

Winter Series Race 5

A day that could bring endless work for the maritime lawyers if we took the technicalities seriously. All the forecasts promised a day on the water but little excitement, with W or NW breezes around 5 kn. In fact most excitement came from the return to racing of two vessels, namely Kinsale 3 and Wavedancer, with all present hoping that Wavedancer's lengthy indisposition is at an end.

Briefing was held promptly at the Lix cafe by Acting Captain JB, the Commodore and OOD Geoffrey Mathews. John proposed Course 9 "variable" to allow plenty of options to shorten course. Swan again ran a water taxi service from the floating pontoon to the 5 vessels.



The Swan Taxi Service

With the wind initially blowing into the creek, sails could be raised without delay. Wavedancer got off to a good start in Div 1, drifting across the line after pointing at the Heads against the tide until the last minute. Div 2 boats (Tiercel, Boomaroo and Kinsale 3) were hovering seaward of Swan approaching their start time, and Tiercel (with foolish faith in BoM's tidal forecast of slack at 11.40) was first to turn back towards the line. BUT the tide had already turned and Tiercel being further down tide than the others was caught by total loss of wind, and without steerage way she drifted into Swan. Told by OOD "that will cost you two 360 turns", these were performed in the lightest of airs while drifting down tide towards the first mark but having failed to cross the line. Attempts to return to the line resulted in going backwards. Kinsale 3 and Boomaroo crossed legally with more tide than wind. Sundance, in solitary (Div 3) splendor, drifted across the line satisfactorily. Soon though, in close company with Tiercel, (trying to go the other way) she did a few random turns in zero wind but at least was moving in the right direction even if stern first. Meanwhile, Div 1 and other Div 2 boats had moved with accelerating tide towards Swan Spit, particularly Kinsale 3 favored by the light winds.



OOD Geoffrey reflects on a long day on the water.

Tiercel dropped anchor, put the kettle on and after leisurely coffee had a session of knot practice. Further along the course Wavedancer also anchored. Ultimately a light breeze arrived and Tiercel's anchor was recovered. Main ambition was to set a new record for lateness over the start line. This was achieved at 12.30 by crossing start line 1 hour 50 minutes late. with Swan already showing a shorten course flag. Having finally started, it was a quick run to SS where she met Boomaroo returning from points

north where she had drifted even further, - considering a trip to Melbourne preferable to dropping anchor. Boomaroo, through arcane reasons, stayed further out and suffered the penalty of tide. By this time, Kinsale 3, Sundance and Wave Dancer were heading home, if not already moored and waiting for the Swan Taxi Service. Eventually Tiercel and Boomaroo crossed the finish line and Swan, after picking up the buoy, swung into taxi mode, returning crew to shore. Results on handicap were Kinsale 3, Wavedancer, Sundance, Tiercel and Boomaroo.



The salt in the wound was Commodore's attempts to order chips by phone not knowing the chippie had changed phone numbers. Eventually chips and drinks were

enjoyed on the Club's deck in magnificent sunshine, the environment enhanced by a high tide.

Congratulations to Doug and Kinsale 3, and thanks to Geoffrey for OOD duties and to JB for his acting Club Captain role.

