



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Maritime Weekend Racing Saturday March 19, 2016

This festival begins and ends at Queenscliff.

The weekend appeared through the rain and squalls of the previous few days to a beautiful day with lower temperatures and a good breeze for the opening of the Maritime Festival for 2016.

Gradually the crowd gathered around the harbour concentrating on the area in the central basin with outa boats arriving from SSCBC Sorrento and beyond as well as the locals.

Tents and tables with BBQ's and lots of goodies kept the crowd busy whilst the formalities were beginning.

QLYC held a quick briefing on the events as we were holding a separate race from the SSCBC fleet who were engaging in the State Titles in addition to being part of the festival. For QLYC it was a two day affair with a quick race today and a short race tomorrow followed by the traditional "Race the Ferry" to end the two days.

Formalities began with a piper leading the festival officials to the centre of the harbour, before chairperson John Barrett called on Lewis Ferrier to open with a brief history of the blessing of the fleet done in his usual "down to earth" style.



Father Peter Martin from St George & St James Anglican presided over a short, but meaningful service of dedication and blessing for the year ahead, joined by the surrounding throng of onlookers in a hymn and prayer, before Peter launched the wooden cross into the harbour waters with his best rugby hand. (Note Peter's Hi-Tech reading!)



A beautiful seafood lunch followed donated by QHPL, for all

those participating in the day's events before heading off to a memorial

sail past which lead into the racing off Queenscliff.

With SSCBC setting a course to the south west of the cut, QLYC and the OOD for the day in Jill Golland with apprentice Liz Fletcher assisting, set a short course No.11 along the shore between Drapers and Swan Spit ensuring there would be no conflict between fleets.

The start was delayed until 2.30pm with our Div1 away well in a lonely Tintagel.

Div2 followed with Valentine making a great start alongside Tiercel and Boomaroo before Div3 with Sundance just pipping Imagine to the line and taking a good run toward the creek pile.

Course 11 takes us from Grass Beds to Drapers, Swan Spit, Drapers, Grass Beds, Drapers and finish at Grass Beds all with roundings at Grass Beds.

Tintagel led the field easily in the brisk breeze of 12 to 15 knots with gusts to 17.

Boomaroo took it to Tintagel early leading the others over Valentine and Tiercel but Sundance although leading on the first leg dropped behind Imagine easily flying her kite on the leg from Drapers the first time.



As the race progressed Boomaroo finally overtook Tintagel but only toward the end as both Imagine and Sundance bore down on the fleet.

It was on the last leg from Drapers that Imagine took the lead from Tintagel with Boomaroo just behind before Sundance also overtook Boomaroo and the finish loomed at Grass Beds.



Line honours went to Imagine with Sundance second and Boomaroo third, closely followed by Tintagel, Valentine and finally Tiercel. Only 40 seconds separated first to third over the line.

On handicap it was Tintagel first from Sundance with Tiercel third followed by Valentine, Boomaroo and lastly Imagine.



Interestingly there was only 1 minute and 26 seconds between first and last on handicap. Well done to the skippers, handicapper and OOD's on the day.

Back at the Museum it was drinks and eats for all, thanks to the courtesy of the many volunteers, together with the prizes awarded and speeches of the day.

Our couta boats fared well on the day with Nellie taking a number of points into the State Championship although missing Defiance was a disappointment.

On Sunday it was again a beautiful day with the fleet now much reduced to three yachts for some competition on the water.

Our OOD's today are Jill Golland and Wendy Duncan as apprentice for the adventure.

The course set for today is Grass Beds around Bell Rock to the Inner Parks Pile and return to a finish off Wedge Pile.

Standard Div1 is Tintagel again with a good start and in a good ebb tide makes it well down the track before Div2 and.... ..Boomaroo, the only starter who stands off the mark and is caught by the tide and misses before returning and starting 2 minutes late making Div3 starter Sundance a closer than expected rival.

Nice one Tom....



The ebb tide does wonders for the track to Bell Rock but with the wind varying between easterly to southerly the use of the kite is not available.

A great run along Lonsdale Bight with Tintagel making good time and before we know it Tintagel is around the mark and heading back whilst Boomaroo is close to the mark and Sundance only less than halfway along the Bight.

By the time Sundance has taken the Parks mark it is Tintagel well past Bell Rock on her way to Wedge with Boomaroo a few hundred metres between them.



The race is a hectic pace as the yachts skip across the tide toward WedgeSundance gathers up Boomaroo with a half mile to go but Tintagel holds off the others making it a line honours for her ahead of Sundance and finally Boomaroo finishing fast. Tintagel was 12 minutes over Sundance with Boomaroo 6 minutes astern of Sundance.

Again it is Tintagel with handicap honours over Sundance with Boomaroo third but still on the podium.

The three yachts hold up around the Wedge mark awaiting the OOD signal to start the race against the Ferry..... In the distance we see the ferry coming out of Sorrento....but before she can make an impact the race is started...Tintagel as front runner heads off 3.15pm making a





fast run with Boomaroo behind her starting at 3.18pm whilst Sundance takes off at 3.19 and 30 seconds...

The ferry has not much chance of a win here with the brisk breeze taking hold on the yachts as they head for Queenscliff Creek and the finish mark.

The Coast Guard are on hand and watch over the fleet as they head toward Queenscliff and the finish in case of anything untoward but all is well as Tintagel makes it a clean sweep over the weekend.

Tintagel finishes ahead of Boomaroo who leads over Sundance in taking the challenge over the Searoad

Ferries as she arrives just a few minutes astern of the yacht fleet.

It is the first time that the yachts have won over the ferry in the race!



And then it was back to the Museum to celebrate the win as well as congratulate the winner of the whole weekend's racing in Tintagel with Colin Bishop and Ian Curtis as skipper and crew....well done and a clean sweep!



Our thanks to the Museum staff and volunteers with John and Merryl for the celebration drinks and nibbles including the framed poster trophies for the winners and club participation over the weekend.

A great weekend and another successful event by the Maritime Museum, yachties, staff, volunteers, sponsors and the community. Well done all.

Next Club Racing start: Is on.... SAT Mar 26th for the Easter Race...

Remember "Presentation Night" at the Lonnie Bowling Club on Sat night 14th May for a night triumph and despair of lost victories combined with a pic show not to forget.....book early please with the Sec and Treasurer!

Meet at the harbour outside the QHPL Shed.....at Midday for a briefing before racing at 1.30pm as usual.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"

