

Winter Series Race 3

The weather on the Saturday looked very unappealing for the prospects of a race on the Sunday. It was decided to leave the decision to race till 10.00 am Sunday, as there was a possibility of a break and an easing of conditions.

Sunday proved to have moderating conditions, so briefing was held at LIX Cafe at the harbour with the three usual suspect yachts and crews (Tiercel, Boomaroo, and Sundance). The acting club captain suggested a break from the printed courses with the following suggestion; Grass Beds, Drapers, Popes Eye Pile, Grass Beds, three times around. All agreed, and with crews sorted out, away we went. Unfortunately there was no OOD available so the Sundance crew set out the Grass Beds buoy and called the start sequence over the radio.

Division 2 had a cracking start with Boomaroo right on the line at the start followed closely by Tiercel. At the first mark Boomaroo had a commanding lead which she refused to give up for the entire race. Sundance started with the division 2 yachts having already rounded Drapers; the chase was on.



Tiercel broad reaching along the shore.

As Sundance approached the Queenscliff pier just before Drapers the usual flukey conditions were encountered. The challenge here is to manoeuvre the vessel to do the minimum of tacking whilst passing close to Drapers Pile as the Drapers reef lurks between the Pile and the nearby

pilots' pier. This rounding is always a challenge as with even favourable winds often there are fishing boats close to the pile. Over the years we have had some very startled fishermen none too happy with our approach.

During the race the wind strengthened with Gusts up to 27 Kts. All yachts had small head sails and a first reef in, handling the conditions well. The wind was coming from the North West so sea conditions were moderated with no swell. Even with the Yachts' conservative approach roundups still occurred if the mainsheet trimmer was a little late relieving the pressure on the main sail.

By the second lap Sundance had run-down Tiercel and was out after Boomaroo. Try as she might she could not catch her and Boomaroo took line honours and as it transpired a nice handicap win. Congratulations to Tom, Alison and crew Andrew.

Sorry for the lack of photos, too busy keeping the yacht on its feet.

The next race is August 20th, briefing at LIX Café at 10.00



Boomaroo's not-so-secret weapon; fresh paint at RGYC early June.