



## QLYC Lady Skippers Trophy Race Sat January 11 2014.

### “Wave Dancer By A Nose.”

Cheered by the promise from the Weather Bureau of a warm and sunny day with a moderate southerly breeze, forty one sailors (for nine vessels) attended the noon race-briefing at the Queenscliff Harbour for the ever popular **Lady Skippers Race**.

Club Captain Stephen Lee and OOD Ian Lee briefed the assembly. We were all delighted to see our former Secretary, Dr. Gayle Morris, flown in from New Zealand that very morning to skipper crack cotta boat *Rosie* .



It was fairly breezy before the start, possibly gusting close to 20 knots; *Indulgence* had a reefed mainsail; *Maud* (Alexandra Scorgie) and *Kinsale* (Heidi Blyth), both vessels sparkling with youthful crews, elected not to start.



In Division One *Indulgence* steered by Jennifer Gilbert made a brilliant starboard tack start, capturing the windward position on the first leg of Course Six. *Drizabone* (Maureen Crawford) was ahead, slightly to leeward, but could not keep up, and soon veered off towards (it appeared) the **Pope's Eye Annulus**. Jennifer Gilbert, benefitting from her crews' expert coaching, took the lead on the course to **Popes Eye Pile** and the only other first division vessel, *Rosie* (Gayle Morris) was unable to catch up. The tide was in the third hour of ebb and with a moderate southerly breeze the two leaders, both on starboard tack and lee-bowing the the strongly flowing ebb, worked rapidly towards **Popes Eye Pile**.



A few hundred metres from the pile, the leaders tacked for a port rounding, coincidentally bringing the division two and three vessels into view: *Valentine* (Claire Ingham) was leading *Wave Dancer* (Lauren Brown). On the relaxing run towards the *Wedge Indulgence* shook out her reef, her crew ate lunch, and she maintained her advantage over *Rosie*.





From the **Wedge** to **Grass Beds** *Indulgence* continued to hold the lead, but on the next leg, towards **Popes Eye Pile**, was

(a) passed by *Sundance* (Lyndy Roberts) and *Imagine* (Jo Mitchell) and

(b) outpointed by *Rosie*, *Valentine*, and *Wave Dancer*.

Once past the **Pile** *Indulgence* again overtook *Rosie*, and held the Division One lead thereafter.

Flying a striped spinnaker, *Imagine* passed *Sundance* near the **Wedge** on the way to **Swan Spit**, the third last mark.

Then it was back to the **Wedge** and on to the finish line at **Grassbeds**. *Imagine* rounded the **Wedge** to port instead of to starboard according to the race instructions, later admitted her mistake and was disqualified.

*Valentine* led *Wave Dancer* and *Indulgence* was first home in Division One.

After a bout of handicapping magic, the result was *Wave Dancer*, *Indulgence* (enjoying the benefit of a clean bottom), *Rosie*, *Sundance*, *Valentine* (one more race on provisional handicap), and *Drizabone*. *Imagine* was disqualified.

Thanks to the crew of *Swan* (Ian Lee, Jock Lee, and Colin Gibbs), to the weather gods who turned on the first decent race day for weeks, and to the lady skippers.

**The Next Club Event is the first race of the Cec. Anderson Series, 18/1/2014. This race will be sailed concurrently with a race for THE CENTENARY TROPHY.**

