



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Maritime Weekend – Special Trophy, Sat March 25., 2017

QLYC racing alongside SSCBC's weekend championship has its own special race.

This Saturday and QLYC racing turned into much greater exercise, with a surprise email from one of our members late in the week, advising us that the QCYC road to the club was closed indefinitely due to their bridge being declared unsafe. There is no official word from the club to us. Twenty-one years old!!

Strategically this meant, that with no access to moored vessels in the Swan Bay basin, it was left to us to find our own mechanism for transport to and from moorings for our members for the foreseeable future.



The weather for the day looked almost to be a floater with BoM shaking their head and giving us a gamble as to our racing plan combined with the SSCBC race plan as to their race.

Our Couta Boat fleet was encouraged by Tom Fricke to "give it a go" although in the end we had his Drizabone, Rosie and Fancy as our club contenders in the championship held off Queenscliff as part of the Maritime Weekend festivities.

Our briefing was abandoned due to the issue of getting skippers and crew to vessels with introducing a meeting at the Fisherman's Wharf pontoon with the Club Captain running a "Uber Service" with "Swan" to and from the vessels in the bay before and post the racing.

Our OOD's in Ian and Bev Lee took over from the taxi service and went out to set the course for the day finding a northerly breeze and ebb tide but the ideal course could not be used as SSCBC had already set their course to the north of the Cut and extending toward Swan Spit which excluded us from using a course anywhere near QA, Wedge or Swan Spit.



Ian in consultation with the Club Captain opted for the alternative course in #12 from the set courses, taking our fleet south and around and into the Lonsdale Bight, hopefully allowing SSCBC racing to finish before we returned to finish our own course.

For this race, we had five yachts entered in Imagine, Sundance, Valentine, Boomaroo and Tiercel with 22 sailors for an afternoon of fun and serious racing.

On the course, it was Swan which found a modified start line south of the creek and off the pier allowing our fleet freedom below the SSCBC racing fleet who started 30 minutes before us.

As there were no Div1 starters, we waited until 13.40 for Div2 to start and it was Valentine with Steve Lee that got there first followed closely by Tiercel and finally Boomaroo some 40 seconds into the start.



These got away cleanly and headed down to Drapers to port although you would be guessing if you thought Tiercel was about to miss the first mark of course. Valentine had their spinnaker flying and headed the field around Bell Rock and into the Bight followed by Tom and Alison in Boomaroo with Colin having to do the late tack and make Drapers before heading down to the Rock.

For Div3 it was the famous two again having a go with both getting to the line pretty much on time with John Barry and Sundance throwing up the kite as they hit the line and Imagine with Chris Laker just a tad behind also making a similar spinnaker start.

Off around Bell Rock and Sundance had a slight lead on Imagine with Sundance going wider in the ebb tide out from the beach past the Rock and Imagine taking a more inside line as the fleet headed for the Inner Parks Mark off the beacon.

Valentine was going great guns as the fleet rounded the Inner Parks Mark with Boomaroo making good ground and Tiercel well behind at this stage. Boomaroo to a wide run out toward Point Nepean whilst both Valentine and Tiercel chose the inner and closer to the beach returning up the Bight.

Imagine had a better run up the Bight with spinnaker and came from inside to outside with a better breeze and passed Sundance also with spinnaker along the Bight holding a slender lead as both rounded the Parks Mark. Lapses and minor changes in wind along here made for some different approaches by both yachts. Heading back and almost to windward a tacking duel ensued especially between these two although all yachts encountered the conditions differently.

With around eight tacks required here Imagine and Sundance gathered up both Tiercel firstly and then Valentine as the overlapping tacks brought the yachts closer together. Boomaroo with their wider and more seaward journey seemed to have lost ground to the fleet given the ebb tide and its strength further into the main channel.

Reaching Bell Rock, it was John Barry guiding Sundance to the front of the fleet having overtaken Imagine in their last tack toward the mark, and popping the spinnaker once again on the track before Drapers rounding to starboard.

A quick word to a fishing vessel sitting across the Drapers Mark ensured that



Sundance was able to negotiate a piece of clear water to proceed their faces showed some anxiety as Sundance approached given their broadside to the mark!!

The run to Swan Spit from here was straightforward with a good kite run by both Sundance and Imagine and just behind Valentine also took the opportunity as did Tiercel although Boomaroo did not.



Boomaroo was doing well considering here longer journey through the Bight although with no tacking required and came up on Valentine in this stretch to make a fist of the race.

By Swan Spit it was Sundance holding a good lead that lead around Swan Spit, quickly hoisting the kite and going well in the conditions....Imagine followed and likewise used her kite to advantage here.

Halfway down the leg back to Grass Beds it was the leaders that passed both Valentine and Boomaroo heading up around half distance between the marks.

At Grass Beds, it was Sundance continuing and holding her lead against Imagine rounding and back for the second time to Swan Spit on the last leg.

Valentine continued her third-place position just ahead of Boomaroo whilst Tiercel maintained her trailing of the fleet.

Back to Swan Spit with Sundance well in front and in command again and doing it easy against Imagine trying hard and maintaining to hold her own, but, with the rounding of Swan Spit for the last time, Sundance pulled out all stops with a great spinnaker hoist edged away from Imagine to cross the finish in first place.

Tiercel had the blooper under wraps!



On the return to Grass Beds the two leaders in Sundance and Imagine both passed Valentine and Boomaroo coming toward them and lastly Tiercel and this was how they finished.

On handicap, it was a win to John Barry and crew of Sundance ahead of Imagine

with Chris Laker and crew, and in third spot was Valentine with Steve Lee and crew. Fourth was Boomaroo in a close tussle at the line.

In a remarkable insight into the finish and placings...all places over the line were also reflected in the corrected places as 1 thru 5 in that order...a rare event!!

AND ... In the SSCBC race, it was Drizabone 3rd over the line, Fancy 5th and Rosie 8th but on handicap Drizabone was 6th with Rosie 7th and Fancy 8th. Congrats on representing QLYC against the big boys!

Next Club Racing start: Is on....SAT April 1st with the Cec Anderson Series Race 3 (a catch-up event due to earlier cancellation.)

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

Meet at the pontoon at Fisherman's Wharf for the "Uber Service".....from 11am for sign on, etc.

