



## QLYC...Winter Series – Race 6 September 23, 2012

### A race that proved weather and circumstances prevailed against the odds!! Oh... such is the rescue boat!

The Spring weather sorted us out !!



The day dawned with brilliant sunshine and quickly turned to wind and rain before settling to a 15knot breeze.

The Illustrious annual onslaught of protestors around Swan Island defences had started with a lockdown and therefore lack of entry the road to Sand Island and dinghies etc for skippers and crew.

Swan Rescue was brought on to transport everyone to their yachts from within the harbour except for Kinsale who are resident in the harbour. Brian Golland and Jennifer Gilbert were OOD for the day!

As a result all yachts arrived on scene at Grass Beds with 40 odd minutes to spare and as the wind increased to 20 odd knots there was the excuse to reef an odd main before starting.

The Course for the day was difficult to determine and ended up with #9 which involved a Grass Beds start off to Drapers, to Grass Beds, to Wedge, to Grass Beds and off to Pope's Eye Pile....and better!



Kinsale and Doug Curlewis were quick to raise sails and add some quick manoeuvres before a start. Dave Hatton with Wave Dancer saw fit to reef and take a bit of time getting organised without a jib to be seen.

However down the back of the bay behind the Creek Pile Sundance and John Barry were struggling with a main that "just would not behave", plus a halyard problem, all compounded by being a little undermanned for the day's events and prevailing conditions.



As the start procedure took precedence, all eyes were on the starters and at "Flags Down" it was Kinsale who took off very timely across the line and off to Drapers Pile!

Wave Dancer was still at a point of non-starter, although approaching the start with Jib not in place and looking a little unprepared! She took some 6 or 7 minutes to cross the line without her Jib.

Sundance however was well to the east of the Creek Pile seemingly still attempting a mainsail hoist.

At about 10 minutes Kinsale was off Drapers Pile but Wave Dancer had returned with Jib hoisted and headed up toward QA before returning for a second start approx 12 minutes into the race.



Sundance headed toward Swan Rescue with a dragging mainsail and jib flogging without starting and headed back toward the Cut and eastward. It was obvious that all was not well with sheets tangled etc., that made a very odd sight.



As Kinsale returned to round the Grass Beds, she reefed, before heading off and took a great stride toward Wedge whilst Wave Dancer was approaching Drapers Pile.

Some radio traffic was not helping as communication with Sundance appeared only one way and although not in trouble, a mobile call sorted out things temporarily. Sundance had lost engine power and whilst not sailing was managing on her own.

At 30 minutes into the race the wind had picked up considerably, gusting to over 25 knots and Swan Rescue had already made the decision to shorten the race at Grass Beds as soon as Kinsale had passed Grass Beds.

At the end Kinsale and Doug Curlewis were easy winners across the line and on handicap winning by some 7 minutes on corrected time.

Well done to Doug and crew for a very tight and well managed race win.

Some 30 minutes later Wave Dancer finished to be both 2<sup>nd</sup> on Performance and across the line! Having cleared the race just before 1pm Swan Rescue organised Doug Curlewis to take Sundance in tow from off Pope's Eye pile area and return her to the harbour whilst Swan retrieved buoys and made way to assist with Sundance as a priority.



Swan led into the Cut, and whilst awaiting Sundance to tie alongside the harbour pontoon, temporarily went out to guide Wave Dancer, which also was having engine difficulties with overheating, but due to change of tide was able to make her own way back to the pens.

Swan then set about towing Sundance back to her mooring, just as the wind was picking up with likely increases predicted later in the day. The towing took quite some time due to considerable tide and wind, but after three attempts, Swan was able to secure Sundance on her mooring in the bay.

In short it was a very busy and blustery day with some exciting moments.

Thankfully Swan Rescue and the crews were able to keep control without any danger to any of the vessels or crew **BUT . . . what did we learn and what could we do better next time, needs to be considered by all** as we strive to ever improve our seamanship.

Congratulations again to all those that participated in yet another, somewhat different day on our Bay!

**Thank you to all participants in the Winter Series which is now concluded and we look forward to celebrating in style at our dinner at the Victoria Tavern on the 6<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm ... please come along and enjoy the stories of what was won and lost during a good winter!!**

**See you there . . . Commodore Jill.**

