



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

Lady Skippers Race, Sat Jan 28, 2017

A perfect day for this annual race for the ladies!

The forecast was perfect and the bay looked a dream for this annual race of champions...a 12 to 15 knot and rising later with a temperature around 24 degrees a good turn up to this will be a highlight.

Unfortunately, at briefing it was a mere four yachts that turned out with Tiercel out due to skipper sailing to Hobart and our Treasurer slightly incapacitated for the season... so Tintagel was a non-starter as well.

Commodore Jill opened up the briefing with a welcome and provided some update on today and tomorrows off the beach day at the club house.

Club Captain Brian took over and briefed everyone on the Lady Skippers Stern Chaser which would be a run into the Lonsdale Bight and return before a run up and down from Swan Spit to finish at 4pm.

All skippers were given their times by both email on Friday evening and by handout together with a course diagram including some instructions on PFD requirements and other info.

Our OOD for the day was Ian and Jock Lee although the scone lady in Bev was missing from the crew.

On the course, there was some confusion when, after Imagine was sighted on the course and then disappeared, apparently to the harbour to send a crew member to the mast to restore a wayward halyard etc.

However, on the course, the start was delayed due to the first eight competitors as a "no show", before Valentine and helmsperson Wendy Duncan approached the line and got away cleanly just ahead of Boomaroo with Alison in the box seat also taking it on time just under five minutes behind Valentine.

Imagine with skipper Jo Ritchie was due next but made some manoeuvres which put her late to the line with Sundance helmed by Commodore Jill making a great start closely astern.



Whilst the leaders battled it out in close proximity to each other down to Drapers and around the Bell Rock it was Sundance that took advantage at the Creek Pile by tacking very diligently to provide Imagine with a good view of Sundance's stern going up to Drapers.



By Bell Rock it was clearly Sundance with Jill at the helm ahead of Imagine with Jo and crew in hot pursuit as they both reached into the Lonsdale Bight toward the Inner Parks rounding mark.

Approaching but out from the Parks mark it was Valentine with Wendy still holding a lead over Boomaroo with Alison at the helm. Both rounded the Parks mark well and Sundance ahead



of Imagine passed them both as they swept down and returning to the Bell Rock mark.



Sundance kept up the pressure rounding the Parks mark and continued past Imagine as she slid toward the return to Bell Rock. Imagine had started with reef in the main but thought better of it as she sailed down Lonsdale Bight on the return and took time out to shake it out whilst Sundance took advantage once again to increase her lead over Imagine.

As Sundance in the second group passed under Bell Rock and onto Drapers it was notable that Valentine had a kite well in hand most of the time and whilst it was fairly shy she was struggling and passed to port of Drapers which was a starboard mark of course.

Boomaroo which was close at hand and seemingly catching Valentine passed Drapers to starboard whilst Valentine realised the error of their way and promptly lowered the Kite, made a "U turn" and returned to round Drapers correctly Whew!!

Naturally it was now Boomaroo who had the lead and powered her way down the course to Swan Spit for the first time.

Sundance led Imagine as they both headed down the course and whilst Sundance had a reasonable lead, Imagine took the liberty of flying her kite but apparently not gaining too much ground as Sundance flexed her muscles beneath her 'regatta main' to maintain a good lead by the time they rounded Swan Spit.

Boomaroo and Valentine were caught at Swan Spit by the advancing Sundance and over taken before both Sundance (now in the lead) and Imagine took over in second position ahead of the others.

Leading down to Grass Beds it was Sundance, well in control of the race, ahead of Imagine, with both Boomaroo and Valentine maintaining the chase before the witching hour of 4pm finish was about to conclude the race.

Sundance and Imagine both managed to complete the Grass Beds mark and start back up to Swan Spit when the finish was realised and the crews could relax.



A great race and a terrific effort by all four competitors in good conditions with a breeze between 15 and 18 knots which provided a fabulous spectacle from visitors viewing from the Bull Ring car park.

Over the line in first place was Sundance with Commodore Jill as skipper, followed by Imagine with Skipper Jo, then Boomaroo third with Alison helming, and fourth place going to Valentine with Wendy relishing her first time in charge.

Congratulations to our Commodore and crew of Sundance in a stunning display of skills on the day and of course to all competitors for a great day on the water.

Next Club Racing start: Is on....SAT February 4th with the Cec Anderson Series Race 1

We will meet at the club house following the race which will include announcements!

Meet at the harbour outside the QHPL Office and 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"

