



## Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

### The Champagne Stern Chaser

- Sat Feb 28, 2015 – (sailing and reception)

#### The weather gods provide a pretty good race...!!

Here we are again with the annual Champagne Stern Chaser followed closely by the Commodore's Reception at the club house!

The day is set with the Club Captain's email to Skippers and OOD outlining the event with predicted weather, handicaps and start times for each vessel sent out on Friday night!

Whilst there is a prediction of strong wind later in the day and more toward evening, the day will be anything up to 10 - 20 knots .... So it was said!

At Briefing there is a good feeling about the race with Commodore Jill outlining the events and next week's OTB sailing at the Clubhouse on Sunday of the long weekend.

The details of the race day are outlined by the Club Captain and a few questions before skippers sign on and crews organised before heading off.

Times vary for the start according to handicaps and whilst the first off the start at 1330 is Rosie the last in Sundance does not get a Guernsey until over 52 minutes at 1422.30 comes round.

Now if a person was to put money on this race, one would perhaps thought ...say no more...wink wink...is that a touch up of the OOD with she'll be right!! Umm pictures is worth a lot of money!

On the course it is the OOD that makes the call for course 11 and a downwind start with Ian, Bev and Jock Lee attending to matters of flags and horn when at 1330 Rosie sets of to be run down as the race progresses.



Others follow in Drizabone, Nellie, Fancy, Tintagel, Defiance, Wave Dancer, Tiercel, Valentine, Imagine and lastly Sundance with all vessels playing catchup!

It is clearly evident in the lighter winds at the start that spinnakers and goosewinging are the only method of proper propulsion although with the down wind start and tide it is not a difficult voyage to Drapers.

All vessels are juggling positions and a great tussle is evident between Defiance and Tintagel down the course with "Tin" making a fist of it just behind Rosie!



Interestingly the early starters had a little difficulty getting past the Creek Pile and onto Drapers with the fleet now bunching up and the faster vessels in Tiercel, Wave Dancer and back markers making good times against the smaller vessels in the fleet.

Imagine and Sundance on starting have the front runners passing on their way back to Swan Spit the first time ....

Rosie called in at toward the first lap and pulled the pin...a DNF! We thought we heard a call that there were free drinks on somewhere ....???

By the time Drapers is rounded by Sundance, Valentine and Tiercel are making good ground toward Swan Spit.

Honest runners are Nellie, Defiance, Drizabone and Fancy in mid field.

As an aside, we did note that our RGYC friend in Fergus is sailing as a visitor with Paul in Fancy and looking good, whilst providing Fergus with a great Sat afternoon away from his home club!



Imagine makes a small error inside in an attempt to alleviate some tide and runs aground momentarily ....

Sundance also takes a line inside beyond Grass Beds and approaching Swan Spit has a moment with one metre becoming zero metres and also

takes a bump on the bottom which holds her fast....JB calls for assistance and the iron mainsail provides a few minutes of power and after three attempts

breaks free... having to return a few hundred metres astern of her previous position....bugger!!



From there it is a bit of a chase with Tiercel making excellent passage leading down the course, back to Grass Beds and finally on her way to Drapers again as the hooter sounds the 1600 finish signal....

Wave Dancer with Dave and visitor Darlene as crew, has done everything possible to take ground off Tiercel but to no avail!

And last but not least there is a slight touch of vessels as they slowly jockey for position down by Drapers Pile with Tintagel and Defiance – it was the others said both teams!

Valentine is passed near the Creek Mark by Sundance but Imagine has greater speed and tenacity and finds Grass Beds about the finish time.



In the end it is Tiercel with the great Doctor Gibbs and Wendy as crew taking the Champagne with Wave dancer second and Imagine a good third place.

Others follow in Sundance, Valentine, Defiance, Nellie, Tintagel, Fancy and lastly Drizabone.

Thanks to OOD's again for a big day out and the enjoyment of a varied piece of racing....but let's not forget our dear friend "Hughie" who makes it all possible!!

And after a day's racing we all ended up at the club house for the Commodore's Reception and a glass of bubbly to ease the joints and make us that little bit merrier!

Our thanks to all the ladies at the reception for making a fabulous lot of treasures in salads and sweets which was so well enjoyed by all.

Not forgetting the spectacular display of the storm in the night sky ... which would have extinguished the BBQ had it arrived a few minutes earlier!!

Thanks to the Commodore and committee and all who attended, including visitors and new members, and possibly potential new members.



**Next Club Racing start: Is on....**

***SATURDAY March 7<sup>th</sup> with The Lady Nelson Trophy Race ....***

***.....and remember***

***SUNDAY Mar 8<sup>th</sup> – For our next “Messabout” / “Discover Sailing Day” at the Club House and a BBQ lunch !!***

