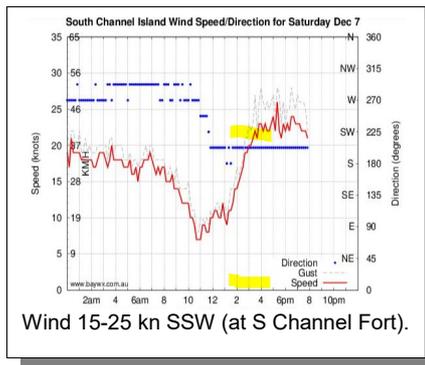


## Ray Maki race 5. 7 December 2019



A day for the true believers. No complaint about the accuracy of weather forecast as the prediction for starting in benign conditions with strong winds later in the race came to pass. Seven vessels signed on, namely Imagine, Valentine, Rosie, Tiercel, Boomaroo, Tintagel and Sundance. Wind was SSW as predicted.

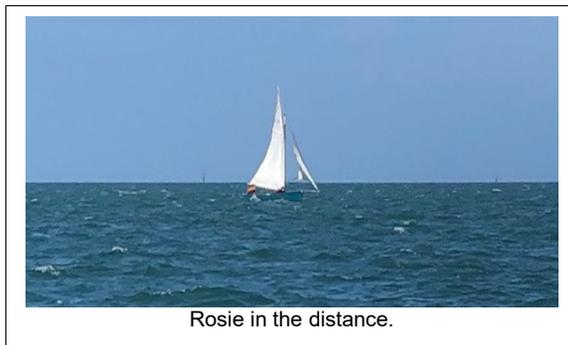
Course 7 was specified, starting at Grass Beds with legs to Popes Eye, Swan Spit, Popes Eye, QA, Popes Eye and Grass Beds finish.

In Division 1, Tintagel crossed the start line a little before Rosie, though both were within about half a minute of the target.

In Div 2, Valentine Boomaroo and Tiercel approached the line almost together, but Valentine and

Boomaroo figured they were just a bit too early and went round again leaving Tiercel to cross uncharacteristically well. With the considerable ebb tide at its maximum Tiercel easily layed the first mark in the one tack, remaining ahead of Valentine and Boomaroo. Speeds over the ground were between 5 and 6 knots with the favourable tide. Imagine and Sundance in Div 3 both got away within 25 seconds of their allotted time.

In the run from Popes Eye to Swan Spit, only Valentine released the spinnaker but to no avail, in that Tiercel maintained the same lead with goosewinged jib. Both maintained about 4 and a half knots over the ground, against the tide. Perhaps the kite kept Valentine just ahead of Boomaroo.



While Tintagel again went well, Rosie was also competitive, but it was really the day for Imagine and Tiercel, both sailing as if they had been stolen.

As forecast, the wind increased (max observed 24 kn) prompting some further reductions in sail, and some very vigorous sailing ensued for the rest of the race.



Four of the Magnificent Seven.



Tintagel and Boomaroo on a similarly choppy day.

The only casualty was the whisker pole on Tiercel which was converted from straight to an elegant curve – back to the shop and workshop. (Quote from Ben Lexcen “if it doesn't break it is too heavy”)

Over the line the order was Imagine, Sundance, Tiercel, Valentine (seconds ahead of) Boomaroo, Tintagel and Rosie. On handicap the result was Imagine, Tiercel, Valentine, Tintagel, Boomaroo, Sundance and Rosie.

Not many photos this day, as conditions made things a bit hard, but thanks Richard for your i-phone pictures.

Thanks to Ian Campbell, Ian McKenzie and Graeme Frankpitt for manning Swan on a challenging day.