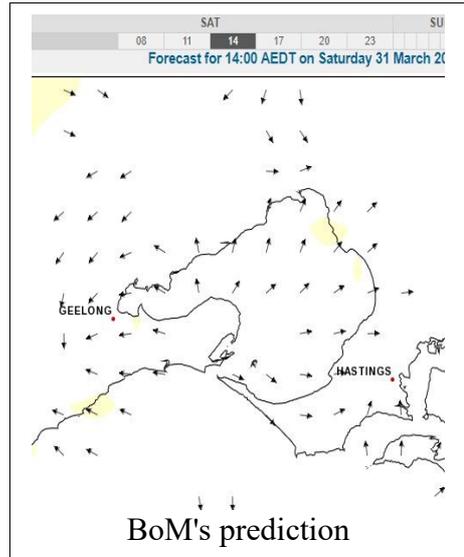


180331 Champagne Sternchaser and Cec Anderson 4 races

Determination rewarded! Despite all the predictions showing zero wind, 8 skippers and crews fronted up for the briefing at 9.30. Captain Steve expressed the hope that despite the forecast, some breeze would develop and we all hoped he was right. The sternchaser's notional start time of 11.00 came and went with only the "AP" flag to show, apart from a change of course and movement of the line to cope with vagaries of "wind" direction.



Rosie finds a breath of air



After an hour, a bit of breeze allowed Rosie to get away, followed by 2 more Coutas, Tintagel, Wavedancer,

Tiercel and the two big ones, at their allocated times (plus an hour). By this time the wind had shifted again, to give an almost running start down to Drapers, with course 6 selected. With the benefit of hindsight, the early starters had the hardest task, as the increasing wind and slowing of the contrary (flood) tide favoured the later starters. Only Wavedancer made a perfectly timed start and she maintained that performance for the rest of the race, winning by a substantial margin, in front of Warrior, Tintagel, Imagine, Sundance, Tiercel, and Drizabone. Not helped by the changing winds and



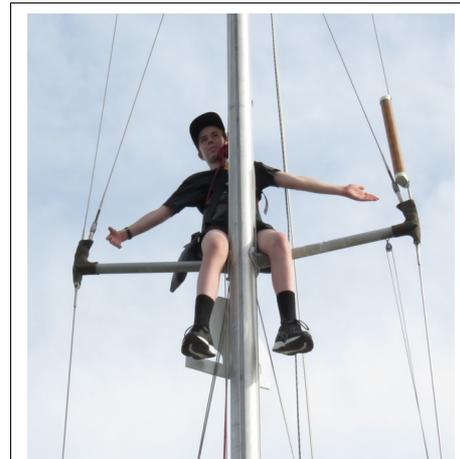
Imagine's familiar kite

tides, Rosie retired, and for the rest, a favourable surprise that the race was completed. Not surprisingly, the finish times were more spread-out than usual, ranging from 13.58.50 to 14.25.07.

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With no time wasted, Course 11 was selected for Cec4, and Div 1 vessels (Warrior and Tintagel) got away at 13.35, followed at 13.45 by Tiercel and Wavedancer, and finally Imagine and Sundance. Some very close racing ensued, as Divs 2 and 3 passed each other and Div 1 vessels, but no major dramas occurred despite simultaneous rounding of some of the more unforgiving marks. Kites flew on the reaching or running legs from all vessels except Div 1. After some desperate searching into the setting sun for flag S and the buoy, boats crossed the line in order of Imagine, Wavedancer, Sundance, Tiercel, Warrior, Tintagel. On handicap it was Wavedancer, Tiercel, Warrior, Imagine, Sundance and Tintagel.



Price of racing when maintainance needed.



And early training for the future?

Post-race champagne in the boatshed was moderately attended, with some crew having family and Easter commitments.