

Ray Maki 5. 9 December 2017

With a promising forecast from the BoM, 8 Vessels signed on, marking a new record for the year (Hooray!) A brief briefing (including mention of Wave Dancer being back in Division 2, an update on lease negotiations, and final notice of joint BBQ at QCYC to follow race) and it was off to battle again. Course 4 was announced at the time of radio checks, - recognising that the wind shift to SW had already happened. And indeed the forecast was correct in its promise of a moderate and steady southwesterly for the duration of the race.

In the division one start, all boats started on port tack,; having judged it impossible to cross the line on starboard (wish such consensus could prevail in Div. 2!). Tintagel arrived at the line twenty seconds early and waited, stalled, in an increasing level of panic, for the signal. Warrior crossed the line at full speed between Tintagel and the windward end. Brett said, "Thanks very much." as Warrior shot into the lead. But luck soon turned the tables. The ferry was approaching. Warrior was able to stay on port tack, but both Tintagel and Rosie had to tack, proving ultimately to their advantage. Tintagel stayed on starboard until she could clear the ferry, then, back on port, found she could make the Bell Reef marker and that she was in the lead. Tintagel kept that lead all the way to Parks inner buoy and back to Swan Spit, where Warrior caught her. However, on the leg to Grassbeds Tintagel's windward performance was slightly better and she drew ahead.again. She held that tack right down to the Peninsula Princess, where she was passed by some of the bigger boats but not by Wave Dancer. Tintagel's crew were delighted to find the old "composite" boat out-pacing Boomaroo on the return reach to Grassbeds. But not for long.



Warrior battles it out with Tintagel



Imagine takes the wind out of Valentine's sails with Tiercel still on previous leg.

Meanwhile, Division 2 started rather differently, with some "history" involved in port-tack starts. Valentine led Tiercel in their starboard tack approaches and both tacked onto port virtually on the gun. Wave Dancer and Boomaroo followed, each with a port-tack approach. In the necessary starboard tack to round the Creek mark, Tiercel overstood somewhat, having overestimated the benefit of the last bit of ebb tide.

Valentine led division 2 around Bell Reef chased by Boomaroo, Wave Dancer and Tiercel.

As Valentine approached the inner Parks Vic buoy she passed Rosie and was chasing Tintagel followed by Warrior.

Imagine was starting to make her way through the tail enders of Division 2.

Positions of the leaders did not change on the reach back from the Lonsdale Bight until the fleet rounded Bell Reef again on the now flooding tide.



Valentine set the spinnaker as she rounded Shortlands Bluff and headed North on the close reach inside Grass Beds mark and on to Swan Spit. Tiercel having prepared early for an expected spinnaker run and abandoned the notion at Parks buoy (owing to wind direction) made the usual dog's breakfast of a late decision to get it up and tangling the 9 lines involved.

Imagine was fast chasing down the fleet with a spinnaker set at Bell Reef and drawing strongly, passing Wave Dancer and Boomaroo before rounding Swan Spit just after Valentine.

The beat back to Grass Beds was now against an increasing flood tide. Imagine overtook Valentine to power into the lead now followed by Tintagel and Warrior. Tiercel's woes continued by finding the bottom while trying to escape the tide inshore of QA - despite 3 m on the depth sounder (again!).

The course continued to Grass Beds and onto Drapers, back to

Grass Beds and to Drapers again and then to Grass Beds to finish. However the increasing tide beat Rosie who retired for a dnf. With the last vessel finishing at 4.19 the timing was right for our joint BBQ with QCYC at their clubhouse at "5 for 5.30" where a good time was had by all. Thanks are due to their Commodore Richard Lowe for hospitality.

Line honours went to Imagine, followed by Valentine, Boomaroo and Wave Dancer. Handicap results as announced at QCYC were Valentine (1st), followed by Wave Dancer, Tintagel, Imagine, Warrior, Boomaroo, (all within 4 minutes) and Tiercel.