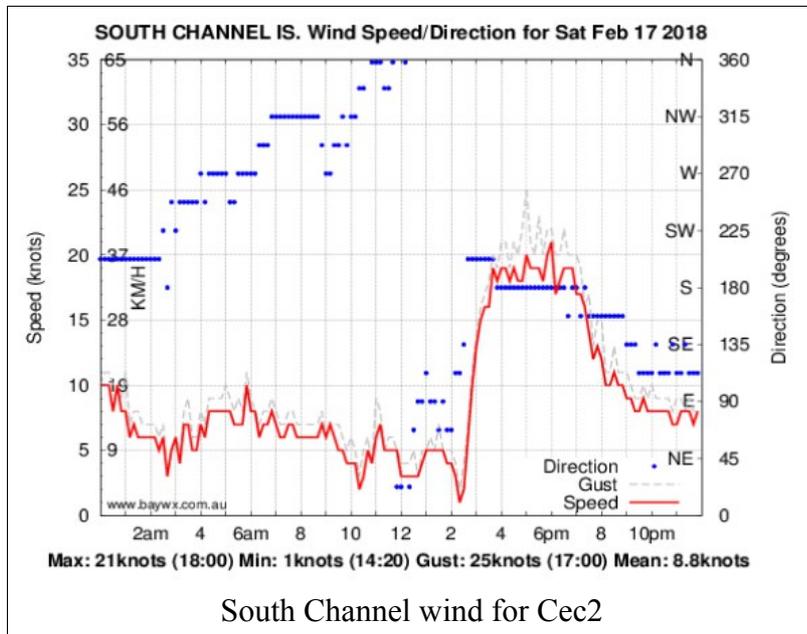


Cec Anderson 2. 17 February 2018 – no beating the Coutas

The best news of the day was the size of the racing fleet with 9 vessels! That is 2 more than the magnificent 7 of last week. This included the return of Boomaroo, and Wavedancer being fully crewed by the introduction of two visitors.

With a forecast of northerly winds increasing from near calm at start time and moderate flood tide, skippers and crews arrived at briefing in increasing breeze and could be forgiven for thinking the



calm spot had come early and better things lay ahead. After updates from Commodore and Captain on Club affairs (Lease, sailing committee, hard work by committee members, draft new courses for 6, 7 and 8 etc) all repaired to vessels for battle.

Course 2 was displayed, as listed for a northerly wind, with the predetermined substitution of West Channel 3 for the Wedge. No dramas were seen in Div 1 start and the Coutas got away in a reasonable breeze. In Div 2, Tiercel just led Wavedancer over the line, with Valentine doing a fancy manoeuvre around the Committee boat and

Boomaroo going a bit too far away before the start. Passing QA with Valentine and Wavedancer in pursuit, Tiercel tacked onto port when just able to pass between the pursuers, in order to head into the tide as soon as possible. With the flood tide (not a huge tide but stream running at its maximum for the day) the leg from QA to West3 was an exercise in crabbing across the tide, largely on one (port) tack. At this stage it looked as if the Coutas might struggle despite Warrior's going well but they proved any such predictions wrong.



Warrior, Drizabone and Rosie at the start

Around West 3, kites came out of the bags on the reach to Swan Spit. In Tiercel's case this was interrupted by practising man-overboard routine with whisker pole as the target, as Sundance and other vessels passed. Unfortunately this corresponded with the lull in wind and having gone down-tide in search of the pole, beating the tide to Swan Spit was frustrating as other vessels powered away to No 3.



Valentine lets the kite out of the bag

Finally the forecast increase in wind came about, reaching about 15 knots on the course (20 at South Channel Fort), but thankfully not enough to demand sail changes.

Over the line it was Imagine, Warrior, Sundance, Boomaroo, Valentine, Wavedancer, Drizabone, Tiercel and Rosie. On handicap, Warrior was a clear winner (65.15 minutes), followed by Drizabone, Rosie, Boomaroo, Wavedancer and Valentine (from 70.078 to 72.088 minutes) and Imagine, Tiercel and Sundance (74.5 to 76.9 minutes). Chips at the club-house completed another successful day.



Swan busy doing something useful

Discover Sailing Sunday 18 February

As if Saturday was not enough, the faithful



gathered for Discover Sailing on Sunday Feb 18. Being outside the school holidays the numbers were (thankfully) smaller than the last two



Ready and waiting – just add (more) water

such events, but this meant the depleted helpers could manage without stress, and give better attention to our visitors, some of whom came back for second helpings of sailing. The fleet of Sparrows, Pacers and canoes were assembled in advance and made available (with skippers) to our visitors. On the basis of experiences (good and bad) last time, two skippers elected to use pacers rather than sparrows (e.g. Commodore too old and stiff to move around in a sparrow). The wisdom of this was demonstrated by the other Colin capsizing (his first go at

this manoeuvre for sixty years) in precisely the same way as Commodore Colin last time – having one rather than two crew in a sparrow demanding some agility and balancing acts as a result. The usual gusty winds off the shore contributed to such demands but on the positive side provided learning experiences. A mid-term break for BBQ sausages cooked by expert Vice Commodore Frank provided the occasion for hosting honoured visitor, Ron Wilkes, marking his 90th birthday, and was followed by a second opportunity to sail or paddle in the same conditions as before – benign but gusty. After stumps were pulled in late afternoon, packing up was followed by convivial refreshments in the boat-shed.



Ron Wilkes' vessel, "Luff Affair", rounding the Popes Eye Pile, a long time ago.