



Ray Maki Series – Race 6 Dec 17, 2011

What was all the fuss about - Hughie??

There is always a rush before Xmas as we see a Spring Series finishing and a scramble for the last few points to secure a finish in the contenders for Presentation Night!!

Last Saturday was no exception to the rule, with a tightly knit group of contenders sauntering to briefing with a glint in their eye.



The previous week we saw a literal deluge in Queenscliff with streets awash and our Swan Rescue team sheltering as the heavens opened....not with standing a fleet reduced severely due to atrocious conditions on the bay. Expectations were from earlier reports that our friends at BOM in consultation with "Hughie" had announced high winds to at least 20 knots with gusts over 25 knots. Steve Lee announced his decision not to sail given conditions in his view were unsuitable.

Needless to say our skippers and crews were looking to get in a sail, and were talking down the weather with some giving improved forecast from IPHones and techno stuff to

support an argument.

The briefing was swift with our Commodore Jill giving some advice on use and availability of radios especially in poorer conditions as per last week.

Ian Curtis our Sailing Captain took charge and posted a course in conjunction with our OOD Ian Lee showing some conservation toward a close shore based rounding from Grass Beds to Tuckey 2 to Swan Spit and returning to Grass Beds for two laps.

Only four yachts were to make the start line in two divisions after a late scratching of Tiercel on the grounds of Crew desertion!!



Not sure about Ian Shuffle here!!!

A brisk breeze prior to the race had some competitors looking to scale back on size of sails selection.

In Div 1 we saw Tintagel take to a small sail set with Rosie and Nellie making good from the previous week on a full rig.

As the race commenced the weather started to abate and dropping gradually to 10 knots ensuring that



Tintagel in her configuration slowly drop to the rear of the field. An immediate decision by Tintagel in the words of our Treasurer and Skipper of Tintagel – "We changed from the smallest jib (we've named it "jiblette") to the largest."

With Div 2 and Sundance as the lone ranger taking a fierce eye to the challenge as they saw Div 1 slowly making their way down the course.

Various manoeuvres by skippers saw Coutas in both directions attempting to outflank the opposition by either along the shore in Nellie or Rosie taking a risk on tide and wind direct to Tuckey2.

On the second lap of course our back marker Tintagel saw the breeze lifting and on their way to Tuckey 2 saw their jib leads (sheets) couldn't stand a little pressure and blew out of the fitting.

As always Colin Bishop and Ian Curtis plowed on to show some versatility and perseverance to start overhauling a small fleet. It was not to be.

Sundance lifted and again proved her match by leading the fleet home by some 22 minutes with Nellie second over the line in the hands of Russ Watson, Rosie third and Tintagel finishing a 48 minutes after the first finisher Sundance.

On corrected time Nellie proved to be the winner that she is coming home 0.17 of a minute or 10 seconds to Sundance who beat Rosie to third place by 3 minutes corrected time and Tintagel a further 12 minutes behind Rosie.

Congratulations to Russ Watson with Nellie now showing her colours as in previous days of racing. Well done Russ!!

Tintagel having blown her chances earlier in the race was bemoaning her fate ...and in the words of Colin skipper and Treasurer...." *We battled on and finished (hoping meanwhile for a greater disaster to strike everyone else) well outside our performance handicap. Fortunately we carry medicinal rum for these sorts of emergencies".*



Our friendly mate is still out there looking for inside info....

Remember bribery and affection will be treated seriously by the handicapper!!



And lastly....."A very merry Christmas and enjoyable time to all skippers and crews during the next two weeks as they seek to plan improved strategies under the handicapping rules!!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS



"As I understand it, Christmas is the time of year when we celebrate the birth of the first credit card."