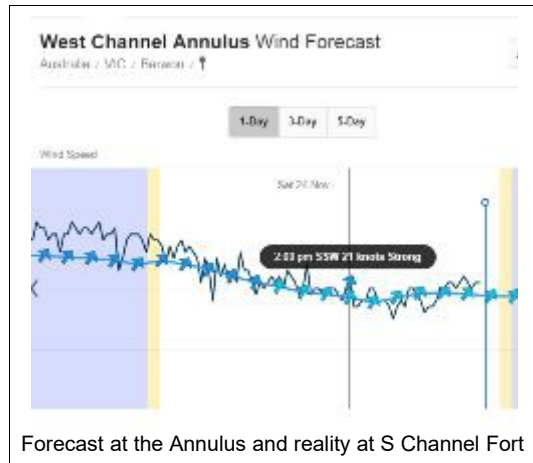
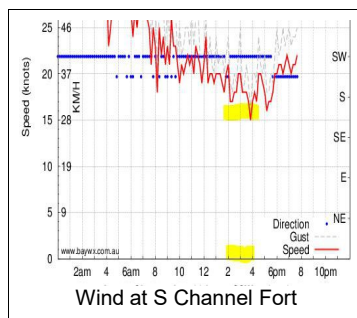


## Ray Maki 3 combined with the Festival Race. 24 November 2018

The great thing about racing in a mixed fleet at Queenscliff is that whatever the result, you can interpret it many ways. If you win it was because of skillful sailing, if you are at the other end of the fleet it is because the wind, or the tide or the combination of both did not suit your boat. This time the lighter boats (or shorthanded crews) could justifiably say the weather was at least a challenge.



A forecast of winds around the 20 knot mark and cloudy conditions did not deter the crews of 7 vessels who fronted up for briefing. These were Imagine, Sundance, Boomaroo, Tiercel, Valentine, Warrior and Tintagel. With Jennifer Gilbert and Andy Doolan content to crew Swan, a possible third crew member for Swan was rapidly claimed by Valentine to race. Sundance was also light on for person-power with a crew of three.



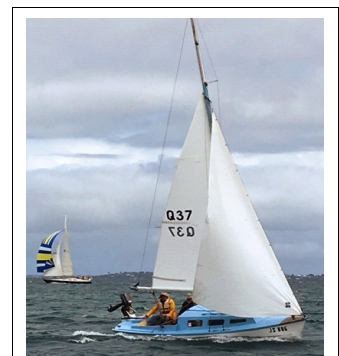
The forecast proved accurate with winds at South Channel Fort following predictions and probably a little stronger on the course. Course 6 was chosen for the sake of safety, not going too far away from home. This course is "up and down" between Grass Beds area, Drapers Reef and Swan Spit. Most vessels ventured out with reduced sail area and it was clearly a day for the heavier boats.

In Division 1 Warrior stole the start from Tintagel who was late over the line, Div 2 saw Tiercel cross a few seconds before Valentine, with these two staying close for much of the race. Imagine outpaced a short-handed Sundance and soon overtook Division 2 vessels as well.

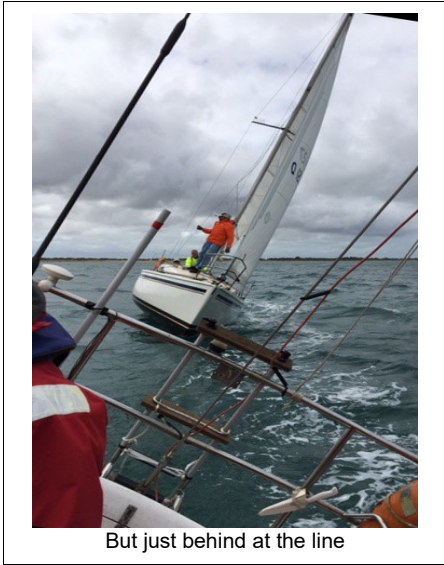


Valentine ahead of Tiercel

Boomaroo kept company with Valentine and Tiercel for a time but then outpaced them and moved ahead. Tintagel was going well in the conditions, with a heavily reefed mainsail. Imagine, as usual, flew a big (and new??) spinnaker on the downwind legs and Tiercel only got hers up for the last downwind leg from Grass Beds to Swan Spit. Approaching the finish line Div 2 saw Boomaroo well ahead, then a battle between Valentine and Tiercel, the latter just scraping home first.



Tintagel reefed down



Over the line it was Imagine, Sundance, Boomaroo, Tiercel (seconds ahead of) Valentine, Tintagel and Warrior. On handicap it was Boomaroo, Tiercel, Sundance, Imagine, Valentine, Tintagel and Warrior.

With many busy schedules, socialising at the clubhouse was postponed until next week.

Many thanks to OODs Jennifer and Andy, and to Richard Bos for getting these photos.