



QLYC Cec Anderson Series, Race 6. Sat April 6 2013.

“The Long Road Home.”

The big boats argued that races were too short. They finished, they claimed, in just over an hour: their roast lunches under-cooked, the pastries almost raw; the victory champagne warm in their throats. Their plaint reached the august ears of the OOD who, deaf to suggestions from the splinter fleet that the fast boats could simply sail more slowly, prescribed **Revised Course One**, a course of fifteen nautical miles on a sparkling autumn day when the fiercest gust might have exceeded ten knots. The tide ebbed until after four PM (still daylight saving time) at up to two knots.



Club Captain Ian Curtis and OOD Ian Lee briefed a moderately numerous crowd of yachtsmen and women. Seven vessels signed on.

The Club Captain announced the imminent end of the Season with only three events remaining for competition. Still to come are a **SUPPLEMENTARY** for **CEC ANDERSON FIVE**, the **LADY NELSON TROPHY RACE**, and the race for the **COMMODORE'S CUP** (this last to be followed in the evening by the frenzied bacchanal known as the **COMMODORE'S COCKTAILS**).



The **OOD** handed out a few copies of the revised courses, saying that the actual course number would be displayed on *Swan Rescue* before the start. It was **Revised Course 1**. The **Revised Courses** can be found on the the club's website, linked to the home-page.



In Division One *Rosie* and *Indulgence* made good starts on starboard tack, intending to remain in the less tide-affected shallows, in fact remaining well inside of and getting well to the north of **Swan Spit Pile**, then tacking to port, passing **Tuckey** (alias **Number 2 West Channel**) and rounding **No. 3 West Channel** which marks the western edge of the **West Channel**. The tide was into the second hour of a reasonably vigorous ebb, and the Division Two boats, *Zen*, *Tiercel*, and *Wave Rider* soon overtook the Division One boats. *Zen*, hugging the Swan Island shore, risked a burst from the coast defences as she sailed well inside the clearly-marked **Defence Exclusion Zone**. *Rosie's* crew found the best way to avoid the tide (and the bottom) was to get out and push. *Indulgence's* crew trembled on the leeward rail as the vessel bumped over **Swan Spit's** shallows which can almost be seen in the background of the picture below



Imagine and *Sundance* with their generous waterline lengths, sail areas (and deep keels) eschewed the trip through the shallows.



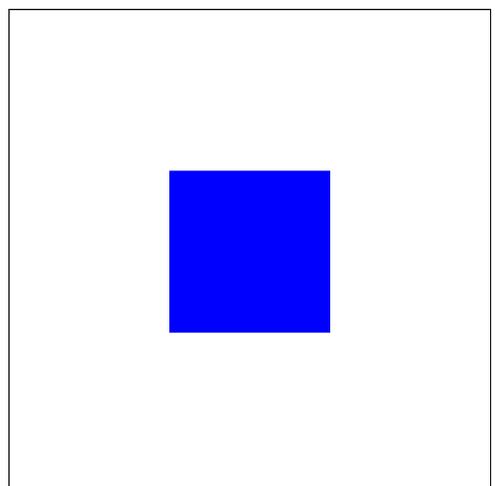
Sundance tacked to the east before **Swan Spit**, but *Imagine* stood well to the north, splitting the fleet into followers of *Sundance*, followers of *Imagine*, and *Zen* who followed her muse.

Wave Dancer followed *Sundance*, the others followed *Imagine*.



Wave Dancer seemed almost past the **Wedge** (above) at the western entrance to the **West Channel**, while bets were placed as to whether *Tiercel* would pass north or south of **Tuckey** and where her course would cross with that of *Wave Dancer*.

With the vessels of the fleet now spread out in the positions that would be maintained to the finish, *Rosie* and *Indulgence* struggled round **No. 3** and returned via **Swan Spit Pile** to **Grassbeds**. Here *Rosie*, seeing *Swan Rescue* displaying the shorten course flag **S** (below right), elected to retire.



Because, while the big boats were about to cross the finish line, *Rosie* and *Indulgence* still had to complete a “sausage” of **Grassbeds - No. 3.** - **Grassbeds**, and the previous leg, **Grassbeds, No. 3, Swan Spit Pile, Grassbeds** had taken more than two hours.



Above you can see *Imagine* approaching the finish, followed by *Zen* who still has to complete the “sausage”.



First across the line was *Sundance* (above), beating *Imagine* by six minutes.

Desperation produced a flowering of spinnakers among the back markers.



Above, top to bottom, you can see Colin Gibb ordering the spinnaker to set properly; David Hatton appears to be shooting the helmsman; and Geoffrey Mathews is showing the spinnaker boom where it goes.

The OOD ruled that *Indulgence* was a DNF for not completing the race by Five o'Clock PM. The handicap result turned out to be, in order, *Sundance*, *Imagine*, *Zen*, *Tiercel*, and *Wave Dancer*.

Thank you to our race officers Ian and Bev Lee, and to Ian Lee for photographs.



**The Next Club Event is a Race for
THE LADY NELSON TROPHY. 13/4/2013.**