



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht club.... Around Mud Islands Passage Race Sat January 12, 2013

A Race that had it all Coutas win & Bendigo gets CBH!!

This event has its origins back in the dark days Many may remember as part of the Passage Series involving Bendigo YC, Geelong Trailable YC and QLYC.

This traditional race has all the hallmarks of original racing on Port Phillip with Coutas, Trailables and Keel boats mixed in a fleet over 20 plus Nm in the lower reaches of this bay in tide and waters somewhat unfamiliar to many competitors!

Again at a well-attended briefing crews and skippers took time to discuss tactics and course detail which should ensure a safe and well run, but fun event!

Unfortunately only 9 yachts entered this year and included two outsiders in Sixpenny Bit (a Timpenny from Bendigo YC) and Down Under (a Noalex 25 from Ocean Grove).

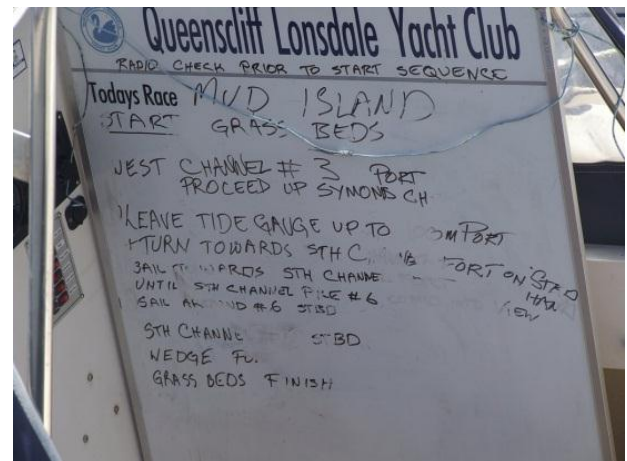
Others included Zen, Nellie, Sundance, Lionheart, Jadda, Indulgence and Chinon.

With three starts there was bound to be some action especially in the Second Division.....and there was as can be seen below....

Sixpenny had a great run to the line until our Chinon took him (from behind) to task and forced him down the line....

And thereafter Zen took the lead away from Chinon with our visitor languishing behind the fleet!

And as expected in some blustery conditions the additional penalty weight on the rail did assist!





As they headed off there were some excellent captured photo opportunities whilst those in Div 3 waited around for the pursuit to begin!!

With Div 3 came the big boys and their toys...Imagine slipped ahead of Sundance as the kites were deployed and took a bit of a lead...

Sundance saw opportunities on the passage to the Tide Gauge and took a lead but both yachts were tied together just after passing within the mark as required...Imagine did cut the corner under interpretation of the skipper!

At the Tide Gauge Lionheart had dropped back and whilst Indulgence was in touch she a bit of early trouble with the satellites hiding their faces.

On Indulgence it was only when the helmsman remarked that the GPS was taking them to St. Leonards that their attention turned from the strange course of the couta boats (seduced no doubt by the sirens singing on Mud Island) to their own wandering towards the West Channel??

Sixpenny Bit crossed with Indulgence a couple of times before getting ahead on port while Indulgence hung onto starboard for a long time.

Most yachts couldn't make radio contact with Swan Rescue from the tide gauge which was strange...must have been the nesting season on Mud Island! However relays found messages passed on to Swan! Some chatter between Sundance and Imagine saw a protest flag on Sundance which heightened the tension and expedited the speed of Imagine toward No 6 turning mark.

The Coutas had taken flight during the run up the bay by the rear of the fleet and could be seen dodging around in waters heading for No 6.

On the run across the top of the course the fleet came together with tacking across and down to the turning mark. Some were more adept than others it seemed but the windy and more turbulent conditions assisted the larger in the fleet.

Indulgence finished tacking quite close to the Fort, but, (blush), by looking in the wrong direction, on the long passage towards the South Channel Fort, Indulgence were amused to see Lion Heart tacking behind them, but never quite getting away from the Mussel Beds. Indulgence paid for their smugness by spending thirty minutes aground between No 6 and No8.

What were they doing up there??? And then they finally got off in time to cancel Dad's Army before retiring!



In the final run up the South Channel and finally across to and round the Wedge mark...Imagine did very well maintaining their lead and finishing well ahead of second in Sundance. Zen was the hard nut to crack and whilst they came in third...did a spectacular job around the whole course!

On Handicap the results showed "Nellie" in first place with "Jadda" second and "Imagine" third.

Note: the info on the website should show Nellie with a time of 114.485. Nice!!

Our congratulations go to Russ and Andrew in Nellie who with the right weight to windward knew their stuff!!

On CBH amongst the trailables it was "Sixpenny Bit" with Ron Mason that eclipsed the fleet with "Chinon" second and "Down Under" with Tony Doolan in third place.



Good work to Reilly and Riley as youngsters crewing on Down Under.



Our apologies for the delays in publishing but an absent Sailing Captain and some discussion with the OOD sorted out we saw the results out last Saturday 19 Jan!

At this stage it will be "See you all this time next year!!"



**Next Club Event –
will be Saturday
26/1/2013, CHANNELS**

**RACE.....Please note BRIEFING 11-30 AM,
Racing at 1PM.....**

