



The Commodore's Champagne Stern Chaser February 18, 2012

**"Huey" made it up to us this week....
Ideal Champagne Stern Chaser weather!**



No one can complain about this season's beautiful weather conditions And the day was perfect for a sail around the lower reaches of Port Phillip Bay! Pity about last week...but that's the breaks!!



A spectacular day and a great crowd of skippers and crew just itching to get out there and start racing....the number of people in the throng at briefing is continuing to grow and we welcome particularly new members and those who are racing with us for the first time.....please come back and continue with the best place to sail and race!

Looking around we find around twelve yachts lining up to take on the annual stern chaser for the want of a bottle of champagne!

Madam Commodore Jill, as host, welcomed everyone to the event and handed the baton to

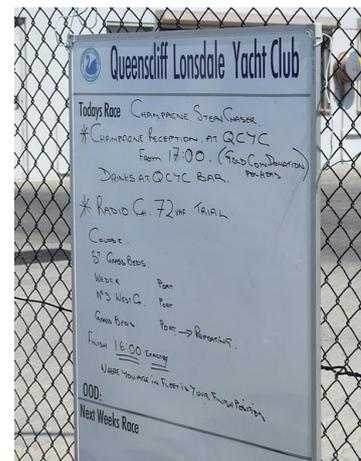
our Sailing Captain in Ian Curtis for the day's events. And together with OOD Ian, Bev Lee and Jennifer Gilbert, a quick briefing was held, pointing out the course and recounting the starting times for each competitor commencing with scratch marker Nellie in the hands of Russ Watson. "Not sure", says Ian....(scratching head for ideas!!!)



With twelve yachts strung out across the course of approximately 15 Nms, the back markers needed to pick up 40 odd minutes or nearly 4 Nms over the journey to conclude at 4pm precisely!!

The course was Grass Beds to Wedge Pile to No 3 West Channel and return to Grass Beds with approx 3 laps of the course to complete.

At the start there were many yachts milling to the start to capture the clock time before settling to await their turn across the line.



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club

Today's Race CHAMPAGNE STERN CHASER

* CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION AT QCTC

From 17:00 (FRODO CONDORETTA)

DINERS AT QCTC BAR

* RACING ON 720M TRIAL

COURSE

S Grass Beds

Wedge Pile Port

No 3 West Ch. Port

Grass Beds Port -> Return

Finish 16:00 approx

Next Week's Race

Next Week's Race

By 2pm, 30 minutes had elapsed and almost all the fleet had started with Zen about to leap then Imagine and finally Sundance. It was along wait for these backmarkers!

As Sundance started Wave Dancer had just completed her first lap almost together across the line!!

OOD to the assembled "Safety first....Remember to dog paddle use both hands and arms like this!!"



At this point the chase was on with Wave Dancer holding a good lead but closely followed by Fancy, Christabelle, Tintagel and the field.

Wave Dancer with Dave Hatton managed to stay to the lead until the third lap when Fancy forged to the lead followed closely by Christabelle.

At the prescribed 4pm Swan Rescue which had leaped to near the leaders sounded the horn and abandoned flag to announce Fancy with Paul van Prooyen as the champion on the day.

Congratulations were in order and all yachts quickly headed back toward the Cut and berthing to attend the winners circle at Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club BBQ area for drinks and eats.

Thanks to a band of willing helpers and a kind donation by Dave Cross and Barb the BBQ was quickly under way preceded by lovely nibbles.

Sailing Captain Ian Curtis with the assistance of Commodore Jill announced and congratulated the winners in Paul van Prooyen first in Fancy (with the assistance of a good crew!), second in Christabelle who failed to attend with the prize defaulting to our third placegetter in Dave Hatton as skipper of Wave Dancer. Congratulations to all.

Our thanks to all who participated, attended and joined the celebrations with special thanks to QCYC for their assistance, use of facilities and committee for assisting with bar provisioning.



And lastly from the desk of "Al Capone!"

We repeat..... "the Grub" is looking for all instances when things go wrong and mishaps occur....we need info at the editors desk....our confirmation of the title of "Whistleblower" will go to the best informant!!!!

See you all next week fro the "Irwin Trophy"

