



# Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

## The Annual Channels Race

- Sat Feb 15, 2014

### A good day to race up the bay with tide obliging and comfortable conditions!!

There was talk about what this race would bring with the likelihood of light winds and a flood tide going to St Leonards....but Hughie was devious....??

The crowd of sailors gathered at briefing with our Commodore Jill, Sailing Captain John and OOD Ian and Bev to review the course given the conditions.

With 9 yachts on the water and 35 sailors taking part ...this was to be a special race!

As this is a passage race it will take some hours to complete and the course is set as seen in the pic...basically from Grass Beds to the West Channel Pile to St Leonards Pier and return to Queenscliff.

In true terms it would be about 15 Nm without tacks and probably another 2 Nm if taken with ...but at less than 4 Knots, a four hour duration was expected!!

Even before briefing there were a few hot and bothered skippers...evidenced by Colin Gibbs ice cream melting down the arm!!



OOD Ian gave the instructions in a clear and concise manner with a number of the skippers taking his words down with diligence! (Chris, David and Tom)

A few new crew arrived for briefing and were allocated a ride with helpful skippers. These included Karina and Jill with Sundance, together with the brothers Grimm on Fancy!!



A very light breeze at starting saw a number of vessels come together in tight formation as Div 1 got the nod...Indulgence tacking toward Defiance saw Dave with a scowl on his face but in the end it was clean with Tom on Drizabone taking the pin end and keeping his run open.



Div 2 also was away cleanly with Tiercel leading off the line followed by Wave Dancer and Fancy.



Div 3 was a waiting game... but our young helmsman Finn did a great job manoeuvring Sundance around the pre race!!  
And at the start it was Imagine easily taking the lead across the line ....

Heading up the West Channel the earlier divisions had a good lead in light conditions but Div 3 had breeze and with the tide hardly stood still whilst the leaders wallowed in the light conditions.



Approaching the West Channel Pile it was Tiercel leading with Sundance ahead of Wave Dancer with Imagine catching and Drizabone on their heels.

Spinnakers were the order of the day to gain extra traction in the light conditions....however on the transit to the rounding mark off St Leonards the breeze lifted from the south and allowed competitors a brisk windward run down the Coles Channel around the White Lady (Coles Mark) to head home.

Down the Coles it was Sundance from Imagine with Tiercel hot on their heels...Imagine making good ground on Sundance and catching with pointing ability.

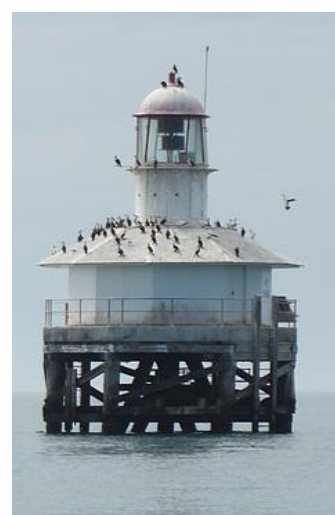
Approaching the Coles Channel Pile the competitors saw Swan Rescue shortened the course at Swan Spit Pile and in a close dual Sundance made it first over the line ahead of Imagine and Tiercel third with ten minutes separation.



The OOD disqualified Sundance for not taking the No 2 (Tuckey Pile) at the start of the West Channel just after the start leaving Imagine as first over the line in the Channels Race with Tiercel second and Wave Dancer third ...

The field followed with Drizabone from Indulgence with Defiance in front of Fancy by **"ONE SECOND"** and Rosie completing the field.

On handicap it was Drizabone from Indulgence and Wave Dancer third.



It was Tom's day out there and as can be seen by the concentration at briefing (pic above) "he was in it to win it" Well done to Drizabone with Tom and crew Colin, Andrew and Stuart!!

And for afters: Pic hereunder...Pick the yacht sailing and the one motoring!! Good work lads!



**AND on a poor note:**

**The OOD left our orange buoy behind when they went to Swan Spit to finish the race and on their return to pick it up for storing on Swan Rescue.....IT HAD DISAPPEARED...APPARENTLY STOLEN!!!**

**If anyone knows of its whereabouts the OOD and Commodore would be happy to receive info for its return!!!**

Next Club Racing start: Is on....

*SATURDAY Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> The Cec Anderson Race 3 in the Series.*

**Note to all:** Courses are revised (**BLUE SHEETS**) for this season and more will available at briefing on Saturday, available from the OOD....no excuses!!