



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Annual Commodore's Cup Sat February 27, 2016

A stern chaser with some differences...Just got it in!

After the longer race last week it seemed like a piece of cake to have a good stern chaser to take a different tack!

At briefing it was a few stories and what might hold for the day that got a few tongues wagging.

Opening up the briefing was acting Commodore John who welcomed everyone to a great days racing with the Commodore's Cup as a stern chaser and to invite the multitude to the club house to celebrate with the Commodore's Cocktail Party.



The club captain briefed the skippers and crews with the course and weather along with the news of a request for redress by Dave Cross in Defiance was in progress at SSCBC following last week's finish at Sorrento when the finish had invited a few disputes. Additionally Brian welcomed Warrior (C17) and Brett Almond back to racing after 4 years building a beautiful Couta Boat to join the club again.

Times allocated to start and a quick word from our OOD Ian Lee and we are off to race with the course set for No.11, which meant we were headed into the Lonsdale Bight as the first mark.

On the course it was the line set and just a matter of waiting until the right time for each vessel to take to the start line.

Rosie was away first and just a minute late crossing before heading along the shore.



Panic....panic...from the OOD's perspective it had turned into a very light day and with the tide running there was a chance of the fleet getting into the Bight and not being able to get back....change of course Now we will sail course No.4!

Course 11 is Grass Beds to Drapers, GB, Swan Spit, GB, Drapers, GB, Drapers, and finish at GB.

Imagine and crew chase Rosie and give her the good news of a course change!

By then it is Drizabone's turn to start ...but wait.. she loses traction...tide is an influence and there is Tom hanging off the stern freeing the start buoy from his vessel...drifting back and behind the line ... getting it going again...off we go at 6 plus minutes behind the start! Ooops!

Fancy makes her start 2 minutes out, Tintagel almost the same, Warrior makes it but only after more than 7 minutes have ticked by, but Wave Dancer gets it right ahead of Warrior and Tiercel right behind her...good grief Charlie Brown!!

Well, after all that, the big boys start, and it is Sundance just ahead of Imagine who starts last with the job ahead. With 56 minutes to make up, this could be a challenge.

As these start as the back markers it is the leaders in Tintagel with Wave Dancer with both having kites flying that are coming through the line after having been to Drapers and returned for their leg to Swan Spit...bit of a tangle on the line but all is well.



The fishing boat at Drapers mark looks up incredulously as first Imagine and then Sundance take the mark inside her and the fishing skipper dives forward and starts the motor as they bear down....his eyes are as big as dinner plates!!



After Swan Spit it is back to Drapers via Grass Beds and Tiercel has been overtaken with Fancy and Drizabone with Tintagel making good at the front along with Wave Dancer.

Imagine and Sundance are fighting it out around mid-field, but on the return to Grass Beds, it is Imagine taking a long run inside along the shore, (apparently looking for shoals!) and close but past the hazard mark, runs aground heavily. She bounces along the bottom takes a port dive and resurrects herself to continue into deeper water...wow!

Loss of mere milliseconds and back on track to beat Sundance to the creek mark.

Kites are all the rage as the fleet comes down to Grass Beds on a nice breeze...some flying well and some just doing it ...

Back toward the front as the fleet approach Grass Beds again Imagine has a seniors moment right on the mark dropping the kite loosely and gybing but taking Sundance by surprise who also does a crash drop and gybe...

Around Drapers the third time and the field is telling... Imagine takes down Wave Dancer as they go back to finish...the clock has only 10 minutes to go ...with Sundance close at hand...



Rosie has held up well against Warrior and Fancy in this race and both Fancy and Warrior are very close as they go through Drapers.

At the front and just over the finish mark the time

runs out and at 4pm it is Imagine that has the honours over a great finish by Wave Dancer in second with Sundance third. Others follow in no particular order of Tintagel, Rosie, Fancy, Warrior, Drizabone and Tiercel.



A great race in good breezes along with some reasonable tide flowing shows good handicapping within a diverse fleet.



And then it was back to the club house for a Cocktail Party provided adequately under the acting Commodore JB with assistance of wife Kaye and daughter Keturah at the bar lots of

finger food out of Farm Foods in Queenscliff and a BBQ at the hands of members.

The Cocktails are delicious, going down a treat with all those assembled.

A Good day and a great night to follow....thank you to all involved including our host and the OOD's.





**Next Club Racing start:
Is on....**Very**
Important!!**

***SAT March 3 for the Cec Anderson Race 4 in the Series.
Meet at the harbour outside the QHPL Shed.....at
Noon.***

Note to all: A number of Skippers are looking for Crew and if you would like to be part of our unique racing in this part of the Bay ...call us or email via the website ...or contact us via "Facebook"