



## QLYC Easter Regatta Sat March 30 2013.

“Kinsale Triumphs, Again!”



Race day dawned not quite so warm and discouragingly overcast. The breeze was from the north of west. By briefing time, the breeze was puffing away at about fifteen knots and perhaps a little plus, occasionally, from NW.

Club Captain Ian Curtis and OOD Ian Lee briefed a surprisingly numerous crowd of yachtsmen and women. Nine vessels signed on.

The Club Captain recounted the triumphs and disasters of the previous weekend, **The Maritime Weekend**. Once again Queenscliff boats had triumphed in Division 2 of the Saturday race (congratulations David Cross, and Russ Watson), but Sunday's racing was cancelled owing to a surfeit of wind being provided by the wind gods.

The **OOD** explained that, as this day's event was a regatta, there would be two short races: the first half of new course 3, followed by the first half of new course 3.



In Division One *Nellie* and *Defiance* made good starts just in front of *Drizabone* on the first leg, towards **Drapers Reef Pile**. Though the tide was into the second hour of a vigorous flood, Ian Curtis skippering *Indulgence*, decided to risk “**the cruise before the start**” and found himself minutes away, up-tide, when the flags were lowered.



In Division Two we had *Zen*, *Tiercel*, and *Wave Rider*. *Zen* had rounded **Drapers** before the Division One yachts had reached **The Wedge**. The leg **Wedge to Queenscliff Approach** was particularly challenging in the NW-strong flood conditions, and vessels found themselves whisked away to the north of **Swan Spit**, or by lee-bowing the flood proceeding tediously crab-wise to the south of **QA**. Of the Division One boats, *Defiance* managed this rigamorole best, drawing further ahead and even threatening the speedsters of Divisions Two and Three. (*Zen*, below, momentarily looking not-very-speedy).



The two Division Three vessels, *Sundance* and *Kinsale*, could be seen duelling around the course, sneering at wind and tide, their numerous crews enjoying roast meals or the productions of top shelf pastrycooks while the crews of smaller vessels took things seriously.



No cooking on the speedy *Wave Dancer* (above) stealing through the fleet.

About three PM or slightly earlier, **Neptune**, put down his teacup and paid attention. The wind switched from NW to WSW; all the vessels on the north side of the line between **Wedge** and **QA** were seriously disadvantaged; *Wave Dancer*, who had passed *Indulgence* long before, now found that vessel well ahead. Poor *Drizabone* up near **Swan Spit** found herself sailing out of the picture.



*Sundance*, wearing a fetching new bimini, and showing no outward signs of the wild times recently experienced deep in the angry seas of the Roaring Forties, was first across the line.



However, the usual suspect handicapping magic made *Kinsale* first by one and one half minutes. A magnificent effort by *Defiance* saw her take third place. *Zen* made fourth and *Nellie* fifth.



Close behind were *Wave Dancer* and *Indulgence*, followed by *Tiercel* (also greatly disadvantaged by the wind change).



*Drizabone* came in a couple of minutes later.

At the finish, official vessel *Swan Rescue* was displaying a blue-checked hanky, and a flag with a blue square in the middle, together suggesting that the present **Course Three** race was finished and that the day's second race had been cancelled. Flag signals are clearly explained in Wikipedia's, "Racing Rules Of Yachting."

**Thank you to our race officers Ian and Bev Lee, and to Ian Lee for photographs.**



**The Next Club Event is Race 6 of the CEC ANDERSON SERIES. 6/4/2013.**