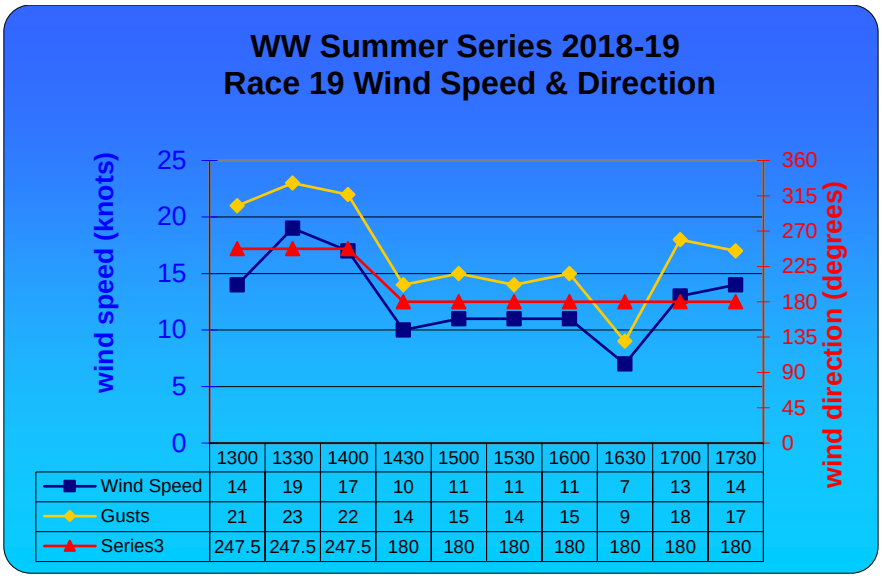
Unexpected Wind Shift
Wednesday Wonders Summer Series 2018-19 Race 19
(13 Feb 2019)

Within an hour of the race start the breeze had almost halved. It fell from 19 to 10 knots and shifted from the west south west to the south and averaged about 13 knots for the afternoon. Nevertheless, the sloppy sea remained all afternoon. Some of the 30 yacht fleet had set their sails for a stronger breeze which did not eventuate. The change in wind direction allowed some of the fleet to sail each leg along the rhumb line tacking or gybing only when rounding the marks. At 10.2 nautical miles the course was longer than average but the 30 yacht fleet sailed the course in an average time for a WW race.



	1300	1330	1400	1430	1500	1530	1600	1630	1700	1730
Wind Speed	14	19	17	10	11	11	11	7	13	14
Gusts	21	23	22	14	15	14	15	9	18	17
Series3	247.5	247.5	247.5	180	180	180	180	180	180	180

Adding to the list of perfect starts this series was ANDANTE (Keith Woodruff) and FOGGY DEW (Joe O'Grady) who tied for Start of the Day. ALIBI (Denis Hambleton) recorded her first podium finish of the summer and her first win since race 22 of the winter series when she was first across the finish line. By finishing 2nd WHITE NOISE (Daniel Edwards) chalked up her best and first podium finish of the series. Completing her first race since race 12, SUMMER WIND (Martyn Sly) made a great comeback to the series when she also recorded her best and first podium finish of the summer. For the second week in succession STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala) sailed the course in the fastest elapsed time beating her closest rival by 3 minutes 6 seconds.

The race result had no impact upon the top of the aggregate. THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) remains at the top for another week. SURI (Rick Blanck) holds on to 2nd place whilst BABYDOLL (Brendan Kruger) is 3rd. LUSCIOUS slips out of the top ten from 8th to 12th place making room for WHITE NOISE who moves up from 14th into 6th place.

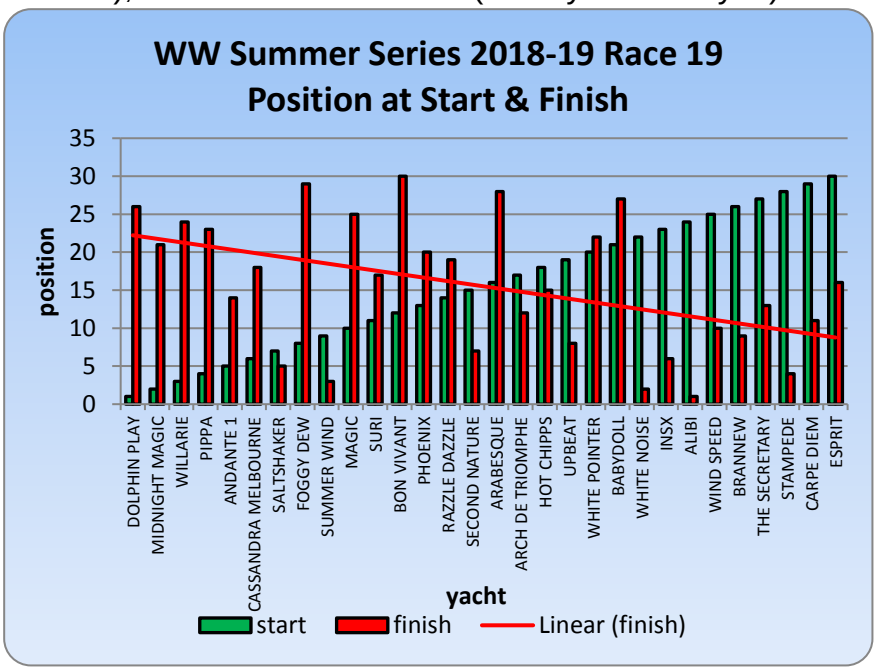
ALIBI has improved her result in each of the last four races. She was 15th in race 16; 10th in race 17; then followed by a 6th last week and a 1st in this race. She started from 24th place 17 seconds late for her 45 minute handicap. At the first rounding of SYC 4 she had moved into 12th place bur was still over 10 minutes behind the race leader. ALIBI sailed the last three legs of the course in 43 minutes 39 seconds and was first across the finish line at 15:51:31. Her elapsed time of 1:36:31 was the fourth fastest of the race. She had started 6 seconds after INSX (Rob Sill) but sailed the course 2 minutes 4 seconds faster. ALIBI also beat the other Sydney 36, WIND SPEED (Les Browne), by 4 minutes 58 seconds and finished 9 places ahead. She has completed 14 races this series and moved from 22nd into 15th in the aggregate. (NB Photo from an earlier race).

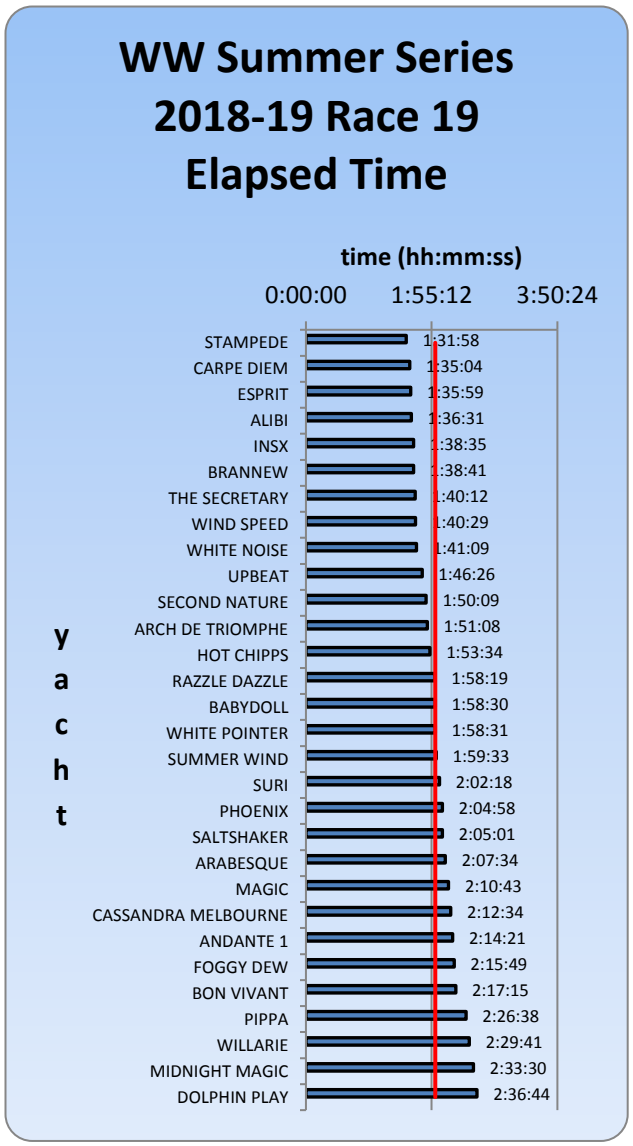
WHITE NOISE is one of 7 yachts that have completed all 16 races in the series. She has accumulated 5 top ten finishes but this is her only podium finish. Her handicap at the start of the series was 44 minutes and she started this race from 22nd place 6 seconds late for her 41 minute handicap. WHITE NOISE was in 10th place at the first rounding of SYC 4 – 87 seconds ahead of ALIBI. She sailed the last 3 legs of the race in 45 minutes 42 seconds and crossed the finish line at 15:52:09 only 38 seconds behind the winner. WHITE NOISE recorded the 9th fastest elapsed time of the race. After spending the previous 2 weeks outside the aggregate top ten she moved into 6th place. (NB Photo from an earlier race).

This was the 10th race this series for SUMMER WIND. She started from 9th place 9 seconds late for her 23 minute handicap. She completed the first 4 legs of the race in 1:10:10 and this put her into 7th place at the first rounding of SYC 4. It took SUMMER WIND 49 minutes 14 seconds to sail the final 3 legs of the race and she crossed the finish line in 3rd place at 15:52:33 only 24 seconds behind WHITE NOISE. SUMMERWIND had the same handicap as FOGGY DEW, started 9 seconds after her but finished 16 minutes 16 seconds and 26 places ahead. SUMMER WIND moved up 1 place in the aggregate from44th to 43rd position.

For the second time this series there was a tie for Start of the Day with both ANDANTE 1 and FOGGY DEW having a perfect start. This was the second time FOGGY DEW won the start but a first for ANDANTE 1. The median start was 9.5 seconds with 29 yachts starting within 35 seconds or less of their handicaps. Starting 4 seconds too soon cost ARABESQUE (Milton Green) a 5 minute penalty and possibly 9 places. (NB Photo of Andante 1 from an earlier race).

It was the late staters that finished well in this race. Of the first ten yachts across the finish line 6 were late starters, 2 started from mid fleet and the remaining 2 were early starters. The fleet started 53 minutes 11 seconds apart. By SYC 4 the gap was 20 minutes 50 seconds and increased to 23 minutes 44 seconds at the finish line. There was strong competition for 11th place when CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins), ARCH DE TRIOMPHE (Murray/Davis/Taylor) and THE SECRETARY finished within 8 seconds of each other. There was an equally strong competion for 22nd place when WHITE POINTER (Tom Raft), PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse), WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) and MAGIC (Phil Spry Bailey) finished within 12 seconds of each other.





The median elapsed time for the race was 1:58:30 – the time sailed by BABYDOLL (Brendan Kruger). The range of elapsed times was 64 minutes 46 seconds which exceeded the 54 minute range of handicaps by more than 10 minutes. For the 3rd time in the series STAMPEDE sailed the course in the fastest elapsed time. Second fastest was CARPE DIEM.

(Below) THE SECRETARY flies the yellow flag for another week.

(Right) SECOND NATURE keeps 4th place in the aggregate after finishing 7th.

(Left) WIND SPEED decided on a reef in the main in the early stages of the race.

(Below) The three Tritons keeping a close watch on each other.

The three Oceanis yachts – HOT CHIPPS, SURI & WHITE POINTER finished 15th, 17th and 22nd.

(Left) BABYDOLL was unable to hold off CARPE DIEM.

(Right) PHOENIX had her best result of the series.

(Left) Not quite the 20 to 25 knots forecast for the afternoon.

(Right) RAZZLE DAZZLE went on to finish 19th.

(Left) ESPRIT was last to start but finished 16th.

(Below right) Where are they all? It was supposed to be the Grand Prix Classic Car Yacht race.
It's now scheduled for 20 February 2019.

Photos
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