



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club

The Easter Regatta – 2 Sprint Races

- Saturday April 4, 2015

Easter 2015 and a Regatta of a couple of sprint races!!

A successful Maritime Weekend last week leads us into the Easter Regatta and back to our standard program.

Briefing was a bit buoyant (sic) with a crowd of eager skippers and crew totalling 31 enjoying the mild weather and the chance a getting a couple of good races under the belt before Sunday Chocolates!

In the absence of Commodore Jill who sent her thanks for all the good wishes during the week, it was the Club Captain who took stage and outlined the day's events ably assisted by our OOD in Ian Lee who today was accompanied by Bev and Jock (thanks guys).

The weather was mild with lighter winds than forecast but even with a lively tide it was expected to be a few scintillating races!

For the first start the OOD set course #1 which was Grass Beds to #3 West Channel, Swan Spit, Grass Beds etc



In Div 1 all started well with Drizabone dragging their heels being about a minute after the flag!

As reported by Colin B on Tintagel, the wind and tide made it possible to just lay No 3 on port tack after crossing the line on starboard. Tintagel gradually drew away from Drizabone who drew away from Rosie.

At #3 Tintagel led by about 100 metres: Rosie was several hundred metres behind Drizabone.

In Div 2 it was a very close start by all competitors with five vessels looking for an advantage.

Alas on route to Swan Spit, Drizabone closed on Tintagel who readied her spinnaker to deliver the "coup de grace" to the field on the final leg to Grass Beds.... But the spinnaker went up tangled around the forestay and rapidly twirled around the halyard just below the block; it took nearly 10 minutes to repair the mess.....boom boom!

Fortunately for Tintagel who had sailed nearly to the Swan Island shore before gybing for Grass Beds, Drizabone elected to challenge the tide by sailing direct for Grass Beds; resulting in her being only two boat lengths ahead at the finish.

The rest of the fleet, closing, under spinnakers, on Grass Beds, made a wonderful sight; But the crew of Tintagel were two busy sorting the tangle on the foredeck to take archival photographs.



As it happened the finish was Drizabone with Tom Fricke and crew ahead of Tintagel by fifteen seconds followed closely by Kinsale3, and thereafter Valentine, Tiercel, Fancy, Wave Dancer, Imagine and lastly Rosie.

On Handicap it was a brilliant effort by Fancy with Paul van Prooyen in charge followed by Drizabone and third in Tintagel. Others followed in Tiercel, Wave Dancer, Kinsale3, Valentine, Rosie and lastly, Imagine.

In race two it was Course #9 which was a start at Grass Beds followed by Swan Spit to Grass Beds and then #3 West Channel before returning to Grass Beds.

From Div1 it was Drizabone which caught Tintagel on port crossing the line, so the former got away first. At this point it was the wind that shifted more to the north and the tide was weakening. Tintagel tacked to avoid a collision and then tacked again out into the tide, until she could lay Swan Spit.

At Swan Spit Drizabone still led.

Even Tintagel's spinnaker, expertly raised, could not quite offset the advantage of the cousta boat's huge mainsail managed expertly by the crew.

On the leg towards #3 West Channel it was Tintagel that chose the inshore course, while Drizabone made out towards the Wedge.



In Div 2 it was Fancy and Kinsale 3 appearing to have made remarkably good starts, and being hundreds of metres in front of the other Div 2 vessels. Div 3 with Imagine only was a lonely start!

As it turned out all vessels, except Tintagel, elected to head towards the Wedge, and this decision was vindicated at the subsequent crossing of tacks near #3 West Channel.

There was a flowering of spinnakers as the fleet made for the finish at Grass Beds.

Fancy and Kinsale 3 were disqualified for breaking the start, and Rosie, unable to round #3 in the strong tide, elected to retire.



Imagine showed the caravan club, massed on the QCYC balcony, how it should be done by carrying her spinnaker up the Creek and round the corner before returning to her berth. Well done Chris and crew.

Across the line it was Valentine first followed by Imagine and Drizabone. Others finished in the order of Wave Dancer, Tintagel and Tiercel lastly.

However on handicap it was Valentine in the double that headed the winners with Wave Dancer second and thirdly Drizabone. Other finishes in order were Tintagel, Imagine and finally Tiercel.



The following photo over (from Steve Lee in Valentine) show a rather overloaded dinghy setting out for Fancy!!



Good work Paul!



Hopefully JB and Sundance will return to the challenge next week having spent the past week on the hard at Geelong with a damaged keel!!



See you next Saturday 11 April for the last instalment of the Cec Anderson Series (Race 6) which again will feature a run into the Lonsdale Bight.... Be there!