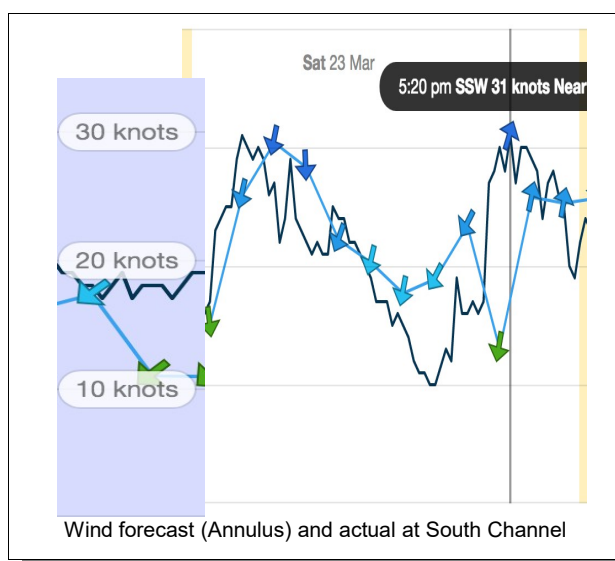


Maritime Weekend Race. 23rd March 2019

Captain Steve had predicted an interesting day and an “interesting day” was delivered. Dubious looking skippers agreed that it was worth a go despite the iffy forecast of strong winds particularly late in the day. Six vessels signed on: Warrior, Valentine, Tiercel, Boomaroo, Sundance and Imagine. If the objective is to improve sailing skills, that was probably achieved, though not the usual “go faster” bit but more the “cope with the conditions” bit.



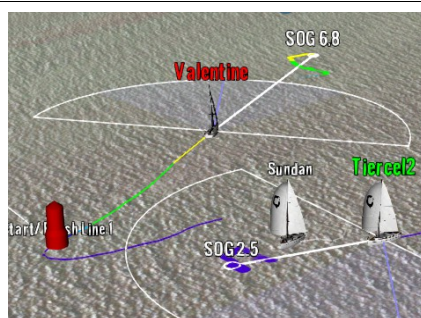
Warrior.



Valentine reefed near the start.



Boomaroo and Tiercel round Grass Beds buoy.



Tide significant even when there was wind.



Fleet preparing to start with Sundance dealing with an issue.

The forecast proved less correct than usual. The dip in wind was much more marked (and on the course there was even more of a calm than registered at S Channel) and the SW change came in earlier than forecast and fiercely. In contrast to last

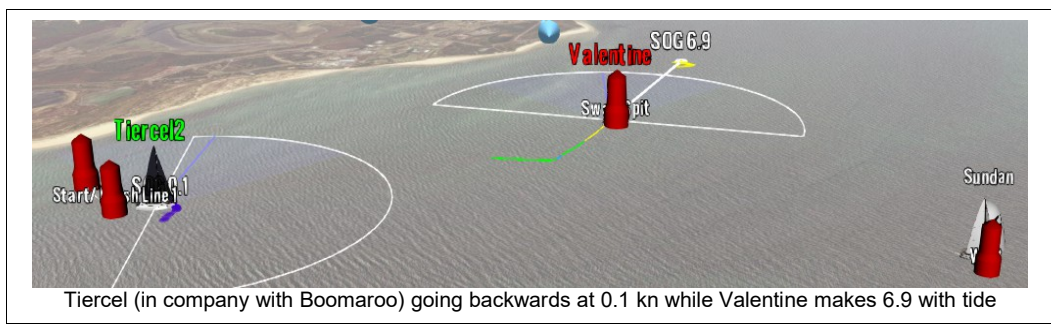


Sundance recovered.

week's race, the slightly delayed start resulted from a buoy dragging in the tide rather than lack of wind; and that wind was sufficient for no. 3 jibs and reefing gear to be exercised. Not to mention (?) Sundance's mainsail suffering a tear before the start. Course 12 had been chosen for the NE wind, taking the fleet on a beat to Swan Spit before W#3. Warrior got away cleanly, representing Div 1, and Valentine led Tiercel over the start line with Boomaroo (welcome back

after skipper's "cruising") having to make a second run at it. As expected, the wind moderated bringing various reactions with respect to sail changes and use of spinnakers. Valentine was fine with furlable jib and flew the kite 3 times, to good effect.

The race proceeded as might be expected, with Valentine getting away from Tiercel and Boomaroo through effective use of spinnaker in the legs from #3 or Swan Spit to Grass Beds, Warrior going well and Sundance and Imagine overtaking the smaller boats. The exception came at the second rounding of Grass Beds buoy. Boomaroo and Tiercel, as tail-enders, were within a few boat-lengths of the buoy when the wind vanished and they stalled or went backwards



for 15 minutes while the others raced away with the tide (near its maximum). The wind picked up eventually, though still very fluky, so all vessels finished the course by 4 p.m. Then came the big wind change as Boomaroo and Tiercel were lowering sails – in the latter case dragging down the blooper despite a jammed halyard. Wind instruments recorded at least 30 knots. The order over the line was Sundance, Imagine, Valentine, Warrior, Boomaroo and Tiercel. Handicaps (following review) give results as Sundance, Valentine, Warrior, Imagine, Tiercel, Boomaroo.

Many thanks to Andy Doolan for many of these photographs and to him and Rob Hynam-Smith for their good work on Swan, on a "trying" day. No post-race drinks as the evening included a BBQ with a focus on welcoming new members. This was very successful, with a few words of welcome from the Commodore and results of today's race from the Club Captain. Thanks to Frank on the BBQ and to Committee members and families for salads and sweets.