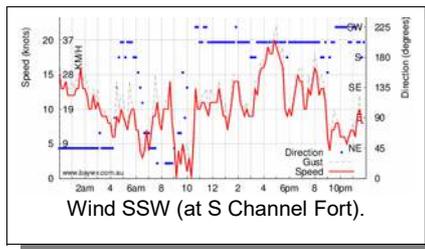


Champagne Sternchaser. 28 December 2019



A great day on the water for the Champagne Sternchaser, with 6 vessels competing. With Boomaroo having to do duty on Swan, the fleet comprised Rosie, Drizabone, Tintagel, Valentine, Tiercel and Sundance. Most boats got away without competition for space at the line. But with Valentine and Tiercel, starting together it was Tiercel (on Stb tack) who found a hole in the wind and failed to beat the tide. So she tacked over the line behind Valentine (already on P tack). Sundance followed some time later, to join the chase, in the direction of Drapers Reef.



Drizabone, in a lull in the wind.



Sundance.



Valentine.

The shallower draft boats hugged the shore, particularly Tintagel, and Valentine followed them as far as possible. She paid a price in distance however, allowing Tiercel to overtake



The whole fleet: Valentine, Rosie, Tintagel, Tiercel, Sundance, Drizabone.

before Drapers Reef was reached.

After Drapers however, Valentine's quicker deployment of spinnaker brought her back ahead of Tiercel, as both overhauled Drizabone, Tintagel and Rosie. Tiercel matched Valentine for speed once the kite was up, but a premature lowering of it



Jibing round West #3 as Valentine chases down Rosie..

in advance of West #3 left Valentine back in front. Also, Valentine had realised that a jibe of the spinnaker was on the cards, and did so with success, holding it on the leg to Swan Spit, though not to huge advantage. By this point the fleet was converging, including Sundance flying into the lead. (The handicapper is assured the furling asymmetric spinnaker is not a "new sail"!). In the beat back towards Drapers, Tiercel got ahead of Valentine again, with both well behind Sundance. The other vessels followed, with the fleet at 'finish time' in reverse order to their starting order. So, clearly the day's conditions, involving beats into a modest breeze against substantial tide, favoured the faster boats, with finishing places in (inverse) proportion to their handicap.

So at the 3.30 finish time, the order, and hence result, was Sundance, Tiercel, Valentine, Tintagel, Drizabone, Rosie.

Post-race drinks and chips followed at the Clubhouse. Thanks to Tom Hinton, Ian Fordyce and Graeme Frakpitt for doing duty on Swan, particularly with the extra complications of a sternchaser format (and yes, the radio countdowns coupled with "real" time, again prevented the confusion that can otherwise prevail.

Next event was the following day - "Discover Sailing" at the clubhouse with about 60 guests enjoying dinghies and kayaks. See Facebook page for best photos.