



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Channels Race to St Leonards return. Sat January 23, 2016

An overcast and drizzling day turns on a great race!

A grey morning with rain forecast over the early course of the day greeted the skippers and crew assembled for today's annual Channels Race.

At the early briefing at 10 am, it was a strong contingent of those taking on this long race that Commodore Jill greeted with a quick summary of last week's successful club event in the Lady Skippers and Pink Lady Regatta, which was a great day on the water as well as back at the club house later in the afternoon.

For today's race our friends at BoM indicate a freshening south to south westerly 15 through 20 knots later in the day with tides in our favour for a run down the bay.

The course set was a Grass Beds start to No3 west channel (port) before continuing down the channel to the West Channel Pile to port, to St Leonards Pier making the Red Pile to port and down the Coles Channel to the Coles Channel Marker (referred to as the White Lady) to port, around the Swan Spit mark to starboard before finishing at Grass Beds.



The OOD for the day was Commodore Jill and Alex Eagleson and they were quickly on station at Grass Beds ready for the start at 11.30am.



As the start for Div1 arrived it was a bit of a flurry as the two in Nellie and Rosie attempted to gain advantage over each other. Rosie took a middle of the road start whilst Nellie sailed down the line ending up just behind Swan before edging beside Swan to start. Unfortunately on their line they (Nellie) crossed over the anchor line and buffeted Swan on their

way through.....no penalty required...totally legitimate action! Sorry OOD was the call!

With Div2 it was both Tiercel and Valentine that took to the line well but Wave Dancer took a line almost to toward Swan and at the last minute diverted to outside the start having to have another go around before starting.

With Div3 in the offing it was the countdown that nearly had Sundance and Imagine on the edge, as the clock counted down and in the middle of it all ... one of our OOD's missed his footing and slipped into the drink!

Quickly realising the situation Commodore Jill, arm over the side grabbed Alex by the scruff of his shirt, dragging him around the stern of Swan to the ladder and hoisting him onboardAND somehow seamlessly resumed the countdown to the start!

Imagine had sailed past to offer assistance whilst Sundance stood off but all was well.

Countdown done Imagine took the line first followed quickly by Sundance.

As the fleet took off the Div1 yachts were already close to No3 and rounding.

Div2 yachts quickly made the mark behind them and raising spinnakers for the downwind run to West Channel Pile.



Div3 followed but was not making ground on the fleet with Imagine popping the kite early and Sundance making a slower application.

On the trek up the west channel it was a procession, as most could not gain much ground in the brisk conditions.



the sand pile was easily traversed by all.

At the St Leonards Pile and into the Coles Channel, shortly thereafter it was Nellie who was marginally holding a lead followed by Valentine and Tiercel but Imagine quickly gathered them as the first few tacks in the Coles Channel faced with the now strengthening south westerly made its presence known.



At the Pile it was Nellie first around quickly followed by the Div2 yachts and hotly pursued by Imagine with Sundance followed by Wave Dancer. With high tide present, bank in proximity to the



All the length of the Channel it was Imagine making better as she forged to the lead followed now by Sundance which was making a slightly slower pace in the conditions.

By the White Lady it was a good three hundred metres from Imagine to Sundance with Valentine following ahead of Tiercel, Wave Dancer, Nellie and well back was Rosie.



Heading out from the Coles, the wind had picked up and the seas choppy as the fleet picked its way down to Swan Spit, before making the last leg toward Grass Beds.

At Grass Beds the OOD had not returned given the events of the morning with Alex sent home for a hot shower, Commodore Jill had sent for backup in our Treasurer Colin to assist in the finish of the race.



Imagine did the right thing by returning take finish times although most competitors were aware to take times as well for the handicapper to adjudge the final outcome of the race.

So across the line it was Imagine with Chris Laker and crew that took line honours ahead of Sundance followed by Tiercel.

On handicap, it was Nellie in first place ahead of second place in Tiercel with Valentine in third, followed by Imagine, Rosie, Sundance and finally Wave Dancer.

A great race and a big journey for all those that participated, particularly in a number of visitors who joined with the skippers for the day.

**Next Club Racing start: Is on....
SAT Jan 30 for the first race in the Cec
Anderson Series.**

**Meet at the harbour outside the QHPL
Shed.....at Noon.**

**Note to all: A number of Skippers are looking for
Crew and if you would like to be part of our unique
racing in this part of the Bay ...call us or email via the
website ...or contact us via "Facebook"**

