



QLYC
THE SPECIAL TROPHY.
(a bottle of wine)
Sat March 8 2014.

“Upon A Painted Ocean.”



Race day dawned drizzling and windy. The B.O.M. had not issued a strong wind warning, but promised wind speeds up to 25 knots by late morning, easing during the early afternoon and gaining strength later. The large fleet gathered at QCYC for the start of the Bass Strait Circumnavigation remained at the wharf, well-aware no doubt of what an unpleasant place Apollo Bay is in strong easterly weather.

But for the QLYC race the weather gods, famous for failing to liase with the Bureau of Meterology, allowed ten knots of easterly and a calm sea for the first start at Grassbeds at 1-30 PM. Eight vessels with more than thirty sailors had signed-on at the noon Briefing.

As the competitors sailed backwards and forwards, assessing the starting line, wind direction, strength of tidal flow, and speculating on the trophy wine, the radio crackled and *Swan Rescue* announced the replacement of Blue Course 8 by Blue Course 7. The word Blue does not refer to the colourful language used by some skippers when racing (and not just when masts fall or bowsprits splinter), but Blue is the colour of the latest set courses which can be found at <http://qlyc.org.au/bluecourses.pdf>



At 1-30 PM Drizabone, Rosie, and Indulgence crossed the start line almost as one aiming for the Wedge. In the light conditions Indulgence was able to outsail the two Couta Boats and drew slowly ahead. The wind died further and boatspeed dropped below two knots.

At 1-40 PM **Division 2** started.



Valentine made a pretty picture, but it was Tiercel powering (metaphorically) after the Division One vessels who, leaving Valentine and Wave Dancer well astern, was first to round The Wedge.

Tiercel held to plain sail, but Valentine, Wave Dancer, and Indulgence set shy spinnakers to keep the speed up and the Couta Boats back while beam-reaching to Drapers Reef Pile.

Those spinnakers were carried from the Wedge to Drapers Reef Pile (jibe there), thence past the Creek Entrance Pile to Grassbeds, and further on to the Queenscliff Approach Pile.

The fleet became quite concentrated between Drapers and QA, but a darkening of the water to the south heralded the arrival of a rather weak sea breeze which helped Division Three to sail, duelling all the time, through the fleet.



With the advantage of slightly stronger breeze Drizabone and Rosie got away from Indulgence on the beat from QA to The Wedge. They maintained this lead back to QA, but on the return to The Wedge with the tide now flooding Indulgence again drew ahead.

Away in the distance Divisions Two and Three were scattered between The Wedge and Drapers on the penultimate leg of the race, except for Tiercel who had decided on a quick trip to the north into the West Channel.

After The Wedge Indulgence maintained a diminishing lead to cross the finishing line a few seconds in front of Tiercel, just under a minute ahead of Drizabone, and five minutes in front of Rosie. Before this flurry of activity the OODs had been relaxing for nearly fifteen minutes after Wave Rider had finished. First across the line had been Imagine followed closely by Sundance, followed after a decent interval by Valentine.

Of course, anyone who had witnessed the handicapper returning a ten dollar note to Imagine's skipper would have realised that Imagine was not going to be first on handicap.

The handicap result was Sundance, Imagine, Valentine, Wave Dancer, Indulgence, Drizabone, Rosie, and last, in a surprising reversal of form, Tiercel.

Thank you to our race officers Ian and Bev Lee, and to Ian Lee for photographs.

The Next Club Event is the 5th Race of
THE CEC ANDERSON SERIES. 15/3/2014.

AND

The very next day

From 11-00 AM

At The Club House

TRY SAILING/MESSABOUT 4. BBQ lunch provided.

