

7/2/2015 Cec. Anderson #3



Friday's 5pm BOM forecast for Port Phillip Bay, is for 15 to 25kn North to NE tending West to NW in the middle of the day with a possible afternoon thunder storm.

By Saturday morning, a strong wind warning is added. At briefing most agree that the worst is probably over since South Channel fort's 30-40kn morning winds had eased to 25kn or below, as forecast.

It was decided to give it a go. Skippers from Imagine, Tiercel, Valentine, Drizabone, Tintagel and Fancy signed on, with Maud a possible starter if crew could be found.

On Drizabone, and given the forecast it was decided to opt for a reef in the main, and the #3 heady.

The call comes from the Lees - Ian, Bev. and Jock on the committee boat - that it is course number 3 - all port roundings from GB to Drapers, Wedge, QA, Wedge, QA, GB, Drapers, Wedge, QA and finish at GB.

At the start, there was plenty of wind, 19kn at deck level and also plenty of tide. Div 1 boats Tintagel and Drizabone both crossed the line 2 minutes late, Tinny, just in front, both having misjudged the strength of the flood tide.



On rounding the creek mark the wind became ever more flukey, lots of tacking and a few lucky breaks puts Drizabone in the lead, rounding Drapers a few boat lengths ahead of Tintagel. By this time, Div 2 boats have started and are fighting the strong flood tide and increasingly light and flukey winds under the lee of Shortland Bluff.

However, those flukey winds also extend well offshore and Drizabone loses much of her lead by sailing into a 'hole'. The crossing to Wedge is a broad reach to run and the winds have eased considerably. Further back in the field, Valentine sets a spinnaker and eases further away from Tiercel, Fancy has started very late, Drizabone still leads, Tintagel is next, then a fast approaching Valentine, followed by Tiercel, Imagine and Fancy.

The strong flood and now only moderate winds, sweep the fleet northwards towards Swan Spit and by QA the lead has changed to Imagine, Drizabone, Tintagel, and Valentine now challenging the div one boats. By Wedge for the 2nd time, Valentine is in second place.



On the beat back to QA again and led by Imagine, most boats chose to head up tide to the southwest. The mark proved challenging with the strong tide hard to judge, but no positions changed. Through Grassbeds and on to Drapers for the last time the wind was dropping and on Drizabone there was talk of shaking out the reef as Valentine and Tintagel (amongst others) had already done. But not an easy task and things were left as they were.



A chance meeting with the Queenscliff bound ferry, was the turning point for Tintagel who regained 3rd place from Drizabone by staying south of the ferry whilst Drizabone headed north and into a hole from which she could not extricate herself. Just short of the wedge, tide too strong, wind too light, Drizabone retired, but Tintagel got through and was off to QA chasing of Valentine. Imagine crossed the line in first place whilst in an incredible display of the wind's flukiness, Tintagel was able to take a more direct line for QA, making enormous gains on, and passing a slow finishing Valentine, who, along with Imagine had been swept north to a hole near Swan Spit. In the end only those 3 boats finished the race, the rest having had to retire. Congratulations to the crew on Tintagel for an amazing win in flukey conditions.

Thanks to the committee boat crew.
The next race is THE IRWIN TROPHY 14 February.

