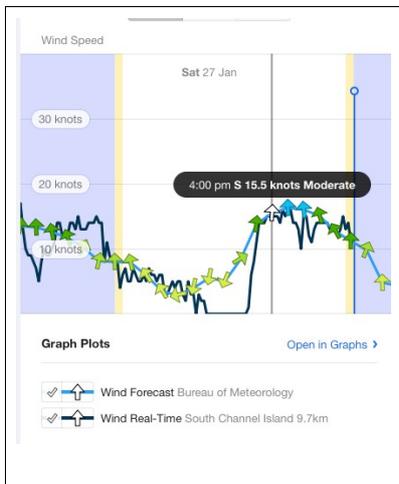


27 January 2018 Commodore's Cup

An uninspiring forecast heralded a worse reality at the start, but the day came good and confounded predictions.



This week saw as unavailable Valentine, Boomaroo, Tintagel and Wavedancer. Who would turn up? And the answer was Imagine, Sundance, Warrior and Tiercel. At least we got plenty of people on the water, including 8 on Sundance and 5 on Tiercel. Pity about Geoffrey's broken foot keeping Tintagel in harbour, but it did contribute to solving the OOD issue, in the absence of Ian and Bev who were committed to the Festival of Sails.

Briefing was brief, including mention of post-race drinks in the boatshed, and all proceeded to their vessels in increasing warmth and little breeze. First challenge was to negotiate the "Public Holiday" crowd of motor boats and jet-skis to exit the Cut with a fierce ebb tide.



Imagine slides down-tide of Swan to start.

On the course, Swan displayed an innovative course (draft new course 7) involving QA (start), West Channel no. 3, Drapers, Grass Beds, No3, GB, No.3, Drapers, GB (fin). In Division 1 Warrior made a brilliant start in crossing the line from the uptide end in near-zero wind. Tiercel intended the same tactic but with tide overcoming wind did not even get uptide of the line, but crossed it and drifted down below QA to become stalled trying to get back to the line. In desperation the blooper went up as Imagine and Sundance joined in the start, with Imagine being the vessel making way. Ultimately all got over the line, by which time Warrior had drifted down towards the Heads. Tiercel toyed with laying an anchor which only brought about a faint breeze so up came the anchor again and soon a decent breeze appeared with the anticipation that Div 3 boats would wipe out the slower ones with Warrior having gone backwards and Tiercel no-where, in their first 20 or 10 minutes.



Sundance gets moving.



Tiercel & Sundance creep over the line.

Tiercel, maintaining the blooper outside the jib, held off Sundance on the way to No. 3 with Imagine only just getting ahead. However, round the mark and heading for Drapers, Sundance became supercharged and rocketed ahead of Tiercel, while Warrior made the best of beating the tide. Imagine, then Sundance rounded Drapers and raised spinnakers, well ahead of Tiercel and Warrior, and Tiercel got its kite up soon after its rounding. By now the deck was cluttered with jib, blooper and miscellaneous lines. The race progressed with no overtaking, round Grass Beds and No. 3 but on the reach back to GB, Warrior was closing in on Tiercel. A shorten course flag at that point, about 4 p.m. saved Tiercel from being overtaken by Warrior, who would undoubtedly have won on handicap had the race continued to full distance (under lights??).



Warrior approaches the finish.

So line honours to Imagine, followed by Sundance then Tiercel and Warrior close behind. On handicap Tiercel narrowly held off Warrior and then Imagine just ahead of Sundance. All the predictions that it would be a day for the big boats were confounded despite the delays to Div 1 and 2 getting away. Thanks to OODs Geoffrey, Jennifer and Colin on Swan. A select group enjoyed refreshment in the boat shed until phone calls dragged them home.