



Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club....

The Special Supplementary Race

- Saturday April 18, 2015

The last race of the season and it had some highlights!!

Saturday April 18 dawned with cloudy skies and very little wind.

But the forecast was for winds to rise through the day to 15 to 20 kn and then a harder blow to 30kn by evening, hopefully well after race end. A strong wind warning had been issued.

Skippers of seven (7) yachts decided to brave the conditions and signed on at briefing.

In no particular order, the yachts competing were Imagine Sundance, Kinsale3, Tiercel, Valentine, Wave Dancer and one lonely cota boat in Rosie, also the only Div 1 starter.

As the start approached, the wind had steadied in at about 10 knots gusting to 15 from the west.

This pattern remained for pretty much the whole race although there were a few gusts to 20 or more knots on some legs, later in the race.

The course selected was #3 which was Grass Beds, Drapers, Wedge, QA, Wedge, QA, GB, Drapers Wedge, QA and finish.

On Wave Dancer, skipper Dave observed the gusty conditions and opted for the #2 heady with a full main. This proved a reasonable compromise for most of the race.

Sole Div 1 starter Rosie got away with a minimum of fuss on the fast reach to Drapers whilst the rest of the fleet milled around impatiently for their turn.

The four Div 2 starters got away promptly in a reasonably well bunched group and raced to round the creek mark ahead of a fast approaching ferry.

All got through unscathed and by this stage, Rosie was rounding Drapers and starting on a run to Wedge, perhaps with a final little flood tide assistance.



As the Div 2 boats, now starting to spread out, rounded Drapers, Div 3 Boats Sundance and Imagine were starting.

As usual the Div 3 start was hotly contested with Sundance ahead until after the Wedge for the first time.

Imagine tacked on to starboard, breaking the same tack as Sundance. This proved a great tactical move as she was the beneficiary of a wind shift which saw her first to the QA pile, some 300 meters ahead of Sundance.



The run to Wedge was uneventful, just the inevitable running down and overtaking of Rosie by lead Div 2 boats, Kinsale 3 and Tiercel.

Rounding Wedge and close hauled to QA, some elected to tack south first up, whilst the rest headed NW toward Swan Spit before tacking SW for QA. There were little gains either way.

On the "sausage" from QA to Wedge and back to QA the Div 3 boys were now nipping at the heels of the trailing Div 2 boats.

The 2nd time back to QA, Tiercel was sailing high and fast and rounded well ahead of Kinsale3, the Div 3 yachts and Valentine, with sizable gaps back to Wave Dancer and Rosie.

Winds were now averaging 15 kn with some higher gusts. On Wave Dancer the gunwale was starting to go under, forcing some playing of the mainsheet, and a general tightening up of most sail controls.

On the final run downwind from Drapers to Wedge the gusting wind pushed Wave Dancer to speeds well over 7 kn but to no avail as everyone was hitting similarly good speeds.

The lead boats were now dots on the horizon.....

but, what's this, Kinsale3 has dropped her sails and is motoring back to Queenscliff. Perhaps he needs to be home early, skipper Dave muses. Then the radio crackles with the news Kinsale3 is holed and taking on water.

It transpired that as Kinsale3 approached the Wedge the tide was in full ebb.

As Kinsale3 rounded the Wedge structure on to Port tack, a gust of wind rounded her up and hard pressed on port she made contact with the Wedge holing her below the waterline.



Wave Dancer was at this point the closest boat but with her slow plodding diesel, probably not much help. Firstly Swan, then Sundance, now not far off finishing, are enlisted to assist the increasingly soggy Kinsale 3. Doug made contact with the Coast guard and Birdon's Dredge tug raced to assistance. As the tug approached, Sundance was standing by and given the Tugs greater towing capacity took Kinsale3 in tow to Queenscliff, and with swift management the QHPL staff hauled her to a hard stand. The rest of the fleet raced on, rounding QA for the final beat to the finish.

By the time Wave Dancer rounded QA, there are some quite vicious gusts, one hit in the middle of a slowish tack and flogs the headsail snap shackle free.

In gusty winds the heady needs to be partially lowered to reconnect it. By the time Wave Dancer crosses the line, only a lonely Rosie is still on the course.

To the right....Shot of Imagine in Doug's territory...some similarity here!



Congratulations to line honours yacht Imagine, followed by Tiercel, Valentine, Wave Dancer and finally Rosie across the line and the handicap winner was Tiercel followed by Sundance as second (results altered to reflect her position in the race on a redress for assisting with the rescue), Imagine being third with Wave Dancer fourth....others in Valentine and Rosie in an interesting final race for the season.

(News Flash!) It turns out that in a further snippet by the Grub, Kinsale3 in the previous week's race in the Bight glanced the outer Parks Mark but recompensed by doing her obligatory 360 and continuing....could it be second bite of the cherry??

Thanks once again Ian and Jock Lee on Swan for ODD duties. Kinsale3 was seen to be safely "on the hard" in the harbour.

Right...a shot on a better day of Kinsale3.



The Grub's word of thanks for a big effort in writing this report by Dave Hatton from Wave Dancer with a little further additions from John Barry.

And lastly a big thanks to all skippers, crew and visitors who took time to participate in our races this season and remember our Presentation Night Celebrations on Sat night 2nd May at the Point Lonsdale Bowling Club.



there!

See you all on Saturday evening (2nd May) for the Presentation Night at the Lonsdale Bowling Club with the festivities of the season Be Call Catherine!!

