race on a beautiful winter's day at Queenscliff...!!

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!

