



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Winter Series – Race 2

- Sun June 28, 2015

The club continues our series with great results...

As is normal the winter can turn on some cold weather but this Sunday the BoM gave us a prediction of light winds and possible shower in the morning.

The excited crowd of skippers and crew drew breath in front of Lix Café in the harbour at 10am and some enjoyed coffee whilst others swapped stories before our Commodore Jill brought everyone to order for a quick overview and briefing of the day's events welcoming and encouraging the crew competition.

Club Captain Brian briefed on weather a quiet word about finishing lines after last week's shortened course before turning to this week which would see the fleet face a westerly wind with an ebb tide.

Given the conditions, the course chosen was #5 of the club courses, which would see us go from Grass Beds to Drapers, Wedge, Grass Beds, Wedge, Grass Beds to Drapers out to Wedge again before finishing at Grass Beds.

With crew sorted amongst the skippers present it was off to take on Huey and Port Phillip Bay in a quiet jaunt around the sticks.

On the course proper OOD's Commodore Jill and Alex Eagleson got down to business and like a well-oiled machine had the line prepared and signals happening.

Yachts entered in today's race were Division 2 with Tiercel, Lionheart and Wave Dancer and Div 3 with a lonely Sundance as the sole participant in this division. Twelve crew had joined the vessels and made some arrangement to ensure sailing on more than one vessel during the series to qualify.



Div 2 with the three starters took to the line almost side by side and got away promptly heading out past the Creek Mark before tacking into Drapers Pile....and with 10 minutes waiting on the side Sundance as the lonely Div3 took up the challenge and chase as the OOD flag dropped.



Approaching Drapers in Sundance, it could be seen that the three Div 2 vessels were headed off toward Wedge and had made almost a third of the distance down wind.

Lurking and running, it was Sundance that came alongside Tiercel at the Wedge mark before rounding just ahead of her. Lionheart and Wave Dancer were now well on their way to Grass Beds the first time and looking a threat.

On board Sundance, it was spilt blood on the cockpit floor that had the skipper concerned, after Ross split his finger under the high pressure of young Finn's enthusiastic winching whilst assisting our young crew in a tack.

Medical work was carried out in transit to Grass Beds but did not impede progress or speed!



By the time all vessels were approaching Wedge a second time it was Sundance that had gathered up the fleet and was now leading whilst Lionheart had headed Wave Dancer and both were moving away from Tiercel.



On the return to Grass beds the breeze kicked up a few notches and changing direction from a south westerly to westerly.

By Grass Beds for the last lap it was easily Sundance well out in front and making a speedy push to make as much distance as possible in the time left to attempt a win on corrected time.

With a quick run up to Wedge before turning for the finish at Grass Beds it was a soldiers course that could be seen from the comfort of the OOD's position on Swan Rescue.



Jill could be seen reeling in a good but small snapper on her fishing line before preparations were made to take the times of the finishing vessels.

Some of the fishing vessels around the area of Grass Beds were not as kind when referring to the fleet of racing yachts which they considered were entering into the holy ground of fishing.

Just ask young Patrick and Lindy on Lionheart!

At the finish it was Sundance over the line first followed by Tiercel, Lionheart and Wave Dancer a mere minute behind Lionheart.

But on handicap, with jubilation and much fuss, it was Lionheart with Patrick and Lindy that managed a great win, followed closely by Sundance second with Tiercel and Wave Dancer close behind.

Only four minutes separated all vessels at the finish on corrected time.

A fabulous sail and race in great conditions for all participants in the brisk winter weather.

A return to the club house after the race saw everyone enjoying a handful of hot chips with a needed cool drink as the results were announced by the club captain over stories of opportunities lost!!

Well done to Patrick and Lindy on a long awaited and well-earned win after being out of the race circle for a long time.

Again our thanks to our OOD's in Jill and Alex and to all who participated.



**Next Club Racing start:
Is on....**

**SUNDAY July 19th with
3rd race of the Winter
Series**

**Remember this is Crew Contested
Racing – so crew get on the winning
yacht!!**



**Meet at the harbour outside Lix's Café at 10am ...coffee or breakfast
before if you are inclined.....**

**The Crew points after Race 2 Winter 2015 are:
Frank McMahon, Ross Nitz and Finn are leading with all on 4 points,
Phil and Lyndy on 5 points,
Brian 6 points,
Ross H, Andrew and Mike on 7 points,
Wendy and Monica on 8 points, and
Bob on 9 points.**