



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Winter Series – Race 4

Sun August 9, 2015

Yacht racing at its best in Winter...warming up!!

After a few weeks of really cold and snow like conditions in mid-winter, the day looked very promising as all skippers and crews gathered outside LIX Café in the Queenscliff Harbour on a quiet Sunday morning at 10am.

A great turn up of 20 odd with six vessels signing on to challenge the elements of lower Port Philip Bay...

Commodore Jill welcomed everyone and talked up the conditions...before handing over to Club Captain Brian for briefing of the day's events.

Weather was overcast but sailing conditions near perfect, with light to moderate northerlies forecast along with an ebb to start, turning to flood by the finish.

Three divisions elected to start with a lone vessel in Div 1 and Div 3 and the majority of fleet in Div 2.

Given the northerly wind, course #2 of the set courses was announced.

This course was to start at Grass Beds to QA, Wedge, Swan Spit, Wedge, Swan Spit, Grass Beds, Wedge, Swan Spit and return to finish at Grass Beds.

With sign-ons completed and coffees finished, it was off to more serious stuff offshore.

Starters were Sundance with John Barry in the Davidson 40, along with Lionheart and Patrick and Lindy Roberts in their famous S&S 34, plus a return of recently joined Howard Hughes with his Couta "Robyn Ann", Colin Gibbs and his Joubert "Tiercel", Doug Curlewis in the Clubman 8 "Kinsale 3" and finally Colin Bishop in "Tintagel" completing the numbers to race.

OOD's Commodore Jill and Alex Eagleson were already stationed on the course, providing a great start line for the contenders off Grass Beds.

In Div 1 it was a lonely Tintagel returning to take on the fleet as front runner and with crew based sailing handicaps Colin was joined by Frank McMahon for the day.

One could see the glint in Frank's eye as he ensured Tintagel was on time to the linea mere four seconds before starting and flying to the first mark.



In Div 2 it was the four in Lionheart, Kinsale3, Tiercel and Robyn Ann that geared up with all taking a determined, well timed run at the line ... well almost except for Tiercel and Colin Gibbs assisted on helm by Jennifer who allowed plenty of distance for the other three to make the start line.

As is usual Kinsale with Doug in charge, made a good start look easy, although there isn't much between them and certainly Robyn Ann with Howard is right up there alongside Lionheart.

With the brisk breeze from the



north it was a quick trip to QA Pile before taking off to Wedge off the wind.

Div 3 with lonely Sundance takes off at precisely her designated time and chases down the fleet.

Our friends in Terra Nova with Michael and Jo ventured out to look over the field but declined to enter in favour of testing boat speed and observing race tactics.

After Wedge it is off to Swan Spit and Tintagel with Colin and Frank are making it look easy...but the fleet is bunched up with Doug in Kinsale3 and Lionheart are now making ground and it is Sundance catching fast.

The tide at Swan Spit is still strong and makes for some difficulty by all.

From here it was back to Wedge with the fleet being hotly pursued by Sundance as expected, whilst after Wedge and returning to Swan Spit all vessels take long legs to gain best advantage against the tide before tacking and watching their transit carefully.



On the return to Grass Beds and passing Swan Rescue the first time it is now Sundance in front having made good these legs.

Unfortunately a casualty of the tide is Robyn Ann with Howard and crew, and whilst sailing well, have needed some convincing that Swan Spit is an easy mark to round in such conditions, and they drop well back in the fleet.

Kinsale3 is now in second within the fleet but hotly pursued by Lionheart and Tiercel with Tintagel further back as a result of struggling at Swan Spit.

With the last lap of the course to contend Sundance heads off to Wedge, Swan Spit and returns to finish at Grass Beds almost 10 minutes under the two hours with line honours.



However this last lap has not provided any easier conditions and the run to from Wedge to Swan Spit puts pressure on Div 2 competitors Kinsale takes a wide line outside #3 West Channel outside of Sundance's path, whereas Lionheart and Tintagel sailed inside toward Swan Island.

Congratulations to Frank on his helming of Tintagel around Swan Spit which from reports tested his nerves to another level!

Robyn Ann is well back at this point, weighing up her prospects for finishing the race versus the lure of hot chips at the Clubhouse!

Line finishes in the end were Sundance first with Kinsale3 second and Lionheart third followed by Tiercel and lastly Tintagel with Robyn Ann a DNF due essentially to time constraints.



All yachts finished within 34 minutes of each other, making for a great afternoon of racing.

On handicap it was Lionheart the winner with Sundance second, Kinsale3 third, Tintagel fourth, Tiercel fifth and Robyn Ann picking up bottom position but a handicap review is pending.

Congratulations to Lionheart with Patrick and Lindy on another win, assisted on the day by Ross Nitz as crew for the day.



Our thanks once again to our Commodore Jill and Alex Eagleson for their diligent and patient OOD services, working the lumpy decks of Swan Rescue in cool conditions to manage the race...and we might add no fish to be had!

PPS: Oh....on another note...Tiercel's skipper...heard on the day post sailing...returning to the mooring basin...!!

At the mooring lost the dinghy but Antony Heath did the right thing and retrieved same.... But Skipper then forgot to complete the mooring process properly.... Packed and rowing ashore when he saw burgee still flying....back to recover it.... Rowed ashore, dinghy on rack, tied down, looked out and saw he'd left the mooring buoy floating in water against hull. Dinghy back down and rowed out again and back..... well then stuck behind slow driver intransit to club house ...missing the hot chips and....hence the need for a stiffener when he finally got to clubhouse! Nothing more to be said really!!!

Next Club Racing start: Is on....

SUNDAY Aug 30th with 5th and last race of the Winter Series

Remember this is Crew Contested Racing – so crew need to be on a 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 4 Winter 2015 are:

Ross Nitz leading on 6 points,

Lindy is second on 8 points with,

Frank McMahon and Brian on 9 points,

Finn on 13 and Phil is now on 14 points,

Andrew on 16 points.

Monica on 17 points and



Qualifiers by having sailed multiple vessels are Ross, Frank, Brian and Phil!