



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Winter Series – Race 3

- Sunday July 31, 2016

A gap in the weather cycle gives us a beautiful race day on the bay!

This week's Winter Series race was postponed a week due to lack of competing yachts and poor weather. However as Sunday arrived this week the weather forecast looked ideal with sunny and light wind conditions crammed between a few days of not so pleasant days.

Gathering in the harbour this week were skippers of the three competing yachts in John Barry in Sundance, Dave Hatton in Wave Dancer and Colin Gibbs in Tiercel, along with crews and our trusty OOD's, this week being Jill Golland accompanied by apprentice Cathy Barrow for the day.

John Barry, Acting Commodore, gave everyone an update on club matters and briefing was around the course and welcoming everyone to the day's event.



Club Captain Brian briefed on the light but north westerly wind (predicted), and it was decided on course #9 which was a rosette course from Grass Beds to various points, from North thru South, returning to Grass Beds each time allowing the shortening of course.

On the course it was the OOD's leading the charge laying a decent line and getting the yachts to the line for each of the three divisions...only one in each division! Start time was 11.30 and all participants looking eager!



Div 1 start was Wave Dancer and slick as you would expect from Dave out of the blocks and up the course to Swan Spit and by the time for Div 2 it was Tiercel dallying just off the start line and getting it

pretty right at his start time.

For Div 3 Sundance flew at the line gearing up and now taking on the front markers with Wave Dancer on the mark at Swan Spit.

As mentioned the course commenced at Grass Beds to Swan Spit back to Grass Beds and then off to No.3 West Channel back to Grass Beds and continuing if we get further. Other marks were Wedge and Drapers in that order with returning to GB.



The tide had commenced the ebb and whilst around a third of a knot to begin was starting to make its presence known in the lighter winds of around 10 knots.

At Swan Spit it was a continuum of Wave Dancer lead by Tiercel from Sundance as they headed south and back to Grass Beds.



By Grass Beds it was Sundance clawing her way toward Tiercel in second place as Wave Dancer headed up the course again toward No.3. Wave Dancer took a starboard view of the mark at this point whilst Sundance took a rhumb line and Tiercel much of an inside line making to the north before coming down on the mark as she approached.

At No.3 it was Wave Dancer well around before Tiercel and Sundance arrived with Tiercel grabbing a short lead at the mark.

Tacking around in the lighter wind saw Tiercel take off rapidly toward Grass Beds before Sundance followed suit.

The wind had now picked up, having made a number of attempts from NW to NE before a brief West and ultimately South West...this respite saw Wave Dancer at least holding position against both Tiercel and Sundance, after Sundance overtook Tiercel about two thirds of the way back to Grass Beds.

Wave Dancer was making toward the shore off Grass Beds in a wider tack before intending to make the port mark which was inside Swan sitting off the mark.

Sundance was now well ahead of Tiercel heading to the Grass Beds buoy when it was noticed that the OOD's recognising the slow pace of the fleet and the nearing completion time of 1400 pulled up the "Shortened Course" flag.

Unfortunately as Wave Dancer was approaching from the other side of the course as the flag was hoisted, it was Dave who had to finish from the other side under the circumstances or having to tack back behind Swan in order to finish.

A quick finish by Sundance closely followed by Tiercel completed the shortened race and all yachts were measured accordingly.

A threatened protest by Sundance against Wave Dancer was withdrawn after discussion given the complexities of the shortened course finish.

Thus line honours went to Wave Dancer followed by Sundance with Tiercel third in a great short race in light and variable winds and pushed around by the tide.

On handicap it was Tiercel (enjoying her handicap) as winner on the day followed by Wave Dancer second and Sundance third.



The time differences showed the short and slow pace with the winner some less than two minutes ahead of second with third just on four minutes astern.

Average speeds for the course were much slower than expected on the day with all yachts on full sail or better ... Sundance averaged 4.9 knots whilst Tiercel averaged 4.34 knots and Wave Dancer 4 knots seemingly that the ebb tide had made a difference!

And lastly, seen just as the race started, there was Tom taking Defiance for a walk around the waters off Queenscliff without even hoisting a bit of rag!! On a beautiful day...."Tom"!!

Next Club Racing start: Is on....

SUNDAY August 14th with 4th race of the Winter Series

Remember this is Crew Contested Racing – so crew get on the winning yacht!! (paid up Club members only!)

Meet at the harbour outside Lix's Café at 10am ...coffee or breakfast before if you are inclined.....

The Crew points after Race 3 Winter 2016 are:

7 Points – Andrew,

9 Points – Martin,

11 Points – Frank, Finn, Brian, Wendy,

13 Points – Garry,

14 Points – Alison, Jennifer, and

15 Points - Jim and Trish.

