



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club.... The Cec Anderson Race 3 in the Series

- Sat Feb 22, 2014

“Fancy a lovely race around the Wedge Pile” said Paul to his crew and they did ... almost getting around!!

Here we are with half of the Cec Anderson Series competed and getting to the business end of racing with QLYC in 2013 thru 2014....and it gets even better... almost as good as one of Coles Freshly Baked bread rolls ...if they weren't pre baked!!

Again we had a big roll up to briefing for the Cec Anderson third race of the series and with nine yachts signed on and some 36 sailors (sorry 37 counting Chris's two extra stowaways!!) to go out on a 10Nm trip around the bay.



Commodore Jill brought a few items to the attention of the group, one being the intended commencement of a Remote Control Model Yacht Group at the club; the then thought (*miserable!!*) theft on the water of our starting buoy, during the latter part of last week's race, the first trophy win by Tom Fricke in Drizabone; and lastly, that all spaces for parking OTB yachts at the club being filled.

We welcomed back Steve Lee as Sailing Captain (again) and the briefing was fairly short and sweet with a course to be announced on the water and all competitors heading off for a good days sailing and some lunch (Chris got a clear head start!)

On the water it was a little brisk with SSW winds all day but making it up to around 18 + knots... choices of sail for the day being fairly crucial after the OOD's Ian and Jock (brothers in arms?) gave skippers the clue for Course 6.



This meant a course of start at Grass Beds to Pope's Eye Pile, Wedge, GB, PEP, Wedge, Swan Spit, Wedge and finish at GB.

In Div 1, it was a clean start with Rosie and Drizabone off whilst we waited with bated breath for Div 2 which proved a real winner....

Div 2, as can be seen, was a merciless start, with Maud grabbing a front position on a line which made starters line up well back and ensure the ebb current would work for them.

Maud with Peter Crofts at helm took control whilst Valentine's Skipper could be heard demanding his perceived entitlement, as the lee vessel, for room on the pin end!!

All ended well and it was Maud across from Valentine, Fancy with Tiercel and Wave Dancer taking up the rear.



Wave Dancer took a tack and the fleet saw Fancy point higher with Tiercel, whilst Valentine to lee (sic) of Maud was in difficulty to gain windage.



At Div 3 it was Sundance and Imagine juggling on the pin end before Sundance crossed over Imagine's bows in the last minute to have a better line, and saw Imagine work down toward the Pier, whilst Sundance lined up the mark in Pope's Eye using the ebb tide advantage without a tack.

On the run out to Pope's Eye, Maud was seen dousing sails and heading back to Swan Rescue....obviously a DNF and later to be found to have motored, after the

port side stay broke loose necessitating some urgent repair !!

By Pope's Eye it was clear by Div 3 vessels that this race was a runner, with most vessels now around the Wedge and heading to GB as Tiercel made good ground with Div 2 and Div 1 clawing to maintain an advantage.

With Imagine now a few hundred metres at the tail of the field All stops were out to catch the fleet by her and Sundance.

At Grass Beds the backmarkers were together and providing some good match racing with Imagine taking a line to the Pier, and Sundance making to the PEP directly.....at PEP Imagine was astern of Sundance and Chris put up the big kite to gain ground on the fleet on the run around Wedge and to Swan Spit...however on the gybe opposite Wedge the kite took a turn for the worse ...a quick wrap in the spinnaker during the gybe set hearts aflutter ...helped by Alan on tip toes .. sorted ... and off the Swan Spit.



On the last leg to Wedge for the final toward Grass Beds it was Tiercel leading by around 10 minutes heading the fleet after her clean sail through the fleet, but Valentine was making ground quickly ahead of Imagine and Sundance.

Fancy was nowhere to be seen, Maud had dropped out, Rosie was mid field with Wave Dancer and Drizabone continuing.....

At the finish it was Tiercel by 9 minutes over Imagine who grabbed second position after a hard fought dash over Valentine by a minute with Sundance another minute behind.



On handicap it was Tiercel (surprise!) by over 4 minutes from a fast finishing Drizabone and Imagine a further minute plus behind. As a note the handicap of Tiercel has moved from 0.555 to 0.628 this season....vessel cleaned up and manned by top crew!

Others in order were Sundance, Valentine, Wave Dancer and Rosie finishing the field.

Post race it was revealed that Fancy having challenged the Wedge Pile/ structure and come off second best with a smashed and lost bowsprit and leading edge not a bad effort considering the plight of Nellie some years ago when she sank adjacent to

Wedge...

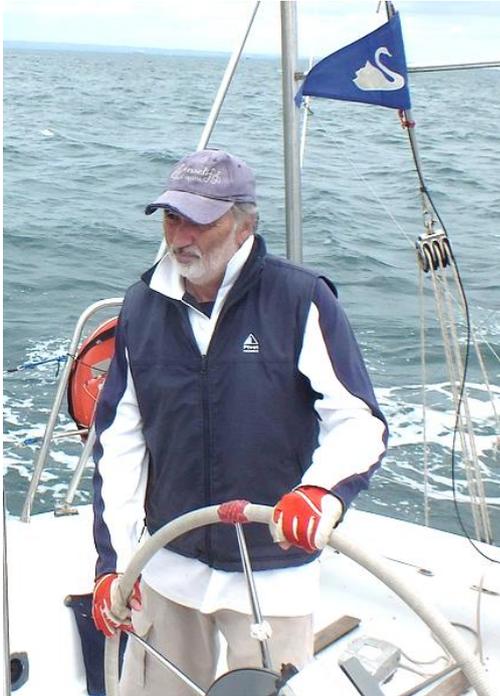
Fancy thankfully regained control with Paul helming and returned safely to her mooring!! Well done Paul and crew and probably this effort has moved you (temporarily) to the top of the leader board in the "Mishap Award". Well done and commiserations!

Note the smile on Paul's face after he spoke to his insurers!!

(Pic inserted for all those interested.)



Tiercel sets out on her bid to gain front runner... Good one Colin...!!



And lastly, a pic of the Sundance Skipper JB who gives 'the Grub' the opportunity to take all these shots whilst still competing!! Our Thanks mate!

And thanks to Jill and Maud also for some shots this week.

Next Club Racing start: Is on....

SATURDAY Mar 1st The Cec Anderson Series Race 4.

The day promises to be much the same in weather at least!!



Note to all: Courses are revised (**BLUE SHEETS**) for this season and more will be available at briefing on Saturday, available from the OOD....no excuses!!

