



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Lady Skippers Race and Ray Maki 6

- Saturday January 10, 2015

Typical stormy summer weather and a good race!

The day dawned with a great promise of sailing after a week of poor to average weather and a promise by Hughie that the heavens may open on our QLYC race fleet.

At briefing our Commodore Jill talked up the day's racing with the Lady Skippers and crews assembled for today along with the club desk calendar that is available and advertised on the our Facebook site. A BBQ at the club house follows today's race.

The Club Captain outlined the day with the weather and conditions as skippers signed on their crews and designated lady skipper.

A total of 9 yachts had entered for the day and a total of 39 (skippers and crew) enlisted for the race.

On the course, it was the OOD for today, in Ian Lee (welcome back!) and Geoffrey Mathews who selected course #6 from the Blue Sheets, putting the vessels on notice for a long day given the light conditions that had been forecasted.

The course being Grass Beds to Pope's Eye Pile, Wedge, Grass Beds, PEP, Wedge, Swan Spit, Wedge and finally home to Grass Beds.

Three divisions as usual were sent to the starter with Div 1 away well and on time as can be seen before the Creek Pile.....



And Div 2 again took off although there were some slight delays in getting into it!

At Div 3 it was the three big boys in Imagine (welcome back Kotter), Kinsale with an experienced crew plus Sundance with much of the same who took to the line but seemingly stuttered after the start and languished a little before getting going, while Sundance got off to a flying start...

Tintagel was making the best of her early start and kept it up for some timeValentine was making good ground along with Wave Dancer and Tiercel.

Rounding the Pope's Eye Pile was a challenge given the lighter southerly wind and the flood tide but most took a good line and whilst tacking a few times managed the task.

Back at Grass Beds the first time it was the Div 1 holding the lead with most deciding as with the other vessels to stay up alongside Shortland's Bluff, out of the strong tide and making a fist of it before turning to face Pope's Eye Pile....



The best was yet to come ...

The trek from Grass Beds to Pope's Eye Pile the second time turned into the longest leg this season as all vessels with skippers now upskilled looking for wind and trying to minimize tide struggled either inshore under the bluff or taking a wider line!!

Up front it was Valentine with Bev as skipper alongside and close handy to Sundance with Commodore Jill on the wheel as she took the lead on the final tack to Wedge....

Down the rear of the field it was Drizabone with Janet managing to keep the vessel moving whilst the balance were somewhere in between ...



The OOD's in their usual professional style decided to shorten course and headed from Grass Beds to locate themselves off Wedge Pile for the finish line ...

Valentine rounded PEP for the last time ahead of Sundance who overtook her just after rounding. It was a drifter to the finish and if it were not for a good flood tide, everyone may well have had a very difficult task finishing.

At the finish Sundance took line honours with Valentine second over the line but first on handicap, followed by Kinsale with Serena at the helm in third spot. Eleven minutes was the gap between 1st to 2nd to 3rd.



Others finished in order with Tintagel, Imagine, Wave Dancer, Tiercel and finally Drizabone.

Maud took an early finish for afternoon tea and with a DNF under the belt.....sorry guys.

In a twist of fate Drizabone was caught at PEP and in avoiding any mishap used her motor to manage a close call before finishing at Wedge....and to cap it off young Tom took a tumble into the bilge off the boom in an unconventional gybe....hope the head feels better than it looks Tom!! Ouch!

A good race and a lovely day out there for the lady skippersmuch appreciated and thanks for your contribution to our sailing calendar!

And a welcome back to Maud, Imagine and Kinsale.



Commodore Jill and the Committee thank all lady skippers in, Eleanor, Jennifer, Jan, Bev, Wendy, Janet, Serena and Margot for their efforts in the race and joining in the spirit of the adventure.

See you next Saturday (17th Jan) for the start of the Cec Anderson Series races.



Valentine and crew struggled to the line with manual assistance!



And

Drizabone looked good in the earlier part of the race!



The crew of Tintagel making for mobile deck chairs!!





A few more shots that give an idea of the conditions and crews participating...well done!