



The Lady Nelson Trophy Race – Sat April 14, 2012

And the sailing just gets better!!

A spectacular sailing day on Port Phillip Bay and a creative wind sent specially by "Huey" to test the metal of all competitors.....and there were 14 of them on Saturday making it the biggest fleet of the season.

At briefing the multitude gathered for the blessing by our reverend Sailing Captain Ian Curtis with overtures from Commodore Jill and OOD Ian Lee and crew.

PS. Any more crew and skippers at briefing and we will be moving the venue to Princess Park for expansion! (There was a report of the local police being called after a concerned citizen thought briefing was a gathering of the Supporters of Bob Brown in the harbour precinct!!)

And then there was the Treasurer "How can we beat Wave Dancer?"



But the good doctor Ian McKenzie had the script already written ..."Before the start take as many Panadol as required to prepare for a great race!"

And of course "The OOD has the last say!! A picture is worth a thousand words! (Russ....it doesn't matter!)

The Course was simple, with Grass Beds start to QA then Outer Buoy in Lonsdale Bight to Inner Buoy, across to Pope's Eye Pile before returning to Swan Spit back to Grass Beds to finish.



As the yachts made their way out through the cut Defiance made a crude attempt of "defiance" with Trinstan up the mastwot was that about!



At the start of Div 1 a cracking pace was set with Defiance just leading Drizabone over Tintagel whilst Rosie was ready to pounce with Nellie followed like "Hansel & Gretal" with the crumbs!

But Div 2 had all the hallmarks of a good protest...whilst Fancy sought the line, Maud had her measure until Fancy stood on the line and dropped onto Maud, with both boats coming together (ouch!).

Zen spoilt the party ducking underneath with speed, Chinon stayed well out of the way to port and Tiercel took a rear position.

Fancy dropped back without traction and almost gave Div 3 a crack at the same start line 10 minutes later! Well done Paul!

Div 3 got away with Kinsale picking a nice line inside, leaving Imagine and Sundance to fight out their own start. Just as these two started the wind died and both Imagine and Sundance sat in still conditions as Kinsale with Doug Curlewis at the helm took off gaining a few hundred metres.



Sundance suddenly had wind and took off, but the hapless Imagine sat still with the race almost out of their grasp so early in the event.



At the front of the field the Coutas and Dave Hatton took control through Lonsdale Bight with Tintagel, Defiance and Chinon giving the race some perspective around the Parks Buoys.....Doug Curlewis and Kinsale proved their worth and held off Sundance in a great tussel after rounding the Outer Mark but a slightly different tack took Kinsale inside the Inner Mark and Sundance did the military thing "out of sight and out of mind!"

To Pope's Eye Pile and Sundance took the lead over Chinon (hoist that kite!), Defiance (gentlemen to leeward!), and Tintagel (we're gunna leave the country next week to get away from you lot!).



A prawn fishing competition with spinnaker on this leg by Chinon, took the level of commitment to this art to a higher level.

In the run to windward and Swan Spit with the tide and some tacking the procession remained and from there it was a quick down wind run to Grass Beds and finish!



John Barry almost wet the deck when the Sundance reached over 11 knots under kite....!! Must have been the Coke and chocolate for morning tea! And finally line honours.

At the end we had three withdrawals...(no money involved!) of Maud...(going to a dinner party), Fancy (we are not sure) and Tiercel.

Over the line it was Sundance from Kinsale and Zen to finish.

Congratulations on handicap go to Dave Hatton with Wave Dancer, from Rosie and Tintagel for a great win and a great race in the most trying wind conditions....

The OOD wrote down wind direction on the results as W, NW, SW, S and SE.....but he forgot "Calm"!



And a quick view of what the "Grub" sees from the vantage post aboard "Sundance"!!



Presentation Night at the Lonsdale Golf Club on May 12th is rapidly approachingplease **book a table by Tuesday May 8th to ensure your yacht is represented And supported!!**



Note: for anyone including crews "the Grub" is still on the lookout for mishapsall info gratefully received at the editors desk....with the title of "Whistleblower" to be awarded to the best informant!!!! Call the hot line Or the Commodore!

And the leader in the "Whistleblower Stakes!" is still out there watch this space!!