



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Ray Maki Race 1 in the Series

- Sat October 18, 2014

The season starts in earnest with a great sail.....!!!

The Ray Maki Series got under way last weekend with a field of 5 starters fronting the OOD after a shakedown race around the waters of Port Phillip the previous weekend by a few keen sailors.....

At briefing, the five skippers and their crew looked decidedly keen after a winter of weekends relaxing Competitors were Sundance with John Barry, Tiercel with Colin Gibbs, Indulgence with Colin Bishop, Valentine with Steve Lee and lastly with his new kit was Kinsale III with Doug Curlewis.

Briefing was addressed by our Commodore Jill back from jaunts north with Murray Mackay's "Tradition" and looking the part, gearing us all for Opening Day celebrations next Sunday and all that it entails for our committee.



With all eyes watching, Club Captain taking over the reins from Steve Lee was Brian Golland, guided by the many experienced around, set the scene for a great sail to set the season on fire.

The wind predictions were mild with some change of tide during the race and OOD Jill and Jennifer took to the afternoon with gusto.

On the course proper the wind was gusting and looking to make something near 18 plus knots which led most skippers to opt for a reef combined with a smaller headsail to handle a good northerly over the current.

The course was No 5 from the set series, under a stiff northerly, with a start at Grass Beds, Drapers, Wedge, QA, Wedge, QA, Grass Beds, Drapers, Wedge, QA and home to Grass Beds on a finishing ebb tide moving to flood.

As the competitors' rallied, reefs seemed the order of the day but headsails varied across the fleet with vessels seemingly preparing for battle.



In Div1 Indulgence shot out of the blocks whilst Div2 prepared before making another great start with Valentine, Tiercel and Kinsale crossing the line heading to Drapers mark. Div3 saw the lonely Sundance get over just shy of the time and set off after the fleet.

The downwind start did not favour any competitor and as Sundance started the fleet was around a third of distance to Wedge.



At Wedge it was a fleet fest but Indulgence held her lead. Sundance was making time to windward and on the leg to QA all were looking at tide transitions before making the mark and back to Wedge.

The return journey to Wedge had Sundance overtaking the second division vessels. The Wedge mark proved challenging for a number of competitors with rounding problems but good seamanship saved the day.

Sundance took a wide turn around Wedge to ensure Valentine had room to manoeuvre through a couple of tacks having some issues with her jib sheets.

Then it was back to Grass Beds and Drapers for a good downwind run enjoying the ambience and passing our OOD's who although doing it tough in the tricky conditions and spilling the cups of tea still managed some great photographs!!



From Drapers it was a good run windward to Wedge before an excellent run up to QA and turning for home downwind to Grass Beds and finish.

The fleet was well placed and mostly together during the race although up to Wedge the second time it was Indulgence that dropped rearward of the fleet and in a dying wind after other competitors had finished she was hard pressed and lost time in the lighter airs.



After the race skippers and crews retired to the Espie for a few quiet ones and relaxed over the results under the hand of the Club Captain.

First across the line was Sundance followed by Kinsale, Tiercel, Valentine with Indulgence bringing up the rear.

In a double Sundance picked up the win on handicap with Tiercel second and Valentine third.

Congratulations to all and look forward to another race next week.....can we have more starters??



Next Club Racing start: Is on....*SATURDAY Oct 25th* The next in the *Maki Series*.

Note to all: Courses are **(BLUE SHEETS)** for the current season and will available at briefing on Saturday, available from the OOD

Ray



more