



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Cole Cup – not quite what was expected....

- Sat November 22, 2014

“Hughie” played games with us ... but we managed to make the best of what he threw down!!

The Cole Cup day dawned rather inviting until it came time for our race day briefing...

At Briefing the Commodore talked it up on the Club Messabout Day on Sunday with great conditions expected and everything in order under the captaincy of Geoffrey Mathews our OTB Captain.

There will be no race next week due to the QMF festival impounding on the Borough!

The Club Captain (alias the Grub) consulted with all and interrogated various electronic weather applications all indicating 14 knots ...but at Queenscliff Harbour it was better than 20 knots, so all skippers and crew who were there asked the question.....will we race and on what course?

Mixed reactions compounded the possible scenarios posed by the sailing committee and outlined by the club captain. If the wind abated, all would be well but with a forecast change late in the day and no warnings from our friends at the weather bureau, the decision was taken to ‘get out there and see’. “Kinsale” radioed in reporting 20 knots at Swan Spit, so the planned course to Portsea, Sorrento and return was put off in favour of a safer course staying closer to Queenscliff and using the shore as the preferred option.

The OOD’s Jill and Ian were out on course and had set the start line according to the listed race of the Cole Cup to Portsea .



With the weather being quite gusty and over 18 knots with the start coming up.....The club captain called off the set course for the Cole Cup and set a new course from Grass Beds to Swan Spit, back to Grass Beds to Drapers Pile and back to Grass Beds with two laps and all marks to Port. This did confuse things as the OOD’s had commenced the start sequence but up went the Postponement Flag, delaying the start by 15 minutes but all skippers came to the fore and the OOD’s did a great job in the conditions and got all nine yachts and three divisions away.

Just before the re-start there was a lightening of breeze at least temporarily and most skippers decided to take a chance with full sails after earlier reefs and jib reduction.



Div 1 got off to a flying start when Defiance with Tristian on the helm blitzed the line as the Blue Peter came down and a few others got caught up in the moment, following his lead and also crossed the line a minute early...oops...around we go as you do...and finally, everyone got into the swing of things with a good second try!! Thanks for brightening our day Tristian!!

Div 2 got away without incident and Div 3 followed with the big boys and their toys in Sundance (John Barry) and Kinsale (Doug Curlewis) although a little pressure by Sundance had Kinsale behind from the start.

With the breeze at around 12 to 14 knots the fleet was travelling well but “the bolt from the blue” in Defiance with Tristan and crew were ‘flying’ and maintained their pace throughout the first leg with the fleet making chase.

At Grass Beds at the end of the first lap it was Defiance from Wave Dancer, Valentine and Tiercel making good ground whilst the Coutas were taking a wider run and losing some distance to the rest of the fleet. Indulgence was keeping rear guard and keeping a lookout and Fancy doing a good job with others in the fleet.

However, on the second lap, it was evident that the breeze was strengthening and this put paid to any major positional changes except for the two larger yachts in Kinsale and Sundance, who were now starting to grasp hold of the front runners.

By Swan Spit the second time it was Defiance still



holding the lead but Sundance was close



behind and closing along with Kinsale and just before Grass beds on the passage to Drapers return for the finish it was Sundance who caught Defiance.

Kinsale followed shortly thereafter but the breeze really kicked up and following an earlier slight lull, the pressure rose, under a threatening sky, with most yachts heeling significantly given their earlier decision to race with full rigs!

At Drapers Pile the leaders gybed under a little pressure but then found the going very tough heading windward to pass the Creek Pile and then to the finish at Grass Beds. At this point it could be seen from the results that Defiance took a fair beating in the latter part of the race finishing some 40 minutes after the lead yachts having led most of the race!

Mind you at this point it was apparent also that the OOD's were having their own battle on anchor with wind and buffeting waves as they waited patiently for a fleet under pressure. However, they managed to get some great photographs!



At the finish it was Sundance with line honours from Kinsale finishing well from Tiercel in third. Others followed in Defiance from Valentine, Wave Dancer, Fancy and Indulgence.



A quick review by the OOD's took Indulgence off the list as a DSQ, having put the Grass Beds mark to starboard

during the second lap of course! "Bugger!" said Ian and Colin! But they still sat and awaited the OOD's for a tow up the creek to their mooring in Swan Bay....! Nellie was an unfortunate casualty of a fierce piece of wind and put a hefty tear in her sails for the adventure and retired "hurt".

On handicap the winner again was Sundance despite a handicap from her previous efforts. Second on handicap was Kinsale with a creditable performance just over a minute behind whilst Defiance took third a little over three minutes behind Kinsale. Others followed in Tiercel, Wave Dancer, Valentine with Fancy ahead of Indulgence on her DSQ.



A creditable performance and congratulations to all who ventured out and worked well to manage the conditions **BUT** not a word was heard from our friends at the "BOM" who did not even mention "a strong wind warning"??

Next Club Racing start: Is SATURDAY December 6th with The Around Mud Islands – Classic Race - meet at harbour at 10.30 for briefing!

Note to all: Courses are **(BLUE SHEETS)** for the current season and more will available at briefing on Saturday, available from the OOD



Footnote, (on the right):
Is this Tristian thinking
“How did I get here??”



But Valentine
was the only kite
we saw all
day....wow!



And of course Fancy (left) with Paul on the helm was also
a placegetter but under some duress and well inshore
here!!



And Doug Curlewis gives his keel a good look at the
Grass Beds buoy on the second leg to Swan Spit.