

Cole Cup 12th January 2019

Another race for the die-hards, with the exception of Sundance still propeller-less. A brisk day, with forecast wind in the upper teens, and the knowledgeable locals suggesting more. Eight vessels signed on at briefing, with a bit of crew-juggling to get them all on the water. Sadly, gear failure took out Drizabone and Maud before the start.

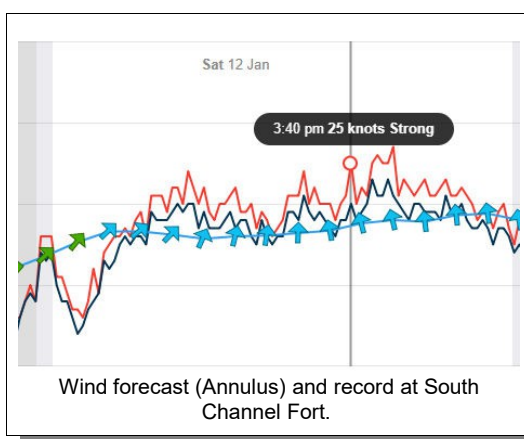


Handsome motor sailer exiting Sorrento..

The remainder (Rosie, Warrior, Tiercel, Boomaroo, Imagine and Valentine) set off in brisk conditions, with gusts often over 20 knots, on the special course of: start near QA, Popes Eye beacon, Sorrento #1, Porsea Hole, and Grass Beds finish. Cameras largely stayed in bags owing to the conditions, but thanks Alison for these photos of Imagine.



Imagine finally passes Boomaroo (Portsea Quarantine Station in background)



Wind forecast (Annulus) and record at South Channel Fort.



Imagine from Boomaroo.

It was a hard day on the water for the Couta boats, with plenty of muscle-work, and even some larger boats (unless reefed, as was Imagine as far as Sorrento) provided hard work for the crews. The wind was steady in direction (South at South Channel Fort) but was, not surprisingly, lighter and more flukey in the region of Sorrento and Portsea. Valentine got her spinnaker up just before the Portsea Hole buoys and held it when back in the brisker winds offshore. Tiercel, well behind saw occasional 'flutterings' and opted for caution in goose-winging the jib. Unfortunately trying to be clever lost the whisker pole overboard and consequently lost minutes in retrieving it.

Hopes for chips at the clubhouse were disappointed owing to Tiercel's late return, but at least results were announced over well deserved refreshment as follows.

Over the line it was Imagine, Boomaroo, Warrior, Valentine, Tiercel and Rosie, with handicap win to Boomaroo, followed by Warrior, Valentine, Imagine, Tiercel, and Rosie. Congratulations go to Boomaroo for the win, and to Warrior and Rosie for completing the course given the conditions. Thanks to John Barry and Frank McMahon for OOD duties.