



QLYC....Summer Series – New Year Regatta Sat/Sun December 29/30, 2012

A tussle under pressure for all! No indulgence here!

Saturday and Race 1 of the Series!

Well Santa has been and the kids and oldies have had all their fun under the tree and lights and now it was time to get serious again on the water.

New Year was approaching and the final races were to be held outside of Queenscliff on a couple of beautiful days.



Saturday however, was a different proposition bringing windy conditions but our old friends at BOM decided that they were definitely not going to be greater than 21 knots!!

The briefing chatter was mixed as only a small gathering sought the instructions of the starter and OOD Ian and wife Bev for a brisk sail around the sticks!

However out there, with only five yachts competing there were two divisions being two and three from the normal procedure.

Maud pulled out before the race...obviously knowing something the rest of us didn't!!

The course was set at No 4 which effectively was a race from Grass Beds around into the Bight to the Inner Mark back to GB and circuits from Swan Spit to Drapers three times finishing from Drapers to Grass Beds.



At the start there was some milling around and whilst Div 2 got away the wind had picked up at 15 knots, Wave Dancer with Zen took off like startled gazelle's.

On Div 3 Imagine broke rank and got there with a lead over Sundance revelling in the conditions with a reef, but our JB opted for the regatta main and No 3

It was clear that reefs were the order of the day and heading up into the Bight, Imagine took to the blustery conditions well having partly furled the jib along the way.

Both Div 2 yachts were hammering into the Bight and reefed also to maintain speed in the conditions.

On the return around Drapers there was considerable wave height (approx. 2 mtrs) putting the Div 2's in difficulty, although both Wave Dancer and Zen were doing well leading the fleet, but Imagine had her day and continued pressing ahead by hundreds of metres to Sundance and Zen.

On the final leg coming to Grass Beds all skippers were hoping



for a “shortened course” but it was not to be....Sundance got into trouble at Swan Spit, rounded up passing the mark and was lucky to make it back under the mark before going around as should have been the case. Just ask the mainsheet man about how untidy it was....whilst the skipper went white!!!

At Drapers the last time, the tide had turned, wind had matched a good 30 knots and the sea was a good 2 metres just to make things interesting!

At the end it was Imagine as a clear first across the line and even better took handicap honours ahead of Sundance and Zen a good third placing.

Wave Dancer pulled the pin during the last leg and with a broken jib sheet block car plus a minor motor issue took a little time in getting to her mooring.

Later we were to hear that Imagine had shredded much of her furled jib and was looking for a sail maker and supporter to help her out....Good luck with that Chris and Gus!

Congratulations to Imagine and the boys under the leadership of Chris and Gus! Well done!

Sunday and Race 2 of the Series!

After running repairs, the fleet returned to the starting blocks, still a little wounded and sore, with most of yesterday’s Skippers and crews fronting for briefing on Sunday morning, which looked to offer much friendlier weather!!!

Again our OOD Ian and Sailing Captain Ian together with Commodore Jill took everyone through the procedures for the second race, knowing however that this would not have the heavy conditions of yesterday!

There were 6 starters with the emergence of a late but well prepared yacht over a number of months, Colin Bishop and Ian Curtis with the “Indulgence” fronting the starter!

The competition was Sundance, Imagine, Kinsale, Chinon, Maud and finally as mentioned Indulgence as the “new boy on the block”.

Out there the course selected by our OOD was No 7 but changed his mind before the start (as OOD’s do!) to course No 6 with Grass Beds to Swan Spit to Wedge, Grass Beds, Swan Spit, Wedge, Grass Beds, Swan Spit, Wedge and finally finishing at Grass Beds buoy!

To everyone’s relief the wind was around 8 knots to provide a pleasant sail with a beautiful south/south easterly ...

With a downwind course start there was plenty of anxiety re spinnakers etc and true to form in Div 2, Steve Lee and Chinon took to it like a “fly to rancid meat”...putting Chinon hundreds of metres in front of the only other yacht in this division in Maud and by the first mark had Indulgence swell and truly covered.



All crews watched with great interest for the possibility of something untoward happening with a spinnaker on another yacht, as a possible source of indirect assistance to their own predicament! Alas, this didn’t happen!

In Div 3 the big boys went about their business with a decidedly picturesque crew on Kinsale with Doug at the helm saw a pleasant day out.

Most chose to take the direct route from Swan Spit to the Wedge, whereas the smaller boats fleet chose to tack towards Swan Island until well down towards Grass Beds.

Sundance and JB at the helm took on the charge of Div 3 with Imagine under helm of Chris Laker and took a convincing lead and eventually the race which may have been partly attributed his victory over Imagine to the latter briefly trying the inshore route.

In the words of our intrepid sailor Colin Bishop (renowned Treasurer) "Well for us, the predicted wind didn't arrive; so we should have had a larger jib. We'll try a larger jib next time. I think with a bigger jib we could have held Maud. I thought Steve was doing well, but the handicap result shows it was a big boat day; they could sail over the tide; though divisions one and two had lighter airs for longer after their starts."

JB had Sundance going like a runaway train, it looked most impressive foaming along.

Colin's first day with "Indulgence" was a "very relaxing day - no water on the deck" (clearly not trying hard enough!).

And first across the line was once more "Sundance" in front by some 12 minutes over Imagine and Kinsale a further 2 minutes astern.



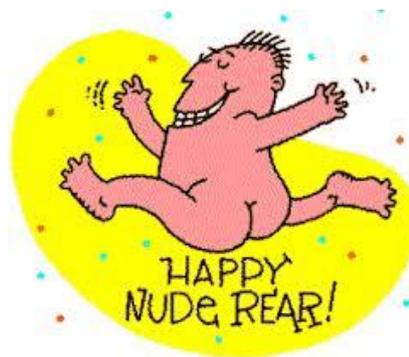
However on Handicap the honors also went to John Barry on Sundance winning by 19.5 seconds on handicap over Imagine followed by Kinsale, Chinon, Maud and finally Indulgence!

Congratulations to John Barry and the Sundance crew for a race well managed.

Sorry Colin but there is only so much that the handicapper can do and after that you are on your own!!



A few good "Indulgence" pics wouldn't go astray right now and our Treasurer would appreciate some credit for his efforts in giving the old girl a new life at QLYC! We will be on the lookout.



A very happy New Year to all as it has passed without significant murmur but will be forever remembered as the great year that it was!

Next Club Event –

Ray Maki Supplementary Race

Saturday 5th January at Midday at the Harbour for briefing.

And...MUD ISLANDS PASSAGE RACE. Saturday 12/1/2013.

FIRST START 12-30 PM, "Early briefing" 11 AM at the harbour.

