



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Commodore's Cup - Stern Chaser Race Sat March 4, 2017

Have we a weather forecast to suit....yes we have! The annual Commodore's Cup

Friday evening saw a weather forecast by our friends at the BoM looking gloomy with a "Strong Wind Warning" BUT when Saturday morning dawned it was a beautiful day with light breezes and a friendly look about it.

With a beautiful clear day with sunshine to delight our sailors a good race in the offing and with the Annual Commodore's Cup as a Stern Chaser a chance for any yacht to make up some ground and put the bookies money in their pocket!

At briefing Commodore Jill revved up the day and announced that the cocktails would flow post-race at the club house along with some nibbles and eats.

Handing over to Club Captain Brian who congratulated Valentine and Steve Lee and crew for their win in last week's Around Mud Islands race for the club additionally congratulating Sorrento Sailing and Couta Boat Club for their assistance in holding the event and support around the course.

For today with the Stern Chaser it was course number 12 that would be followed as we traditionally hold and taking a run into the Lonsdale Bight and return until the time limit which was 4pm.

The OOD's for the day, watching from a safe distance were Club Captain Brian accompanied by Geoff Cook in his first experience in the role with the club.

With distributed course sheets for today with both instructions and a chart to assist any unseasoned navigator the briefing ended with sign on and crew declarations completed.

There were five yachts signed on and 19 skippers and crew contesting today. For us, the course as distributed, was from Grass Beds to Drapers to Bell Rock to Parks Inner Mark before returning to Bell Rock, Drapers, Swan Spit, Grass Beds and continue back via Swan Spit and GB until 4pm...official finish time for the race.

On the water it was Swan with our OOD's early on the course setting the start line for a great days racing.....



Starting times as handed out to skippers and first yacht off at 1330 was Rosie who has just completed a motor restoration and racing for only the third time this season...a great start on time....

Next followed Drizabone with Tom and crew just over 14 minutes behind but with the propensity to make this a challenge in the run through the Bight.



Behind her was Tiercel with Colin

Gibbs in a laid back style crossing the start easily on time and presumably on budget as they say at just over 32 minutes behind the leader.

Imagine with Chris Laker and crew got off to a bad start early when in revving up for the start managed to drop a brand new winch handle over the



side and suggesting that the OOD's head off and fetch it!!

However, the crew finally got it together and a great start with all power happening across the line.

The hare in the field in Sundance, with John Barry and crew were looking good, until it came time to start and there they were, over a one hundred metres shy of the line at their time of 58 minutes in arrears of the others....plus another 40 seconds of "late time".



Rosie had headed quickly down the bay toward Drapers and Bell Rock with Drizabone who took a long tack out into the bay before fetching the mark at Drapers. However, both had disappeared around Bell Rock and into the Bight before the last of the field started.

Tiercel, with spinnaker flying, was well on the way when the back markers started with Imagine maintaining a good lead over Sundance to Bell Rock.

Interestingly at around twenty minutes after Sundance started it was Rosie and Drizabone rounding Bell Rock on their return that saw Imagine and Sundance just passing them on their passage out and down and around the Buoy in Lonsdale Bight....a fair gap and well in control up front.



At this point Rosie had been sailing for an hour.

It was a relatively short before Imagine who was still ahead of Sundance could be seen coming back around the Rock. Both had been sailing almost an hour at this point and had their spinnakers flying.



Appearances are deceiving as Rosie and Drizabone rounded Swan Spit, remembering the increasing flood tide, they appeared to slow considerably and whilst doing so headed well in shore from the Swan Spit mark.

Imagine and Sundance were flying as they passed Tiercel just beyond the Drapers mark and these two could well be seen catching the two front runners. However, at Drapers, with Drizabone and Rosie doing it hard in the shallows



but inshore off Swan Island, it was Imagine around Swan Spit first, but in a spot of swift manoeuvring, it was Sundance that scooted in under Imagine and whilst Chris took a wider berth in Imagine Sundance had passed Imagine.

Sundance held a higher course than Imagine coming back to Grass Beds and whilst the Couta Boats struggled inshore the larger keel boats out in the tide took the advantage going down to Grass Beds.

At Grass Beds it was Sundance easily around first ahead of Imagine with Rosie a short distance behind ahead of Drizabone. Tiercel had floundered somewhat in the tide and took a wider track and was struggling to maintain good pace.



Both Sundance and Imagine took another opportunity to fly their spinnakers in the final run up to Swan Spit possibly knowing that this race was not going to make any difference to their handicaps!!



In the end with Sundance at Swan Spit the time limit ran out and she was declared winner ahead of Imagine around 200 metres astern and Rosie a further 200 metres astern of Imagine whilst Drizabone finished ahead of Tiercel who was only making the distance between Swan Spit and Grass Beds.

A great win to John Barry and crew of Sundance with only 4 on board managing a convincing win.

Many thanks go to all who came out and competed on an excellent racing day with breezes around 10 to 12 knots and slight seas. Thanks also to Geoff Cook for his assistance and insight into being OOD for the club on the day.

Post the race after 6pm it was the Commodore's Cocktail party with Commodore Jill assisted by Susie Alderson hosting a lovely the champagne and cocktails

The drinks were combined with delightful hot savouries, oysters and nibbles to cap off a nice day for all concerned.



And so the sun set on a delightful day on and off the water



Additional thanks to Ian and Belle with Geoff and Rosanne who assisted on the night.

QLYC Next Club Racing start: Is on....

SAT March 11th with the Annual Channels Trophy Race.

Remember an EARLY briefing at 11am and start at 12.30.

Look for all the news on our website and on Facebook!

