



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Cec Anderson Series – Race 4

- Sat Feb 21, 2015

Always expect the unexpected as they say!!

Probably a day to remember would be the call of the day....

The idea for a monthly run into the Lonsdale Bight was one concept which we agreed with our Couta members that would be ideal and give some character to racing, and as we have seen in the past with the Community being able to see the club in action as well as the celebration of yacht racing in and around Queenscliff.

The day was ideal when planning, with a flood tide and light northeasterly moving to east and south easterly in the afternoon....

Skippers and OOD were emailed early Sat morning with the details of course and weather in the expectation of best preparation....and at briefing this was outlined again...unfortunately the Club Captain had left the special "Black Bag" at home and Commodore Jill set off in pursuit whilst briefing continued!

Briefing covered the race but also the Maritime Weekend coming up at end of March when QLYC will hold their own race whilst Coutas will race with the SSCBC fleet for the coveted trophies on offer.....we will present our own trophy for the occasion.

With nine yachts signed on it was to be a great race over three divisions...Drizabone, a natural favourite after last week was a scratching for this event!

With the OOD in place and Jock Lee with Ian and Bev the scene was set as the time approached for the start of Division one.

Milling around as the start approached it was Defiance that looked best with Nellie and Rosie close





but Tintagel in trying to sort out a spinnaker gave the others a reasonable start by a number of minutes. The pic shows the “Tin” after her initial attempts.

Mind you the movement downwind against the tide left a bit to the imagination when it came time for the Div two starters.

Div two looked good with Valentine, Wave Dancer and Tiercel looking to gain some advantage.



By Div three it was a slight variance of time that allowed both Imagine and Sundance to creep on the line although Imagine took a little more time to advance about two minutes against Sundance with a minute out of the start.



The fleet crept up past the creek mark gathering fairly with the tide making a fair impact on progress. The wind was not very kind to any division!

Along the way it was Imagine trying to “imagine” more or less wind with flying both spinnakers ...”more sail means more wind!!” We heard Chris say!



Approaching Drapers Pile it was not a pretty sight...some of the smaller vessels had managed an inside run whilst the smarter larger vessels took a rumb line and caught a little current with a light wind.....OMG Sundance whilst in front of

the field edged ever closer to drapers and although looking at the Pile broadside managed to obtain a little extra to avoid a problem and Imagine now close behind her (within a metre or two) also slipped throughTiercel on the other hand was edging broadside to the mark and after a gasp or two took the Iron Mainsail to provide a boost on safety and also slipped by slowly.



From there it was a picture of missed opportunities.....

The Fleet split going toward Bucket Rock and Sundance out wider whilst Defiance and Tintagel went in quite close with Imagine a little further out and Tiercel near them.

The effect of the difference in tracks around the Rock seemed to make a difference although at the time the tide was strengthening.

Almost all of the latter vessels were caught in the tide and barely moved with the light wind...Imagine had a dream run through and around the Rock leading and making the Inner Mark easily before heading out to the Outer Mark along with them was Tintagel, Tiercel and Defiance.

With Swan Rescue close at hand during the race passing Bucket Rock it was a clear case that the race would need to finish earlier than expected without the course being completed by the set course.

Sundance was first to DNF closely followed by Valentine and others as the futile effort in the tide became apparent...Jessie as crew on Sundance took the opportunity to take a swim in the tide whilst Sundance drifted back to the creek.



The OOD therefore allowed the race to continue and set the finish at the Inner Parks Mark the second time with a finish time around 4pm for all the contenders left in the race.

Across the finish line it was Imagine with Chris Laker and crew first, followed by Tiercel 10 minutes later then Defiance and finally Tintagel some 31 minutes astern.

On handicap the order was Tiercel with Dr colin Gibbs and crew by less than a minute over second Imagine and third Defiance. (Welcome back Dave) Tintagel was fourth and the only other vessel to finish. The handicapper reckoned a 65 second sprint by Imagine would have got him a win on handicap!!

It was a **“spine tingling race”** with most crews effectively cooking in the heat whilst watching the many swimmers on the beach in Shortland’s Bluff cooling themselves!!

As a result it was a DNF for five vessels in Sundance, Valentine, Wave Dancer, Nellie and Rosie.

Handicaps will remain unchanged for next week's sternchaser in light of the bizarre conditions!!

Next Club Racing start: Is on....

SATURDAY February 28th The Champagne Sternchaser Race followed by a Champagne glass at the Club House at 6pm....

.....and remember

SUNDAY Mar 8th – For our next “Messabout” day at the Club House and a BBQ lunch !!

