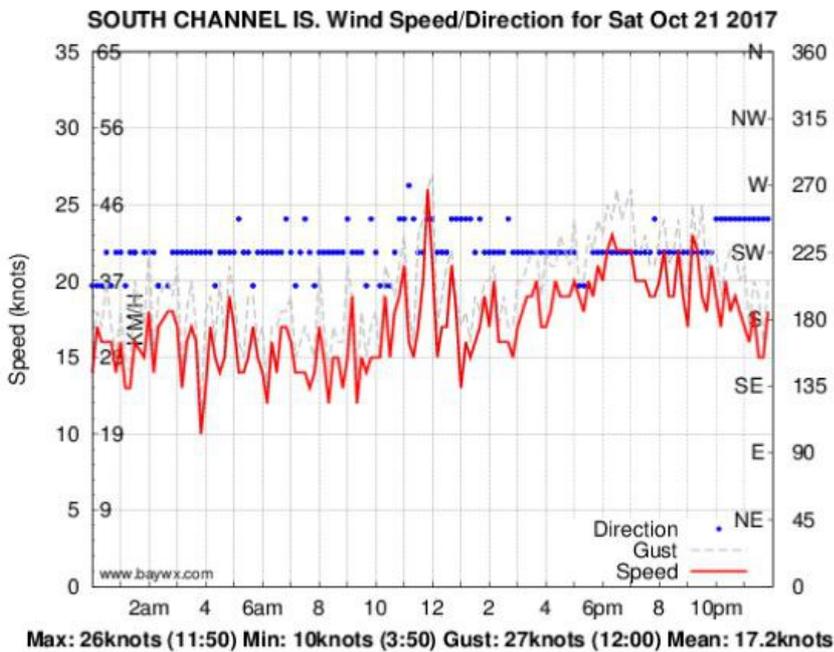


171021 RM2

With a promise, from the BoM and from models, of a steadily increasing SW wind up to 18 knots and a slight possibility of a shower, the three vessels fronting up for briefing had justifiable hopes of



a decent day's racing - despite being driven indoors by persistent rain. These diehards were Tiercel, Valentine and Imagine. Regretfully some other vessels had good reasons for their absence but a drop from 6 vessels in RM1 to 3 vessels today was disappointing. Messages from Club Captain and Commodore were brief, including "don't forget the safety declarations" as is normal at this stage in the season. Some "floating" crew were accommodated in vessels and all rapidly moved to their boats.

In at least one case the kite was left in the car and smaller jibs dug out of the locker. Out into the chop in (notionally) the last of the ebb, and sails raised. Here Tiercel's troubles started with a big increase in wind coming as the no. 2 was half way up, prompting the thought that the forecast increase in wind strength was occurring, and a decision to replace no 2 by no 3. At this stage furler envy started to appear, only to increase as wind strengths went up and down during the race. This

resulted in Tiercel being 5 minutes late to the start line (memories of Tintagel last week). So there was no battling for space at the line this time. Course no. 11 took the fleet down to Drapers at a good speed against the beginnings of the flood, which probably came in a bit early with the brisk SW wind. Here, unsurprisingly, Imagine



overtook Tiercel just before the mark. Returning to Grass Beds the lessening wind (both apparent and real) prompted discussions about sails - particularly when a sight of Tiercel's jib revealed it wrapped around the forestay with its accursed battens poking out in all directions like arms fighting their way out of bedsheets. Much effort was expended on sorting out the "blooper" only to find it was the wrong bag and then a fight to pull the offending sail down and replace by no. 2. Meanwhile Imagine and Valentine were both sailing fast downwind with the tide gybing spinnakers to leave Grassbeds to starboard and on to Swan Spit. Valentine led Imagine around Swan Spit but was soon over taken by the bigger yacht.



Will this be tight?

As both tacked south to Grassbeds again Imagine got too close to Swan Island and went aground giving Valentine some chance to make some time up, but it was not enough to make a difference. Tiercel was doing well enough to possibly challenge Valentine on handicap, until the skipper's favourite hat went

overboard while rounding Grass Beds buoy. Skipper having walked across most of Hobart to buy it, some man-overboard manoeuvres were practised (several attempts) to finally retrieve it despite close interaction with Imagine finishing under spinnaker, and this sealed Tiercel's fate. Positions over the line (Imagine, Valentine, Tiercel) remained after handicaps were applied. Then a swift return to shore for preparations for Opening Day. All in all a successful race, in that it was run, and finished, without injury or damage. Plenty of tacking exercised crews, after being spoiled in RM1.

Next race is the Ray Maki 3, briefing at 1200 and first start at 13.30.



Imagine approaches finish line while Tiercel goes fishing



Hat fishing delayed as Imagine finishes