

OPENING DAY RACE 13TH OCTOBER 2018

After a great sail past and salute to Commodore Bill McLeod and Vice Commodore Darren Chatfield, 8 yachts circled to the east of the club waiting for our start. Vinnie's Daughter, helmed by George Samuels took line honours, followed by Dale 2 and then Serana. Vinnies Daughter steamed away in to the distance, only to be seen again after returning from Mosman/ Suicide heading towards Miller.



Serana battled with Dale 2, Panache and Andalusia to reach the day bouys in fluky winds, with Serana rounding first just in front of Panache and Andalusia, by this time Dale 2 had fallen behind.

Serana's lead did not last long with Panache and Andalusia overtaking us after passing Burnside spit. Dale 2 hoisted their spinnaker as soon as they could and by the time we (Serana) reached College mark, he was close behind. Chris on Andalusia was up to his old tricks playing games with the boys on Panache, on the run to College by pushing them high. Panache won the battle though, keeping their cool they rounded first.

On the run up to Mosman, in a gusty 15 – 18 knot wind, Andalusia extended their lead, Dale 2 overtook Serana, and Beaujolais had caught up somewhat. Theseus was having a leisurely sail with just its Jib up and Paprika learning the ropes bringing up the rear.

Rounding Suicide, Andalusia took off, Panache going nicely in 2nd, Serana in 3rd and then Dale 2.

Panache was kept under pressure by Serana and Oli on Dale 2 hoisting their spinnaker at every opportunity, to overtake Serana on the downwind runs. Rounding Miller saw Dale 2 beating Serana, and Panache holding on to a narrow margin. By the time we reached Dome, Dale 2, under spinnaker had snatched the lead from Panache and Serana right on Panache's tail.

Serana tacked at Dome and headed for the middle of the river. Dale 2 and Panache hardening up and sticking to the shoreline. It was a great contest on the race back to the club. After a long beat up to Point Resolution the lead had changed again, in our little race within a race, Serana was now leading, Dale 2 second and Panache 3rd. Heading towards Black Spit, we all rolled the dice taking different routes. By Black, the positions hadn't changed, but we had all gained on Andalusia, and Beaujolais was creeping closer too.

The winds became very fluky again after passing Black Split, heading towards Burnside we all struggled to get around the spit markers. Burnside rounded and Oli ordered for his spinnaker to be raised again, as hard as we tried we could not convince him or his crew otherwise and it was not long before Dale 2 overtook Serana again.

Not much changed between then and the finish. Line honours of course went to Vinnies Daughter, second over the line Andalusia.

Back in the bar, which was still full of members and guests from the Opening Day festivities, the new Rear Commodore Sail, Rich Boykett announced the results with help from Commodore Bill McLeod and Vice Commodore Darren Chatfield, hand out Open Day Trophies.

Results

First and Fastest - Vinnie's Daughter

Second - Serana

Third - Dale 2

Commodores Opening Day Trophy

Vinnies Daughter

Vice Commodores Opening Day Trophy

Serana

Written by:

Rob Boykett - Serana