



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Winter Series – Race 3

- Sun July 19, 2015

Winter and the weather turns beautiful for a race...

The weather turned from really bad to an absolute stunner for our club Winter Series Race #3 with a chilly morning and clear skies and sun to rev us up.

A great turn up of crews with skippers saw four yachts and 21 people outside Lix Café in the harbour.

Along with Sundance (John Barry) and Lionheart (Patrick and Lindy Roberts) a surprise in Howard Hughes with his Gil Allbutt built Couta "Robyn Ann" complete with crew of six plus Antony Heath in his recently acquired ex RGYC yacht "League of Gentlemen" a Blaze 740.

Commodore Jill welcomed everyone to the briefing and passed the baton to Club Captain Brian for the details of activity for today's race.

There was excitement around as it was announced a light northerly together with a fair tide would see us take a route along the shores of Swan Island in course #9 of the set courses.

This course was to start at Grass Beds to Swan Spit, Grass Beds, #3 Pile before coming back to Grass Beds then a run to Wedge and return to Grass Beds etc.

With crew sorted and everyone signed on it was off to race in Port Phillip Bay on a quiet afternoon.

Out on the course OOD's Commodore Jill and Alex Eagleson sorted it all out and provided a great start line for the contenders.

So in Div2 we had all yachts except Sundance.

Thus at Div 2 start it was Robyn Ann that stood back from the line early knowing that a flood tide and light wind would play havoc close to the line, but Lionheart went to the OOD end of the line early.

Sailing up the start line was Lionheart ... But it was still a minute to the start when the hooter went and Lionheart dropped over the line starting incorrectly....



Robyn Ann stood back and approaching the line right on que she took the line as Lionheart made her way back for a second go at starting.

Good work to Howard and crew on their first start with QLYC and with the tide took a terrific line toward Swan Spit.



Lionheart attempting the second start took some time to manoeuvre around the start buoy and whoops...collected the buoy and thereafter took the mandatory 360 before getting on with the race in earnest!!

Sundance observed all the goings on from a safe distance and as her turn came to start made a great change of pace coming down on the start line with only a second before the flag dropped. Well done crew and skipper.

Heading toward Swan Spit was a fair breeze in light winds with the tide providing most of the energy down the course.



Lionheart took a fairly direct route to Swan Spit whilst Robyn Ann who was well ahead taking a slightly different and more westward course Howards crew looking the better. But by Swan Spit not much difference in distance when rounding the mark.



Robyn Ann seemed the better although the tide took a toll on both as they rounded and pointed toward Grass Beds slowing both considerably.

Sundance averaged around six knots down the course to Swan Spit and rounded easily taking to the lead and firing toward Grass Beds despite the tide but still needing to struggle as the wind made different moves in direction.

Antony's team League of Gentlemen, seemingly socialising, arrived at the line some fifteen minutes after the start and whilst starting

appropriately....took a cavalier sail well out from the intended mark at Swan Spit.

With the feet watching their intended destination looked to be Brighton or Melbourne heading toward the West Channel Pile past Tuckey#2!!

Meanwhile Sundance had now returned to Grass Beds and was rounding the buoy almost an hour after starting whilst the other two contenders were slowly progressing back against a strengthening tide.

Lionheart then rounded Grass Beds some thirteen odd minutes later with Robyn Ann a fair distant still to come. And Robyn Ann arrived some thirteen odd minutes in arrears to Lionheart.

Sundance continued her lead but was counting on widening the gap to escape the devils of her handicap against Lionheart as had happened in the previous race.

Heading out to #3 West Channel it was clear that even with a slightly increased wind still varying from north to northeast, the tide was going to greatly affect the run back to Grass Beds. On Sundance, the money was on the OOD making a shortened course at Grass Beds.



Approaching Grass Beds it certainly was a shortened course flag confronting Sundance and the finish as the OOD in Jill and Alex had correctly estimated that at least another 45 odd minutes would be required for the back markers in Lionheart and Robyn Ann to reach the finish.

As it turned out Sundance took line honours ahead of Lionheart some 43 minutes astern...but unfortunately Robyn Ann was caught in tide with a struggle to the finish and needed to motor home in a disappointing finish.

On handicap it was Sundance as winner on the day from

Lionheart by almost eight minutes.

As uttered by Patrick on Lionheart's performance not many yachts gain a silver spoon and a wooden spoon in the same race...true words Patrick!!

Congratulations to everyone on a great day on the water and many thanks to all crews and skippers with particular thanks to those joining us for the day in Howard, Elliot, Graeme, Rob, Gavin, Angela and Charlotte.

Unfortunately the Heath lads and Jim had a nice day sailing without the interruption of racing around marks of course..well done!



Our thanks again to our Commodore Jill and Alex Eagleson for their diligent and patient OOD services working out of Swan on a cool day awaiting vessels to finish the race.

Next Club Racing start: Is on....

SUNDAY Aug 9th with 4th 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 3 Winter 2015 are:

Frank McMahon, Ross Nitz and Finn are leading with all on 5 points,

Phil is on 6 points,

Lindy and Brian are on 7 points,

Monica on 9 points and

Wendy on 14 points

Eleanor and Geoffrey on 15 points

with Bob on 17 points.

However only Brian and Phil currently qualify having sailed on two vessels!

