



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Ray Maki Race 2, Sat October 29, 2016

It was third week lucky....Season's racing started finally with Ray Maki Race 2 of the Series....and wot a race!

There was incentive enough this week, with a good forecast after two weeks and a winter that will live in the memory for a while, to get out there for the first race of the season.

And it was with a good group of skippers and sailors gathered at briefing in the traditional area outside the QHPL shed in warm weather with a light north easterly blowing across the harbour.

Commodore Jill addressed the group with a welcome to old and new members and visitors, with a special welcome back for Sylvie after her accident back in May.



Club Captain Brian went over the expected course for the day to be held in light breezes, together with a reminder on the QCYC Goorangi Race of Nov 12 in which a number of our skippers will participate including their Opening Day on the Sunday following, but our club will continue our program with a Special Trophy Race on the 12th. Formalities complete and a quick word from OOD Ian Lee it was off racing.

Yacht entries were Imagine, Sundance, Valentine, Boomaroo, Wave Dancer, Fancy, Tiercel, Drizabone. Wave Dancer did not appear and became a DNS....sorry Dave. However even our Imagine was a doubtful...given Chris rushed away before briefing and was missing as he fuelled up the vessel for today's race.



On the course it was the OOD's and Swan anchored at Grass Beds and readied the flags for a three division start confirming course No 1 for the day.

The Course (#1) was Grass Beds to #3 West Channel, Swan Spit, Grass Beds, #3, Grass Beds, #3, Swan Spit and finish at Grass Beds. The distance of just over 10 Nm.

In Div 1 it was Fancy with Scot and boys trailing a quick starting Drizabone with Tom Fricke and crew that got away pretty smartly with around 30 seconds off the mark.



Div 2 saw the three skippers vying for the line together in Boomaroo, Tiercel and Valentine.

At Div 3 it was Sundance across the line smartly but dipping back to ensure there was no doubt as to a correct start whilst Imagine took their time and with a view to handicap accumulation got across some 4 minutes after the signal.



Heading off toward #3 West Channel in light conditions the diversity of their angles of attack was a surprise. The Couta's went well east toward Wedge before making toward #3, whilst Div2 split up with Boomaroo heading easterly and Valentine following the coast inside the channel toward Swan Spit and Tiercel taking a rhumb line to #3.



Div 3 saw Imagine following up Valentine inside and catching her before Swan Spit in very light conditions whilst Sundance took a more direct line toward #3 before tacking north.

It was a slow drag toward #3 given an ordinary tide on the ebb and the softening breeze. The breeze was stronger out toward #3 but as the wind had moved toward easterly and was fluky.

Toward #3 it was Boomaroo with a clear-headed Tom Hinton taking the mark first ahead of Sundance with John Barry looking to overtake the last standing yacht between him and the lead.



These were closely followed by Tiercel with Colin Gibbs who had approached from above the mark whilst Imagine followed a short distance behind her with Chris Laker seeing a chance of gaining some ground.



Behind these was Fancy with Scott and his renovated Couta plus new sails taking it to team "Couta" with Drizabone and Valentine that had lost ground in trying conditions before tacking past Swan Spit.

After #3 it was a tussle between Boomaroo who were marginally ahead of Sundance but covered by Sundance in the now easterly breeze (much that it was!) before John Barry ordered the kite and slid past underneath her.

Gaining ground over Boomaroo approaching Swan Spit Sundance threw herself around the mark and headed down toward Grass Beds and "Swan".



A fresher breeze had developed on this leg but as the time was running out with almost no chance of a second or even third rounding of the course, it was a "Shortened Course" flag that greeted Sundance as she approached "Swan" and the OOD's.

Thus it was in a very short slow race, that Sundance lead the field over the line followed by Boomaroo, Tiercel, Imagine, Drizabone, and finally Valentine whilst Fancy took a DNF by choice.

For all seven yachts in the race the weather had not played into the hands of any and a shortened course was the only alternative to a very slow day on the water.



A picture's worths a thousand words so here's the scene just after Sundance finished with a line of slow moving yachts crawling home.....!!

On Handicap, it was Tiercel with Colin Gibbs and crew taking first place (again) with a close second to Drizabone with Tom Fricke and crew and third place being Sundance with John Barry and crew. Others followed in order being Boomaroo, Imagine, Valentine and finally Fancy with a DNF.

Congratulations to everyone that competed in the race which provided some trying conditions and had a lot of people guessing on the possible results.

Interestingly on the day it was two minutes on handicap between first and second and just over a minute between second and third.

The race distance was 4.4Nm over 1.5 hours being an average speed of 2.9 knots!!

Again our thanks to our OOD's in Ian, Bev and Jock for commanding the race in conditions that were very quiethopefully the tea or scones were enjoyed in the waiting period!!



Next Club Racing start: Is on....

SAT Nov 5th with the Ray Maki Race 3 in the series

We will meet at the club house following the race which will include announcements!

Meet at the harbour outside the QHPL Shed.....at Noon.

Note to all: A number of Skippers are looking for Crew and if you would like to be part of our unique racing in this part of the Bay ...call us or email via the website ...or contact us via "Facebook"

