A light winds kick off for the CYAA's 2017 Winter Series

Wow. What a way to begin the 2017 Winter Series. With no wind conditions at 10:25 am the Hobsons Bay Yacht club Race director put out the Answering Pennant (AP) flag to postpone the start. Good call. In the drifting conditions **Avian** took on the race committee vessel, to make sure the job was nicely done she then took on **Marie Louise III**. With a fleet of 18 Classics and a two handed fleet from HBYC waiting for their 11:00 am start the race committee were provided decision making relief in the form of a gentle south westerly breeze. As we know, south westerlies on Port Phillip generally show up as 40 knot bullets.

**Tumlarens Dingo and Snow Goose along with Mercedes III not moving at 10:30am**

**Claire and Martini picking up the south westerly breeze fill.**

**Frances and Tandanya's head sails beginning to fill. Bungoona will soon unfurl her headsail**
Race 1 begins

With the AP drop the Classic Race 1 start sequence for an 11:05am start using course 8 began. Dramas, but no great dramas, were the scene with port being the favored tack and starboard tackers approaching the line on a run. Peter Johns helming Frances, held off on their kite hoist to clear of the line and then clear out from the fleet. Boambilee along with Mercedes III and Kingurra did likewise in case a classic stalled in front of them. Again, like Frances they all soon cleared out, Boambilee was going well and kept a good handicap tag on Frances.

Sayonara, under the helm of Dave Allen, used the race start tactics and knowledge of his gun crew from Corowa. With these Top Guns on board nothing but a clean pin end start at top speed under full rig would do. Corowa’s twelve top guns this side of the black stump is the quote from Glen Crawford. Our Sayonara guns drove 600 km’s round trip to experience Classic Yacht racing at its best.

Astrud did a confident kite pop when approaching the line to stay on clean wind. Her start line tactics that kept Astrud moving well in the early part of the race, certainly paid off in the corrected time calculations.
Hot from the recent Tumlaren State Champs where Ettrick came out on top, the 5 Tumlarens all hit the line hard. Zephyr put in a top start to be first around the top mark and in close contact with Sayonara. So close that Glen Crawford on Sayonara reported they were close to overtaking Sayonara by the second mark. Anne Batson reports Zephyr and her crew put in the best light wind race performance for many a year. Snow Goose and Ettrick tried to come in hot to the first mark with a gybing downwind run. Tactic almost worked.

Avian and Dingo went straight for the first mark. Craig Begbie, who helmed Vahine in the recent Tum state champs, had Avian’s crew Pete Jerabek trimming the kite well to stay up with the leading Tum, Zephyr. Experienced but rust was the word from Avian’s crew. Jim Hutchinson had Dingo going well with her small kite.

After eighty years of racing it’s always a grand sight to see 5 Tumlarens still racing hard as they did in their early years as the top one design fleet on Port Phillip.

Going through the starting fleet we saw Martini and Bungoona with fast kite sets. Martini soon attracted attention from the fleet when the sound of screaming from the helm and a spinnaker halyard block running free were heard. All promptly resolved was the after race report from Ross Clark. Marie Louise III realizing a spinnaker was needed to stay with the running fleet had their foredeck hand put in some fast hard yards to fix the situation. Tandanya settled for a poled out head sail on the first mark run.
On the Couta boats, Richard Macrae had **Claire** at her top speed after an early morning hull clean, **Loama** with Matt Fewster helming under direction from Joe Tuck and Peter Denniston was also going at her handicap speed. Andy Indrans on **Corio Vertue** worked her carefully to keep moving in the light conditions.

**The first mark rounding**

After the first mark turning the fleet watched **Frances** to see if a shy kite was possible. Not so, in fact for **Claire** it was a tack away from Station Pier followed by an overstanding hard beat out to **Avian**’s line to have a slightly sprung sheet run down to RMYS Mark D. A big tactical move that had a corrected time payoff result. This leg saw **Marie Louise III** overhaul **Bungoona** and **Martini**.

As the race progressed the fleet positions remained tight, particularly between the five Tumlarens on the slightly sprung sheet beat up to the finish line. **Boambillee** continued with her fine sailing to chase **Frances** while leading both **Kingurra** and **Mercedes III**. **Marie Louise III** continued to gain ground on **Astrud** and **Dingo**. Not enough time was the call, to over haul, before the finish.

With the Race Committee call of a shortened course, the decision on how to approach the finish line that’s slightly off parallel to the course was the question. The finish line is crossed in the same direction as the last mark was left is the go here.

**The Race 1 results, corrected time honors to Astrud.**

Once again the Race 1 results featured very close corrected time results.

Congratulations go to Rob Pullins **Astrud**, a Griffin 30, for taking out first on corrected time. Fast kite sets and late drops and a well placed crew of most excellent disposition were part of the many things that went right and produce a well deserved corrected time win of 27 seconds over a faultlessly raced **Zephyr** and her 1 minute 2 second corrected time ahead of well race **Avian** with Craig Begbie on the helm.

**Astrud**, like her namesake, the Brazilian Bosso Nova singer **Astrud Gilberto**, of The Girl from Ipanema fame and many other iconic songs, was sure on a song for Race 1.

Again congratulations to Rob Pullin and **Astrud** for taking out the first race of the CYAA 20th consecutive of racing on Port Phillip. Separating the third and fourth corrected placings of **Avian** and **Snow Goose** was 0.002 of a second. So it’s come to this! Classic Yacht race corrected time placing now decided by the 3 decimal points.
The next 6 corrected time placings were separated by 24 corrected time seconds. These times were from Classics that ranged from second across the line to seventeenth across the line. Forty six seconds separated the next five corrected time placings. There was a significant two and a half minute gap between these two groups. This gap has been noted by the handicapper.

**Line honors to Frances**

Congratulations to Frances for her well sailed line honors win. Given the light winds with a no beat shortened course, corrected time honors was off by 2 minutes and 38 seconds. Too much to ask of her on the day.

The handicapper gives the Race performance of the day award to Boambillee. Her light wind performance against the fleet in Race 1 was much admired and closely watched by the
Race Committee compliments

Thank you to the Hobsons Bay Yacht Club Race director and his team for conducting Race one. Their pick of the SW breeze and fast decision to start the race at 11:05am were the makings of another successful Classic yacht race. Thank you HBYC.

Race 1 now in the can

So that’s it for race 1 No doubt your handicapper will be reviewing the Race 1 performances of all the starters and adjusting handicaps. Finishing and corrected times along with notable race 1 performances across the fleet will be part of the new handicap allocation decision making.

RYCV ENews

Classic members from the RYCV have recently seen some Classic Yacht notes appearing in the RYCV E News. These notes have been generated by Mark Chew. CYAA members from HBYC and RMYS to take note of what can be done to promote the classics in your home club.

Classic Yacht Association Winter Series

With only ten days left until race one of the Classic Yacht Association winter series it’s time to get your entries in. There will be eight races held by all three clubs at the top of the bay, between April and the end of August. The prep signal will be at 1025 every Sunday race day, which usually provides for crisp and exhilarating winter sailing. Past winners read like a whose who of Port Phillip classic sailing craft. They include the legendary S&S sloop Boambille, Kingurra the Peter Joubert designed 43ft ocean racer, and the red Reimers Tumlaren Avian, which shows that you can pretty much be any shape or size to take home the “Rusty Shackle” Trophy by winning Australia’s premiere Classic Yachting winter series. The entry form is on the CYAA website.
Race 2 at RMYS

Now on to race 2, May 7. Our Race 2 conducting club is the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron. Hopefully this is the race where we’ll be able to watch Fair Winds, Siena, Manuka Re Re, Serifa and Pastime II take on the Classic Yacht fleet. Last minute yard work on Friday held up Pastime II’s return to Classic Yacht racing.

Race report image quality

All the images used in this report have been cropped and expanded. To provide better quality viewing, each image in the report is linked to its original image.

Kapala as seen on Sunday at RYCV

Kapala the William Atkin now owned by CYAA member Jason Quick was seen being taken out for some shake down testing on Sunday. Jason has plans to race her with the Classics.

Regards to all Peter Costolloe CYAA (Vic) Handicapper

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The Yanmar Wooden Boat Shop
WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL of Geelong
MARCH
SAT 10th
Sun 11th
Mon 12th
2018

KEY NOTE SPEAKER
Ian Smith, president of the Australian Historical Skiff Association