



## Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

### The Annual Channels Race

- Sat December 20, 2014

#### Ho Ho...so we wanted a good race and we were gifted it!!

The Annual Channels Race had previously been cancelled due to weather but today was a sparkler in terms of Xmas and the day itself turned out magnificent for yacht racing.

Again the word was out on Friday by email to all skippers with an earlier start to make things a little easier on the social side for afters!

Gathering at briefing it was a good crowd of skippers, crew with a number of visitors introduced to us by Geoffrey Mathews and from France!

Our Commodore Jill again opened proceedings and introduced our visitors as well as thanking everyone for the great Xmas party at the club last night....



The Club Captain outlined the course of Grass Beds to Swan Spit to No 4 West Channel directly up and inside the West Channel to the West Channel Pile off to St Leonards mark at the pier before returning via the Coles Channel, around The White Lady off to Swan Spit and home to Grass Beds.

Whilst the south easterly wind was favourable at around 12 to 15 knots there was an ebb tide which would slightly impede the sail down and across to St Leonards the assist the return.

With start time for 1pm, first off would be Div 1 with Nellie and Tintagel giving it a shake, before Div 2 with Valentine, Fancy and Tiercel and lastly Div 3 and the lone Sundance chasing the leaders.

Some confusion at the start following Div 1 who were away quickly but in Div 2 Fancy took an early bite at the cherry and took off well before her start time confusing others! As can be seen Fancy well



out of the blocks before Valentine and Tiercel start!!

Valentine had a great start and Tiercel followed.

By the time Sundance started the fleet were well on their way up the channel beyond Swan Spit and toward No 4 West Channel.

Early spinnaker hoists saw some frantic efforts to get it right but Tiercel with her effortless chute did it easily.



Sundance (left) took some time to get it right and had some opportunities to practise skills not used since last season's racing!!



Down the channel all went pretty well although Fancy was seen avoiding No 9 pile by staying out side and therefore took a DSQ to another

height after the DSQ for starting early...Paul and crew had a good sail though! At this point Sundance had passed her and she now trailed the fleet.

Past the West Channel Pile it was Valentine ahead with Tiercel over Tintagel who had maintained her lead on the long passage up the bay and with the field fairly bunched after Sundance just passed Nellie.



By the St Leonards Pile it was Sundance and Valentine that were heading Tiercel and Tintagel in different directions with the fleet heading to port and Sundance laying a better heading down the channel.

Just after Sundance and Valentine crossed paths as they now lead the fleet with Tiercel and Tintagel close behind.

Tacking down the Coles assisted by tide was arduous but most would take no more than four tacks to complete the journey before rounding the White Lady and heading down to Swan Spit.

Sundance had a reasonable lead trailed by Valentine ahead of the rest.

By the Grass Beds Finish it was Sundance with line honours ahead of Valentine, followed by Tiercel, Tintagel and Nellie with Fancy trailing the fleet. In a great race all competitors completed the course and finished within 40 minutes of the leaders.

On Handicap it was Valentine (right) with her first win at the club.... so congratulations to Steve Lee on a big effort.



Second was Tiercel (left) from Nellie in third place followed by Tintagel with Sundance last and of course Fancy a DSQ.



Tintagel was pipped on handicap by Nellie by a quarter off a minute! Sundance was left in the trail of all by eight and half minutes behind the winner on handicap.

A great race again in an annual event for the club and caps off a good beginning to the season before we head off to join Santa and the elves for a little seasons celebration..



*Merry Christmas to all our skippers and crews and a special bit of tinsel for the OOD's and their contribution to our successes.*

*Santa sends his biggest.....Ho Ho!!*

*And this season Santa extends his best and most favourite wishes to "The Handicapper"*



**PLEASE NOTE:**

Club Racing was set to continue with a Regatta on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> (Sprint Races) and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> (race into the Lonsdale Bight) .....**BUT** the Melbourne Hobart "Eastcoaster" & "Westcoaster" start on 27<sup>th</sup> at 12.30 off Portsea Pier..... and we need to know if skippers would like to:...nominate by Wednesday morning!!!!

- a. Go out and sightsee the start of the East and West Coasters off Queenscliff around 10.30am from the harbour.....and Race on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> on a course around and through the Lonsdale Bight ...**OR**..
- b. Use both days as race days as per the calendar! ..... **Email the Commodore !!!!**

AND a PS: " \*&%\$ "

