



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Cec Anderson Series – Race 6

- Saturday April 11, 2015

Wow....who would have predicted a perfect race into the Lonsdale Bight!!

Saturday dawned a great day for a race into the Lonsdale Bight although there was contention regarding the tide if the wind did not pick up.

At briefing there was the usual banter and discussion of week's events whilst a few oldies turned up to assist Doug Curlewis with his exploits today. Ian Lee decided to abandon OOD duties and assist on the tiller whilst Ken McAllister a member from way back also came into the picture for Doug.



Club Captain Brian Golland took the gathering in the absence of Commodore Jill who is still away in hospital. Overview of the last race next week and Discover Sailing on Sunday as well as encouragement to register for Annual Presentation Night on Sat evening of May 2nd was put to the members before a brief on today's racing.

As scheduled this would be the last in the Cec Anderson series as number six and a trek into the Lonsdale Bight.

Nine yachts and 31 crew and skippers were briefed on the course with a change from east to southerly and strengthening during the afternoon.



With the OOD having the start line in position at Grass Beds the nine participating yachts milled about in anticipation of the starting flags.

Imagine, obviously trying to entertain the yacht crews, sent a crew member up the mast to amaze all with feats of aerial splendour. Whilst aloft, he also managed to untangle a halyard, great job.

“The grub” was unable to identify the aerial artist but was pretty sure it was not the skipper as the encouragement from the stern could be heard back at Queenscliff. Thanks to the crew of Imagine for the diversion.



The tide was set to turn for the flood at about 13.30 at the Heads. The First division started with little or no tide effect. Tintagel started in front of Drizabone, but experienced some difficulty with the spinnaker hoist, sheet inside the forestay, and Drizabone was ahead soon after the Creek marker.

With Div 2 boats - the start was hotly contested with Kinsale3 spot on in first over the line with five seconds to spare followed by Fancy, Wave Dancer, Valentine and Tiercel a good 75 seconds after the signal.



Spinnakers featured with a great spectacle to the Creek mark, Drapers and Bell Reef before running down to the Parks inner mark in Lonsdale Bight.



Doug Curlewis and his crew on Kinsale 3 shot away to an impressive lead over the fleet. Probably not surprising as the crew of Doug, Ian Lee, Ken Mc Allister and Greg Foot had a combined yachting and racing experience well over 200 years.

Kinsale 3 had an impressive lead when she came round the Bluff, otherwise Tiercel led from Valentine, Wave Dancer, and Fancy.

At #1 it was Tiercel (in all sorts of trouble lowering spinnaker) Drizabone, Tintagel, Valentine, Wave Dancer: Fancy was miles astern and Kinsale 3 was approaching #3.

Drizabone stayed ahead after Shorthand's Bluff.

The Third division start also did not disappoint, with Imagine and Sundance crossing the start line almost at the same time.

Sundance had only three on board so the spinnaker was left in the bag.

She was able to hold off Imagine to after the Drapers mark, succumbing to the flood tide with the lack of a spinnaker for drive.

Reports from the shore through Janet Fricke were of a great spectacle as the fleet ran down to the Inner Parks pile.

As mentioned first around was Kinsale 3.

The breeze had freshened to about 12 Knots from the South to South East such that the fleet had to tack to the outer mark.

This allowed the fleet to split making for a great tussle as crews manoeuvred their yachts to best advantage.

First to the outer mark was Kinsale 3 followed by Tiercel, Tintagel, Valentine Wave dancer, Drizabone, Imagine, Sundance, and Fancy.

After #1 Tintagel outpointed Drizabone, both on port, heading towards Point Lonsdale. Drizabone tacked to starboard but Tintagel remained on port until the on board parliament decided it was possible to lay #3 on the other tack. Drizabone had fallen victim to the tide and was well astern at the crossing of tacks.

The second leg around the Parks marks saw the Div 3 yachts catch up to the fleet and gradually over haul them.

The leader on the last rounding of the Outer Parks mark was still Kinsale3 followed by Imagine and Tiercel.

As Valentine and Sundance approached the mark a struggle ensued. Valentine on Port, and Sundance on Starboard. Valentine yielded to Sundance, ducking her stern. The flood tide was at the strongest making the rounding extremely hazardous.

Valentine had to make two extras tack to safely round. Valentine and Wave Dancer both passed Tintagel in the dance around the Parks' marks.

The broad reach back to Drapers saw Sundance overtake Tiercel and close in on Imagine and Kinsale3. Most of the fleet astern manage to raise kites and thus made the most of the return journey to Swan Spit, compressing the fleet such that all but one yacht was on the same leg from Swan Spit to the finish at Grass beds.

Drizabone made up some ground on the way back to Swan Spit but not enough, and Tintagel went well inshore for the Swan Spit to the Grass beds leg, whereas Drizabone chose the direct line, into the tidal flow.

Wave Dancer and Valentine both tried spinnakers for the Drapers Swan Spit leg. Wave Dancer found the breeze quite shy and Valentine amused observers by having her spinnaker flying parallel to the sea surface during a protracted drop.



As Tintagel was approaching the finish with Drizabone a satisfying distance astern, Fancy was seen just about to round Swan Spit, having made up a lot of ground.



Across the finish line it was Kinsale 3 first followed by Imagine second and Sundance third with only two minutes separating them. The pic above shows them coming toward the finish line. Others followed in order of Tiercel, Valentine, Wave Dancer, Tintagel, Drizabone and Fancy with the fleet completing the course all within 25 minutes.

On Performance Handicap the winner was Tiercel followed in second by Fancy with Kinsale3 third.

Others finished with Wave dancer, Tintagel, Drizabone, Sundance, Imagine and lastly Valentine.

Looking at the results you will notice that on corrected time there was 5 minutes between first and last, a remarkable result and a credit to our handicapper.

In a combined effort this week, the Grub thanks John Barry and Colin Bishop for writing and attesting to the antics in the Bight whilst Brian Golland and Alex Eagleson officiated as OOD's .



See you next Saturday next (18th April) for the last race of the current season before we delight in the Presentation Night festivities at the Lonsdale Bowls Club on May 2nd Be there!