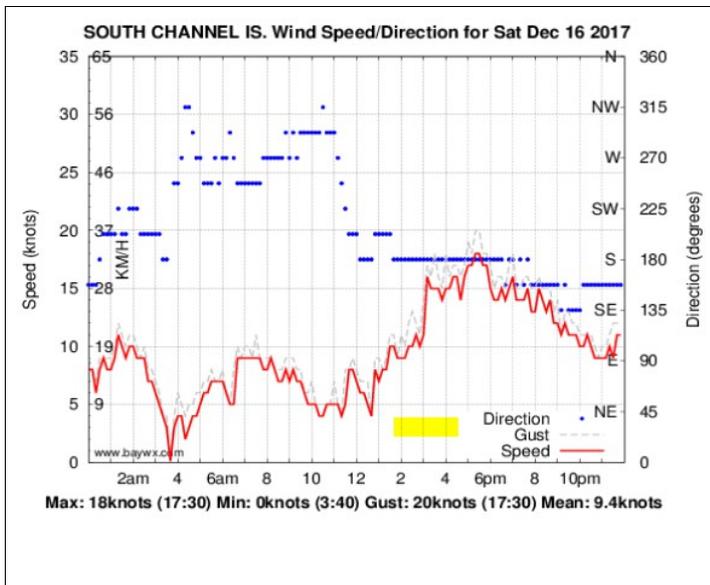


Ray Maki 6. 16 December 2017

Eight vessels signed on for the last of the Ray Maki series, being the last race before Christmas. Tintagel did well to get away on time despite two trips home by the skipper, including fetching and installing a spare mainsail.



During the pre-start manoeuvring the breeze was light and the direction uncertain but there were signs of a South to Southeast sea breeze coming, in line with forecasts. Just before the first start sequence the wind shifted from the Southeast to the South and the OOD wisely changed from course 7 to course 6. This course takes the fleet around a triangle Popes Eye Pile, Wedge and Grassbeds (almost twice around) and then North from Popes Eye to Swan Spit, back to the Wedge and to the finish at Grassbeds.

The three vessels in Division 1 all started on Starboard and headed out into the



bay to take advantage of the increasing ebb tide. Tintagel held the lead for a time, while Warrior and Drizabone tacked onto port. On this first leg, Warrior was relatively close to shore, Drizabone about half a mile offshore and Tintagel working the tide further offshore. At Popes Eye it was Drizabone followed by Tintagel and Warrior.

Similarly, the three yachts in Division 2 all started on Starboard. Wave Dancer was a little early at the start line but managed cleverly to sail along the line without

crossing it, followed by Tiercel (having to concede right or way) and Valentine. Valentine was able to pass Tiercel and followed Wave Dancer. Tiercel soon tacked to escape dirty air from Valentine who in turn also tacked away to the South to get out of Wave Dancer's dirty air. Valentine and Wavedancer crossed tacks twice as they approached Popes Eye Pile. Valentine led Div 2 around the mark and started to draw away from Wave Dancer and was closing in on Warrior on the spinnaker reach to the Wedge. Valentine gybed the spinnaker at the Wedge and passed



Imagine powers past Tintagel

Warrior and both were rapidly chased down by Imagine on the way to Grassbeds. In Div 1 on this reach to the Wedge, Tintagel gained on Drizabone but not much, and kept her distance from Warrior.

By the first return to Grassbeds, Div 1 boats had been passed by Imagine, Valentine, and Wave Dancer; Imagine passing Valentine and Tintagel just before Grassbeds. Then it was a



Anybody out there? Yes, Valentine

beat back to Popes Eye Pile. Imagine, followed by Valentine, tacked to the East to allow for the now strongly ebbing tide. The lead boat Drizabone tacked to the South and was overtaken by Imagine and Valentine. This second trip to Popes Eye Pile was more difficult for some, because the breeze increased to the point where Tintagel was over-canvassed, heeling violently and inclined to round up. She overstood before tacking and finished up reaching to the pile. Warrior caught Tintagel at Popes Eye Pile and the two remained in company in the reach then run to Swan Spit. In this very brisk reach

(spinnakers for some) to the Wedge and the dead run to Swan Spit, Imagine was firmly in the lead followed by Valentine, Drizabone. Wavedancer and Tiercel. When Tiercel finally realized that the course was direct from Wedge to Swan Spit, a compromise with spinnaker shyness brought out the blooper in addition to the genoa for the run from Wedge to Swan Spit. At Swan Spit, Tintagel suffered a jib malfunction and failed to complete an intended tack onto starboard, so had to do it again.

The tide against wind kicked up a chop which made the last beat to Wedge quite lively, and this was followed by a reach to the finish at Grassbeds. Tiercel overtook Tintagel on the beat to Wedge, but to the despair of Tiercel's crew Tintagel regained the lead (by 6 seconds) just before the finish.

Amongst the challenges of the day, was the discovery by Sundance that the depth around the Wedge had shoaled to give her only 0.1 metres below the keel. Another reason to review the standard courses.



A winch issue brings another close encounter.

Line honours went to Imagine followed by Valentine, Sundance and Wave Dancer. On handicap it was Drizabone, Valentine, Imagine, Wavedancer, Warrior, Tiercel, Tintagel and Sundance.

This was the 6th and last race of the Ray Maki Series which was won by Imagine (13 points), Valentine 2nd (18 points) and Tiercel 3rd (19 Points). These were announced by Club Captain Steve at the very enjoyable post-race barbeque. Thanks as usual to the OODs.

