



## The Cup Day Cruise Nov 1, 2011

### Queenscliff to Sorrento return!

**(avoiding the big boys inside the barrier!)**

Well "Hughie" looked favourably upon the attendees at QCYC wharf for the Annual Cup Day Cruise.

The weather was mild with a light south westerly to westerly breeze and the skippers of "Sundance", "Lionheart", "Tiercel" and "Tintagel" gathered at 10am to draw from the gathering a crew to endure a lovely day around the South Channel!

Sundance with John Barry appeared favourite for the Cup with a field of fillies and colts volunteering crewing positions....along came Jodi, Barry, Dave, Frank and Tanya and finally Phil....Lionheart stayed with Patrick and Lyndy, Tiercel got Colin and Brian and lastly Tintagel got ....well..only Colin as lone rider!



A quick start out of the barriers was Lionheart settling into stride in the Creek before Sundance bolted into the picture with Tiercel quickly following. All three gathered in the area outside the pier awaiting the apparent "lame" Tintagel who was vainly looking to get a second rider!



Finally stumbling out of the barrier and getting down the Cut Tintagel limped out only to be tackled by the prancing Sundance

with JB calling the tune!

A parade started with Lionheart and Tiercel going head to head toward Pope's Eye Pile ahead of a catch me Sundance a few strides in front of the cantering Tintagel!

The crowd had sensed the excitement and sent a pilot out to a vessel wanting to join the race which very quickly sought entry and proceed directly down the channel toward our leading competitors in Tiercel and Lionheart. Sensing danger the smaller vessels, although somewhat blinkered, looked back to see the approaching onslaught in a car carrier in the channel...Tiercel and Lionheart although cantering, sought refuge ahead by passing inside the Pope's Eye Pile and quickly making a run for the outer Starboard mark....nice try and success by these two with similar bloodlines!!



Sundance in it's exuberance to knobble Tintagel earlier had dropped back and was only heading Tintagel by a small margin!

With the smaller fillies now in front of the field and having made the first mark, Sundance and Tintagel were confronted by the approaching Car Carrier bearing down the South Channel!!

Our following vessels decided on a level playing field and proceed along the outer allowing our Car Carrier (French Legion!) to pass unhindered before taking a quick tangent across the channel to attempt to join the front of the field.

The field was now coming closer together and playing a waiting game...however our Sundance pulled out strategically making a very long lunge for the lead and taking first position as the fleet approached Portsea Pier....It was now Sundance from Tiercel following a short half head in front of Lionheart with Tintagel a number of lengths in the rear of the field.

Whilst being out manoeuvred, Tiercel had lead Lionheart into the channel toward Sorrento only to be pursued down the channel by our friend the Sorrento Ferry. Taking a wide line and sticking to the rails, both saw no advantage in seeking the now front runner in Sundance, with rider JB exerting his influence on achieving a dominant result!

Lionheart heard an early call from the grandstand and called Tiercel of their intention to withdraw and return to scale without seeking the judges permission! This left Tiercel alone to attempt a slight of hand on Sundance ....Sundance had other ideas and



whilst maintaining a good lead and using her well worn blinkers...had the bit in the mouth, made a quick turn off the Sorrento Jetty and passed under Tiercel with Tintagel in pursuit toward the straight and on the home stretch!

With the Rip in sight the three vessels headed down the coast toward Nepean under a threatening sky. Sundance lead Tiercel who had by now broken free from Tintagel who was wagging the dog!

Sundance easily made the Lonsdale Bight ahead of Tiercel who had quickly followed and was making ground slowly on the galloping Sundance. Not to be outdone Tiercel cut short of the bight and cantered across the entrance to the South Channel just ahead of another giant Cargo Vessel headed for the port of Melbourne with intent on taking any filly in her way!

Safe from the jaws of death Tiercel glanced back to see the lonely last placing in Tintagel about to be pounced upon by the giant who breathed long and hard a solitary blast from her horn in defiance of the little and defiant Tintagel!! Tintagel almost resigned to her fate, tacked to Port and avoided the worst by some 200 metres before resuming the race toward home and her much loved Creek Pile!

With the finish coming close at hand Tiercel slipped under Sundance's guard looking to short cut to the Creek whilst Sundance shook off her heady and sought to work back in the area of Tintagel almost goading her toward home!

At the finish it was Sundance followed closely by Tiercel with a late following Tintagel that crossed the line in a canter looking sheepish but proud to have taken on the mightiest of vessels outside her weight for age and won!

Down the Cut shot Tiercel with Tintagel second and the great Sundance limping home behind to seek refuge in Swan Bay amongst her favourite of moorings.



A Cup Day Cruise had been completed with a relaxing canter through the waters of lower Port Philip and an interesting circuit of ambience and solitude, without the crowd chanting the winners and coaxing the bookies to ease the odds!