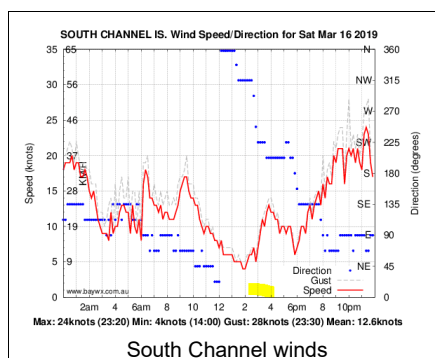


Ray Maki 6. 16th March 2019

Another day said to be “interesting” with very light winds forecast for our starting time but promising an increase during the afternoon. This came to pass with starts delayed by 45 minutes. With two boats in each of the three divisions, the rough end of the stick went to Division 1 (Warrior and Tintagel), starting in very light (though sailable) winds, against a significant tide. Division 2 also started in light



Valentine, the Annulus and Mornington Peninsula.



Who's going faster now?



Warrior with some breeze at last.

winds at 14.25 similarly Div 3 at 14.35.

Very slow progress initially towards West Channel no 3 (first mark of course 11). Unusually, Tiercel was the first to realize the wind direction had shifted enough to be spinnaker-friendly and gained a bit on the others until other kites blossomed. At 15.00 the wind picked up providing a brisk broad reach to the first mark. At this stage, sympathy for Div 1 - having had 45 minutes of very light winds. At West #3 Tiercel made a dog's breakfast of jibing the spinnaker and lost a lot of what had been gained.



Tintagel and Warrior round the mark (carefully)..

For the rest of the race, until shortened at Swan Spit, there was plenty of close interaction around marks but without grief, involving at least Tintagel, Warrior and Tiercel. On the leg between W#3 and QA Tiercel was catching up in the slipstream of Valentine until changing course to reduce anxiety. This resulted in losing ground again. In the latter stages of



Tintagel fighting it out near the finish.

the race it appeared that Tintagel and Warrior were sailing extremely well, and at least keeping up with Div 2, but this was not enough to compensate for their start in such light winds 10 or 20 minutes ahead of the others – particularly when coupled with a shortened course as the afternoon was “getting on”.

Swan appeared at Swan Spit with the shorten

course signal at about 16.00. For some boats the finish resembled a sternchaser with Valentine crossing the line at 16.15.35, Tiercel at 16.16.35 Warrior 3 seconds later and Tintagel another 6 seconds later. Handicaps brought corrected times to within two and a bit minutes, in the order Tiercel, Sundance, Tintagel, Valentine, Imagine and Warrior. So in the end it was an enjoyable day on the water for all, but a bit rough on Division 1 in terms of results.

Chips in the boatshed for those that had the time, and many thanks to Jennifer Gilbert and Peter Norman for OOD duties on Swan.



Valentine and Queenscliff.