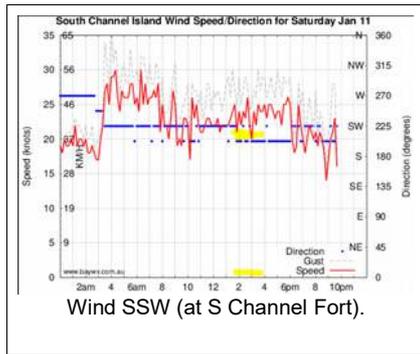


Commodore's Cup. 11 th January 2020.



Another race for the diehards and even some of them fell by the wayside owing to conditions or gear failure. Six vessels signed on and came to the starting area, despite winds being rather over the 20 knots forecast. Course 6 was announced. Tintagel considered discretion as the better part of valour and retired just on the way to the start line, and Imagine had an equipment issue forcing the same result.



Sundance on a better day.

Conditions were quite rugged for the remaining vessels, namely Sundance, Boomaroo, Tiercel and Valentine, not to mention Swan suffering the situation of being anchored and without the stability of sails. Speaking of sails, all vessels were reefed.

The last-minute retirement of Tintagel triggered a revision of start time for Division two, with a bit of confusion resulting, but the four boats got away without accident at least. However, Tiercel being early and running along the line ran out of room, tacked, stalled and drifted back with the tide to start again, and Valentine made a late start.



Boomaroo (winner) and Tintagel on another choppy day..

The first upwind leg ended with very cautious rounding of Drapers Reef mark (tide flooding) followed by a long run to Swan Spit, with no spinnakers being contemplated. Tactics did include debate over the shortest line (just off a dead run) vs a broad reach followed by running goose-winged. There were no dramatic incidents (to the credit of the fleet given the

conditions) with most skippers in survival mode and seeing gusts over 30 knots on the instruments. However, it was Boomaroo who revelled in the conditions with her excellent no. 3 jib giving her a big lead over all others. Even Sundance only made up half of the 10-minute divisional delay to finish 5 minutes behind her. Valentine kept pace with Tiercel but did not make up for the later start.

Particular thanks to Swan crew Ian Campbell, John Sisley and Ross Walker, for enduring the conditions of the day. After-race chips were enjoyed by those who got there in time (!!!).