



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Champagne Sternchaser (part 1) and the Commodore's Champagne reception at the club!! (part 2)

- Sat Nov 30, 2013



As it was...a lovely breeze and perfect conditions for sailing the Sternchaser that wasn't!!

This Saturday looked to be almost perfect for the Annual Champagne Sternchaser around the sticks!!

At briefing we had a brief visit by Doug Curlewis after his winter sojourn around NZ and the islands of the Pacific...looking fit and cycling the harbour!



The briefing was simple with a quick announcement by Commodore Jill re tonite's Champagne Reception at the club house and reminding members of entries required urgently for the Around Mud Islands challenge on 14 Dec plus the Minister Ryan Smith visiting the harbour tomorrow re an announcement on Fisherman's Wharf!!

OOD Ian and Bev Lee drew attention to the start times for today's race and that the course was to be signalled by them on the course.

And at least one face that has missed a winter....HI and welcome back Peter Crofts (Right) and Chris Laker (Top) !!

The start times varied considerably and for returning champion "Imagine" with Chris Laker, it was he who was to be the backmarker on 49 minutes Very much cleaned up, lightened and with recut sails (all without notice to the handicapper)!!



And Tiercel, has just been over the pits as well and with slippery everything ...well!!

The Course was set as No 6 on the card for a Southerly, being Grass Beds to Popes Eye Pile (PEP), to Wedge, Grass Beds, Popes Eye, Wedge off to Swan Spit, return to Wedge and finish at Grass Beds. This course was around 9.6 Nm in length and with a bit of tacking, would equate to the leaders averaging 4 knots whilst the big boys would need 5.7 knots to make the distance....No we said!!

At the start, it was Indulgence and Rosie taking off followed closely by Drizabone, Wave Dancer, Tiercel followed from Sundance way back on 47 minutes with Imagine two minutes shy, although they did take an additional two minutes to make the line...penalty on a first race start we thought!!



Looking across the bay it was fairly obvious that this was to be a long chase for the back markers.

Tiercel literally flew out of the blocks and headed across to Popes Eye Pile and never looked headed.

Whilst Indulgence and Rosie settled down to a solid race with each other and Drizabone courted both it was Dave Hatton as skipper of Wave Dancer that would threaten those ahead of him.

However try as he might, spinnaker and all, Wave Dancer could not make too much and to no avail as time ticked by!



Meanwhile, Tiercel had gathered up her skirt tails and not only caught the boys in front, but took a commanding and ever increasing lead.

We should add that Bob Mayne (experienced and seasoned veteran) crewed for Colin, together with the expertly trained apprentice Tudor from Sundance...any wonder they spirited around the course!

At the tail end it was Imagine taking some distance from Sundance early to "PEP" but on the journey to Wedge seemed to lose distance as Sundance advanced with spinnaker flying after some minor adjustments to rigging....!!!



At near 4pm being the required finish (wherever the leading yacht would be) Tiercel was heard to call the OOD with a query on finish and there endeth the race a few minutes early at Grass Beds!

All other yachts continued the journey around the course with some requiring almost another lap to finish and provide the handicapper with evidence to have some additional lead or ballast loaded on some yachts!

At the end it was Tiercel as winner with Drizabone second and Rosie a good third.

So Champagne to the winner at the end of a soldier's run around the bay.

And a thanks to our OOD's...again. (on the right side of the wire!)



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

SATURDAY December 7th at Noon Briefing for - The Ray Maki Series Race 5

AND on the following Saturday it will be the Around Mud Islands Challenge!!

*******Get your registration to the Sailing Captain ASAP!!*******

**And following the race it was on toThe Commodore's
Champagne Reception at the Club House on Swan Bay!!**

And so it was that the multitude descended on the Clubhouse, for there it was to be, the annual sacred Champagne Reception under the auspice of Commodore Jill and her trusted helper Jennifer!

With the ritual time start of 6pm and closing it was a those with a sturdy constitution who gathered on the shores of Swan Bay and lapped up the food, drinks and entertainment that was on offer.



A small but dedicated crowd of tasters saw to it that the beautiful finger food from Asian to party pies to pastries to delightful bits was quickly being consumed along with the odd glass or two along with the stories of the day of places won and lost on the water.

Again it was the Commodore who announced the result and presented the trophy to Dr Colin on his magnificent win with crew drooling over the trophy and not the food.

But as is now custom, the Commodore took on the task of a mini auction of some donated home bottled conserves and spicy relish whatever. Our friendly and jovial skipper of second place, now high on excitement took first place with a winning bid for the quince conserve and from there it was anybody's guess as to the bids that flowed post his exciting bid....all jars being quickly snapped up by Vice Commodore and the other members of the winning crew (Bob and Tudor)...still exalting from the adrenaline of the race!!



The night continued for quite some time and all members who stayed



enjoyed seeing a beautiful sunset and then the quietness that is Swan Bay in the evening.
Well done to Commodore Jill and Jennifer for such a great night and fun activities once again!!

