



QLYC Cec Anderson – Race 3 – Sat, Jan 29

We are sure that Cec Anderson had nothing to do with this weather...BUT here we are again faced with a lack lustre day of light winds as part of a lovely day on the bay!!



A larger than usual gathering of sailors front the Sailing Captain in young Steve Lee and his sidekick "Pedro"...sorry Commodore John Barry.

Ian and Bev Lee are the OOD hosts for the day.

With largely an overview of the day, combined with reminders by JB of next week's Sternchaser and the Maritime weekend on last Saturday of March, our course is set.

The editor considers that whilst Steve considers all options for shortening the race, given the weather, "Hughie up there" does not consider QLYC a priority as far as breezes go!!

Sailing conditions from Sailing Captain Steve indicated an ebb tide and 5 to 10 knots for the afternoon.

Three divisions faced the OOD. Some 30 sailors again provide a great crew amongst 10 yachts set to start.

Race starters were:

Div 1. Bonta, Tintagel, Pequita, Defiance and Rosie,

Div 2. Chinon, Zen, Maud and Fancy, plus

Div 3. Sundance

The course was from Grass Beds to No.3 then to Swan Spit, back to Grass Beds out to a laid Buoy to No.3 and whatever! Overall the race has been set with 13 marks .



It was interesting to note at briefing that whilst contemplating the course, the Commodore led all sailors in a quiet moment as can be seen at the side....suspicion is that the forecast is ensuring our sailors get a little closer to "Hughie" on these occasions!!

At 1325 the OOD signals a postponement of the start, given the breeze is less than 3 knots and tide is almost equivalent against the fleet on their way to No.3!!

Sailing and motoring around Swan Rescue is the only option here just in case there is a break and the OOD calls the early starts to account.

At the 1325 pre start time the OOD gives the signal and raises the Postponement Flag!

Sundance takes off to the south and uses good time to raise the spinnaker and have crew training with the backmarker minutes in hand.

At 1400 Div 1 Gets the nod and Pequita makes a scramble for the inside running toward No.3 via the shores of Swan Island.



As Div 2 Gets away there again is some different strategies happening with Zen and Chinon along the shore fast tracking Pequita, whilst Bonta, Defiance, Rosie and Tintagel take the direct route to No. 3 Unfortunately Fancy and Maud have not made much distance on the start line and sit in waiting for a breeze!



Sundance starts perfectly and grabs wind at Div 3 start and already has taken the late Div 2 boats also taking a direct passage to No.3

It is a slow trek to No.3 and those taking the shore route take the first mark with ease ahead of Sundance who with a fast follower in Defiance provide some competition in mid fleet.

A good spinnaker run to Swan Spit sees the fleet continue to be spread eagled across the course.

(Interestingly the Laid Buoy to be used in the second lap of the race appears not deployed and one wonders if the money is not on the shortened race flag...bets are laid on the missing Laid Mark on Sundance with more than coins passing across the aircraft carrier deck!!)

As the fleet turn down to Grass Beds the OOD has placed Swan Rescue off a buoy, around the position of the Laid Buoy and flies the "Shortened Course Flag"

A quickly finishing fleet, now with 10 plus knots of wind behind them, were looking to spend the final 30 minutes of race time in the next lap of course.

"Done like a dinner" comes to mind as Zen comes home first ahead of Chinon and Sundance followed by a fast finishing Defiance and Pequita.



The fleet are all home by 1600 hrs making this the shortest race this season with all competitors sailing inside 2 hours.

Unfortunately the editor cannot recall any items of interest in this lowly race and must resort to questioning the inability of 28 plus sailors to "stuff up" at all.....This isn't good enough and there will be money next week on the table to those who wish to achieve a place in the "Mishap Award for 2011"

However we were to observe the offer to the OOD of some inducement (note hand in pocket!) as Defiance looks to be trying to make up lost ground.

Lastly....the winner on the day is "Rosie" again making somewhat history in these short races as we now see her with a few under the belt this season. The tried and true of Chinon and Zen make up second and third places.

True grit comes to mind here!!

A great day on the water and thanks go to all who put in the effort....and to the skippers and crew who found time to relax with a "quiet one" after the race at the dockside.



Next Saturday Feb 5 we will have the challenging "Champagne Stern Chaser" Race with a briefing at Noon be there!!