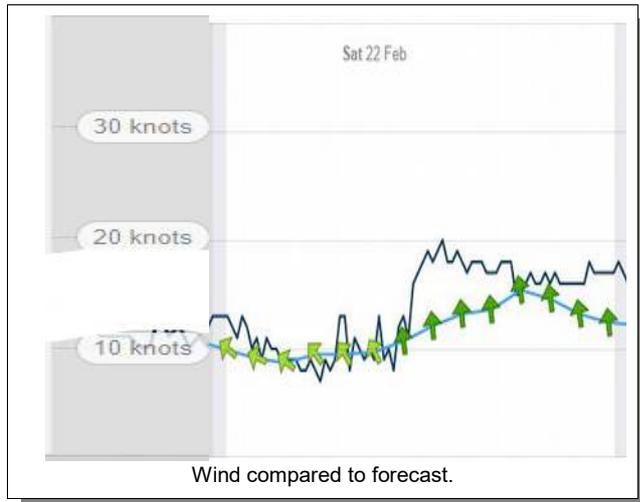
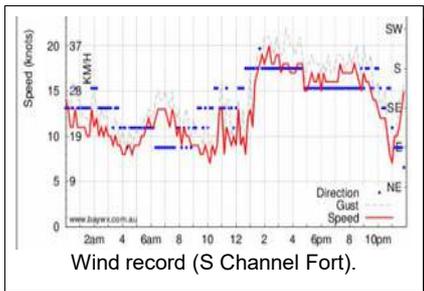


Channels Race and Cec Anderson Race 3. 22nd February 2020.



This day showed many similarities to last year's Channels Race, but with rather more wind. Again 7 vessels signed on, but this time they were Imagine, Sundance, Valentine, Tiercel, Drizabone, Rosie and Tintagel. The start was at 12 noon and the wind was initially at its forecast 10 knots but soon exceeded it.

Division 1 got away on time and made good progress with the following tide. In Division 2, Valentine beat Tiercel over the line by a few seconds and got the kite flying much



Imagine and Sundance in pursuit.

sooner, to get ahead. By the time they passed West #4 Valentine was two and a half minutes ahead. Sundance and Imagine followed 10 minutes later and in the fullness of time engaged in a comparison of conventional vs. asymmetric spinnakers.

Eventually, Tiercel got the BIG spinnaker flying and made up some ground on Valentine on the way up the West Channel. They passed Tintagel who appeared (with the benefit of distant perspective) to have been a bit too close to the starboard-hand sandbank for maximum benefit from the flood tide. At the turn round West Channel Pile Tiercel repeated history from last year by gybing the spinnaker just as the wind increased to uncomfortable levels. Desperate



The big kite starts Tiercel's pursuit of distant Valentine.



Imagine.



Tintagel on broad reach up the West Channel.. .

measures got it down at the expense of a cut line. She was going like a rocket before the sail came down, but, at that time, so was Tintagel who was threatening to overtake.

Unfortunately at this stage in the race Rosie had a gear failure resulting in retirement while otherwise going very well (remember she won last year).



Drizabone in last year's race, winner this year.

All rounded the St Leonards mark and started a vigorous slog back against the wind while the tide was about to turn in everyone's favour. By now the Divisions had separated and Imagine and Sundance disappeared in the distance. Tiercel and Valentine were almost neck and neck for speed, with Tiercel gradually reducing the gap to a few seconds by the finish line. Drizabone and Tintagel, in that order, pulled up the rear in blustery and lumpy conditions.

In the end the order over the line was Imagine, Sundance, Valentine, Tiercel, Drizabone and Tintagel. On handicap the order was Drizabone, Tiercel, Imagine, Valentine, Tintagel and Sundance (with about 2 minutes in corrected time between 2nd and 5th). So congratulations to Drizabone and thanks to the crew of Swan for race management duties on an uncomfortable day, those people being Jennifer Gilbert, Andy Doolan and Rob Hynam-Smith.

The post-race gathering featured some hot food provided by the Club Captain with donations going to a good cause.