



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Easter Race Saturday March 26, 2016

Spectacular and despondent in two words!!

Easter began with a flurry of activity with Friday afternoon sailing on Swan Bay to get things going, as a small band took to the water and had a sail plus a few following sherbets. See Facebook for details and pics!

On Saturday it was racing and a great turnout of skippers and crew with a few visitors to make up numbers.

The wind was to be 10 to 15 knots and some tide but the promise was there!

At briefing John Barry encouraged those to book early for Presentation Night on 14th May and handed to Club Captain Brian for the race. Good breezes were promised by the BoM (but remember they are on holidays and have the blinds closed in the offices!).



It was decided that given good conditions a run around into the Bight would act as an incentive and a great sail with the flood tide bringing us back although care on the way out was needed, then back around the sticks for the arvo.

And so it was Course #4 that took us off Grass Beds to Parks Inner Mark to Grass Beds to Swan Spit and beyond....as it so happens!

Well with crews sorted it was off sailing....

The OOD's for the day were Jill and Geoffrey who appeared around Grass Beds as always before disappearing across the entrance to the harbour and flitting off toward the creek mark.



A quick response to Acting Commodore John was that the course buoy anchor was damaged and could not be used and that the OOD would anchor near there although the Ferry would make life difficult.....consultation over it was decided to anchor off the end of the pier and start from there....

The start time was now 2pm for Div1 and no complications here as the couta's in Fancy, Drizabone and Nellie got away with Tintagel and Wave Dancer.

In Div2 it was also Kinsale3 and Tiercel that took to the line and headed inland.



But Div3 with Imagine leading Sundance over the line took a line inside Drapers and then out toward Bell Rock.



The Div1 yachts took off but seemed to split as they headed around the creek mark and off to Bell Rock...the tide was gushing and seem opposite Drapers was having its day with the yachts.

By Bell Rock Drizabone headed well out (which was to be her undoing) whilst the majority to not of the strong tide as seen and closed in on the Rock in the eddy... Fancy also took a wide berth and was seen to slow considerably with the tide.

Div2 made up some ground here but again the tide took its toll at the corner and Kinsale3 got the better of it.



With Div3 it was Imagine that literally shot away down the Bight passing most of the fleet on the way down although Tintagel and Kinsale3 were making good their time up front.

Drizabone having sailed gallantly into the best of the tide for well over 50 minutes tacked and tried but could not get into the Bight...left the challenge to the fleet who had left her in their wake...and declared a retirement or DNF.

On the return to Grass Beds (sorry "the Pier") it was Tintagel going well and Imagine making larry doodle with her spinnaker, although others also flew the spinnaker including Tiercel and Wave Dancer.

Some confusion set up an amusing passing of the buoy/Swan as the first of the fleet in Imagine, Tintagel and Sundance looked back after crossing the creek to see Wave Dancer, Tiercel and Kinsale3 all having to tack across to the mark after a call to the OOD for clarification.

Fancy trailing the fleet at this point and having had a hard time getting into the Bight, losing ground saw an opportunity and retired as DNF to finish her day.



Heading down to Swan Spit (the first and only time!), it was Imagine giving Tintagel a great time whilst Sundance looked on with reduced sail and languished in their wake.

By Swan Spit the tide was really testy and strong on the flood although able to round the mark it was hard going heading into the light souwesterly and tide combined.

Imagine ahead with Tintagel going well although well inshore saw her advancing on Imagine out in the tide and Sundance tried her best to ease along the deepest part of inshore banks.



Tiercel, Nellie and Kinsale3 got to Swan Spit and in rounding it saw their speed dropping to a crawl.

Tiercel took a close line to Swan Spityes...the noise everyone heard was Tiercel's back stay attempting to take Swan Spit a few metres to the north...Tiercel recovered slightly ...shaken by the episode and struggled to maintain some traction...the tide taking her well north of the mark with some radio chatter in between...and eventually managed to tack and head home.

A short time later Tiercel pulled the pin with a DNF and headed home using the iron topsail...her day over!

Nellie was well north of Swan Spit and struggling with the tide...eventually both DNF and retired.



Sundance continued along the sandbank near QA before she took a grounding inshore and headed out into the current whilst Tintagel continued inshore grabbing the advantage over Sundance who had literally passed her some minutes before. Oh no!

And so it was Imagine that took line honours in a "severely shortened race" with Tintagel in second position over Sundance in third over Wave Dancer who was the only other yacht to finish.

On Handicap, it was Tintagel taking the race over Imagine in second place over Wave Dancer with Sundance fourth.

DNF's for the race included Drizabone, Fancy, Nellie, Tiercel and Kinsale3.



It indeed was a race of attrition with more incidents and accidents as can be said... There was over an hour between first and last over the line and almost 20 minutes gap on corrected time.



The only memorable situation was a quiet ride by our Borough Mayor Helene on Imagine and the successful BBQ after the race at the Club House which was very enjoyable including the crew and ensemble of Maud who ventured as far as the briefing with retirement not an option.



Note: All skippers and crew should be on the lookout for individuals like this ... life jackets are optional of course...and with the tide that we understand ...this lad could be at Port Melb by midnight!!



Not all were unhappy with the day..Doug showed his appreciation with a thumbs up as he passed by our OOD's. Thanks Doug.

Next Club Racing start: Is on.... SAT April 2nd for the Lady Nelson Trophy Race...

Meet at the harbour outside the QHPL Shed....at Midday for a briefing before racing at 1.30pm as usual.

Remember "Presentation Night" at the Lonnie Bowling Club on Sat night 14th May for a night triumph and despair of lost victories combined with a pic show not to forget.....

"How to make your booking....as under"

Email alexegleson42@gmail.com or text to 0477 437 827

Please include vessel name, numbers of adults and children, and if any vegetarian meals are desired.

Payment: Make your payment by direct deposit or by EFT.

Account Title: Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club.

Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account No. 120633185

Reference: Please include your last name and the word "dinner" with a direct deposit or EFT."



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"

