

Ray Maki Series - Race 1, 22-10-11.

A very light breeze varying from NE to SE and a moderate ebb greeted the six vessels entered in the first race of the QLYC 2011-2012 season. OODs Ian and Bev Lee.

We saw *Rosie*, *Defiance*, *Tintagel* jostling for position in Division 1. *Chinon* and newcomer *Nereus*, a Holland Twenty Five, fought it out in Division 2. Starting solitary but majestic in Division 3 was *Sundance*, the representative of the Maxis.



An earlier race, so *Bonta* is there too. A Brian Golland photo.

Division 2 started while Division 1 was proceeding at a glacial pace towards Swan Spit. *Chinon* early showed that this was to be her day by overtaking Division 1 as it reached Swan Spit. Here the contestants split with *Tintagel* and *Rosie* tacking towards West Channel No.3, while *Chinon* and *Defiance* continued north, lee-bowing the tide in what turned out to be a very successful tactical move.

At West Channel No.3, *Chinon* and *Defiance* passed in front of *Tintagel* who still led *Rosie*. After an heroic struggle with fingers, thumbs, halyards, sheets, and guys, *Tintagel* hoisted a spinnaker, but this was not enough to overtake *Defiance*, let alone prevent *Tintagel* being overtaken by *Sundance* on the way back to Grassbeds.

Meanwhile, what of *Nereus*?



Not *Nereus*, but a similar, though not so good-looking vessel.

At Grassbeds, the shorten course flag was flying. A hail from Ian Lee informed skippers that the new course was straight to West Channel No. 3 and return. Little did the OOD know that the best way of reaching No. 3 was to sail past Swan Spit.

Chinon now miles in the lead found the eastern edge of a wind hole that contained the rest of the fleet near the Swan Island shore. *Sundance* drew ahead, with *Defiance* following. *Nereus* and *Tintagel* passed and re-passed one another. *Rosie* hung on a few metres behind.



Defiance on a good breeze day. A Brian Golland photo

When *Defiance* passed No. 3, *Chinon* was close to the finish and line honours, *Sundance* was on the way, *Tintagel*, *Nereus*, and *Rosie* were several hundred metres behind (or fifteen minutes in the conditions of the day).

Despite *Nereus* flying a very fetching black and yellow spinnaker, *Tintagel's* red and white spinnaker helped it stay ahead of the back-markers for the rest of the race, and into the Creek by about five o'clock at the end of a very long race of about eight nautical miles.

Once the handicapper had worked his magic, the day was revealed as a triumph for last year's aggregate winner, *Chinon*. She took Line Honours, First on Performance Handicap, and First on CBH.

Next week - Briefing at noon at the harbour for Race 2 of the Ray Maki Series. In the evening the first of the club's BYO BBQs, at the Club House.