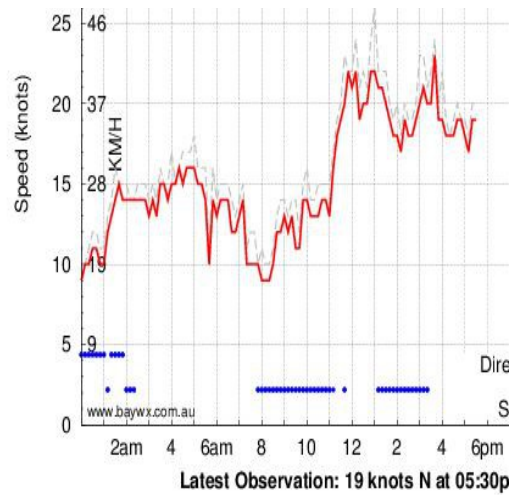
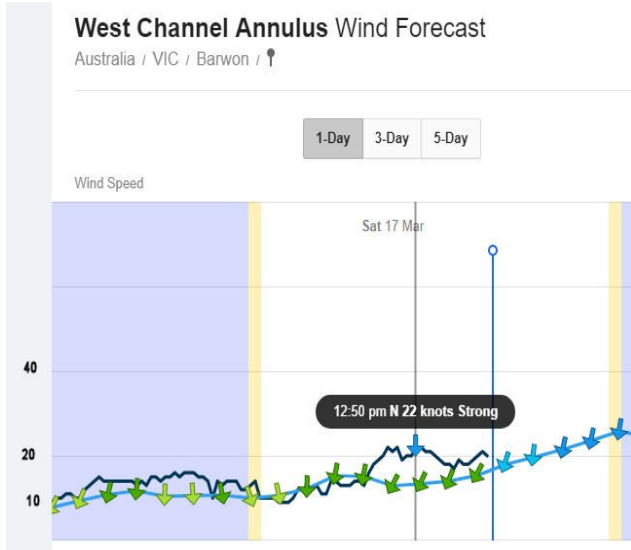
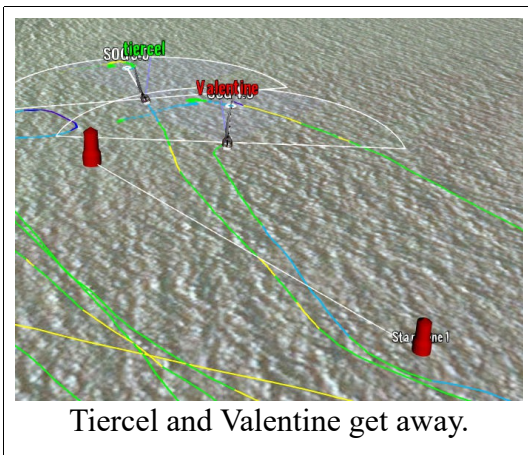


Cec Anderson 3. 17 March 2018

The Weather Gods withdrew their co-operation (particularly the forecasts) and the Mud Island Race, for safety's sake, was replaced by Cec Anderson 3. Also for safety's sake it was run early in the day to avoid threatened nasty weather. It was another 'day for the Couta Boats' but a pity only one was there.



Briefing was brief and no shuffling of crews occurred, though both Imagine and Tiercel were a bit short-handed. On the water, course 12 was proclaimed. (GB, SS, W3, GB, SS, GB, SS, W3, GB. Wind started out around 10 to 15 kn but soon and rapidly increased to 22 (at S Channel Fort).



At the start (10.30), Warrior got away in solitary splendour and headed for deep water to benefit from the flood tide. In Div 2, Boomaroo, Tiercel, and Valentine competed for space, with Tiercel staying just far enough ahead of Valentine to avoid being 'windward boat', a situation that did apply to Valentine with respect to Boomaroo. Wave Dancer was a little behind. Tiercel chickened out of tacking in front of this activity until the others tacked, by which time Swan Spit was just fetchable. Warrior remained well in front.

Valentine and Tiercel remained close at about six and a half knots over ground, with Tiercel edging ahead, and Boomaroo overtaking before Swan Spit. Wavedancer followed, also taking the "inshore" route. Tiercel was being caught by Valentine but rounded Swan Spit a few seconds ahead and somehow gained ground again on the way to West Channel no. 3. Boomaroo held the lead over Tiercel, Valentine and Wavedancer on the broad reach back to GB. At this stage Imagine was in hot pursuit and Warrior still ahead. Grass beds saw another close encounter between Boomaroo, Tiercel and Valentine, Tiercel tacking instantly and Valentine continuing closer inshore.



Last rounding of GB (1)



Last rounding of GB (2)

Another close rounding by Boomaroo, Tiercel and Valentine at Swan Spit, with Tiercel on starboard, Valentine almost but not quite making it on their port tack. Boomaroo and Valentine made better roundings and led Tiercel on the run to GB, with Valentine flying a spinnaker plus jib and getting ahead. Tiercel tried in vain to goosewing but despite



Valentine in pursuit

crowding Boomaroo could not make it happen, but overtaking her before Grass Beds nonetheless. By now Imagine had joined Warrior in leading the field and Sundance was overtaking Div 2 boats. In the final crowded rounding of Grass Beds buoy, Boomaroo had a boom preventer issue costing her a turn to free things up. And so it continued with Valentine now outpointing and outpacing Tiercel back to Swan Spit, no. 3 and to the finish, with Boomaroo passing Tiercel but unable to get past Valentine.

With Warrior crossing the line 40 seconds after Sundance and 4 vessels almost within 2 minutes of each other, it looked like the finish of a sternchaser, the order over the line being Imagine, Sundance, Valentine, Warrior, Boomaroo, Tiercel and Wavedancer. On handicap it was Warrior first by a clear margin, then Boomaroo, Tiercel and Valentine a few seconds (or less) apart, Wavedancer, Imagine and Sundance. So another day for the smaller vessels.

A few diehards gathered for drinks and race analysis in the boatshed.

