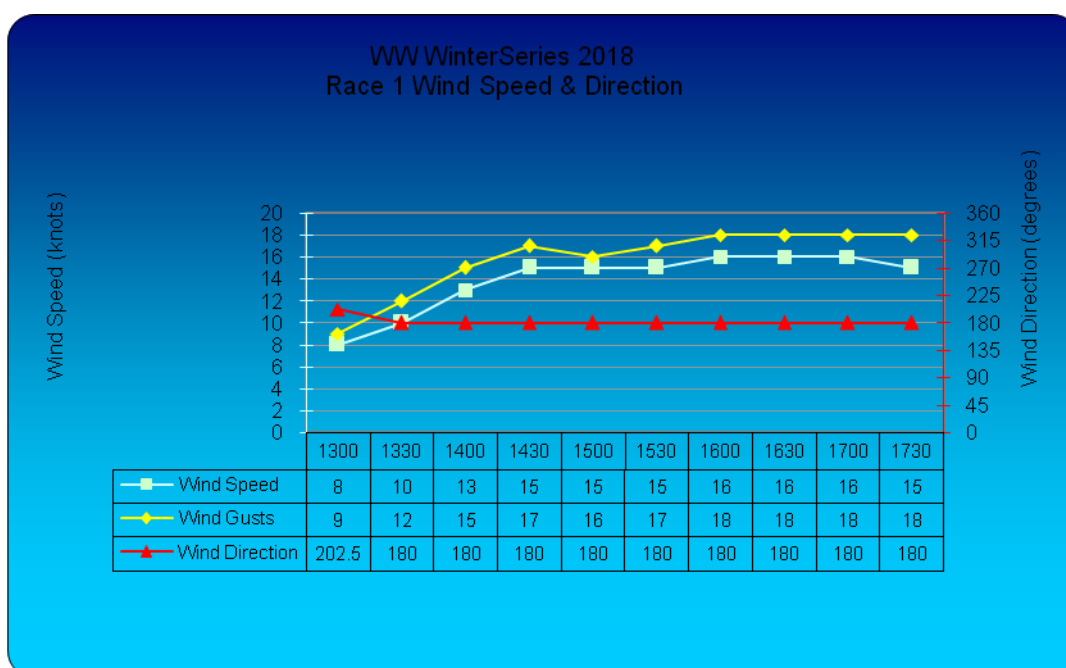


Magnificent Start to the Winter Series WW Winter Series 2018 Race 1 (4 Apr 2018)



With a ridge of high pressure lying over southern Victoria, the stage was set for a magnificent start to the series. A day of blue skies, sunshine, a steady breeze and seas below a metre were conditions ideal for a wonderful opening sail.



Observations at Fawkner Beacon recorded a southerly breeze of about 14 knots for the afternoon – right on forecast. A large fleet of 45 yachts contested the first race. A fleet of this size is something of a record. Neither the 2016 nor 2017 winter series included a race with 40 or more yachts let alone 45. The race took the fleet around the 9.9 nautical mile course 14 in an average time of 1:58:42. It was a classic pursuit race with the fleet starting 54 minutes 50 seconds apart, getting closer at the first rounding of number 4 to be 31 minutes 25 seconds apart and finishing just 18 minutes 43 seconds apart. All the 45 starters finished well within the time limit.

There was a 3 way tie for Start of the Day with BABYDOLL (Brendan Kruger), FUN & GAMES (Alan Edwards) and ROLLER COASTER (Geoffrey Simpson) all starting within 2 seconds of their respective handicaps. PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) was first across the finish line for her first podium finish since race 12 of the summer series. After keeping a low profile throughout the summer series VANTAGE (Darren Hunter) re-emerged to take 2nd place whilst ALLIANCE (Alex Hall et al) followed up her 7th place in the final race of the summer series to cross the line in third place. ESPRIT (Garry Anderson) sailed the course in 1:35:47 – the fastest time of the day.



Starting from 2nd place and 5 seconds late for her 4 minute handicap PIPPA established an early lead in the race. By the first rounding of number 4 she was 2 minutes 20 seconds ahead of the fleet, a lead which she extended as the race progressed. She completed the course in a time of 2:16:17 and crossed the finish line 2 minutes 46 seconds ahead of the rest. PIPPA started the race at exactly the same time as MIDNIGHT MAGIC (Bernadette Moore) but finished 9 minutes 2 seconds ahead. Being the winner of the first race of the series puts PIPPA on top of the aggregate.

Out of 12 completed races the best result for VANTAGE in the summer series was a 6th place in race 4. She started this race from 19th place 23 seconds late for her 29 minute handicap. VANTAGE sailed the course in the below average time of 1:54:03 and crossed the finish line in 2nd place at 15:53:03. It was a close contest throughout the race between VANTAGE, ALLIANCE and PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg). They were all allocated the same handicap but by the first rounding of number 4 VANTAGE was behind ALLIANCE by 45 seconds but ahead of PHOENIX by 38 seconds. At the finish line VANTAGE was ahead of both ALLIANCE by 11 seconds and PHOENIX by 48 seconds.

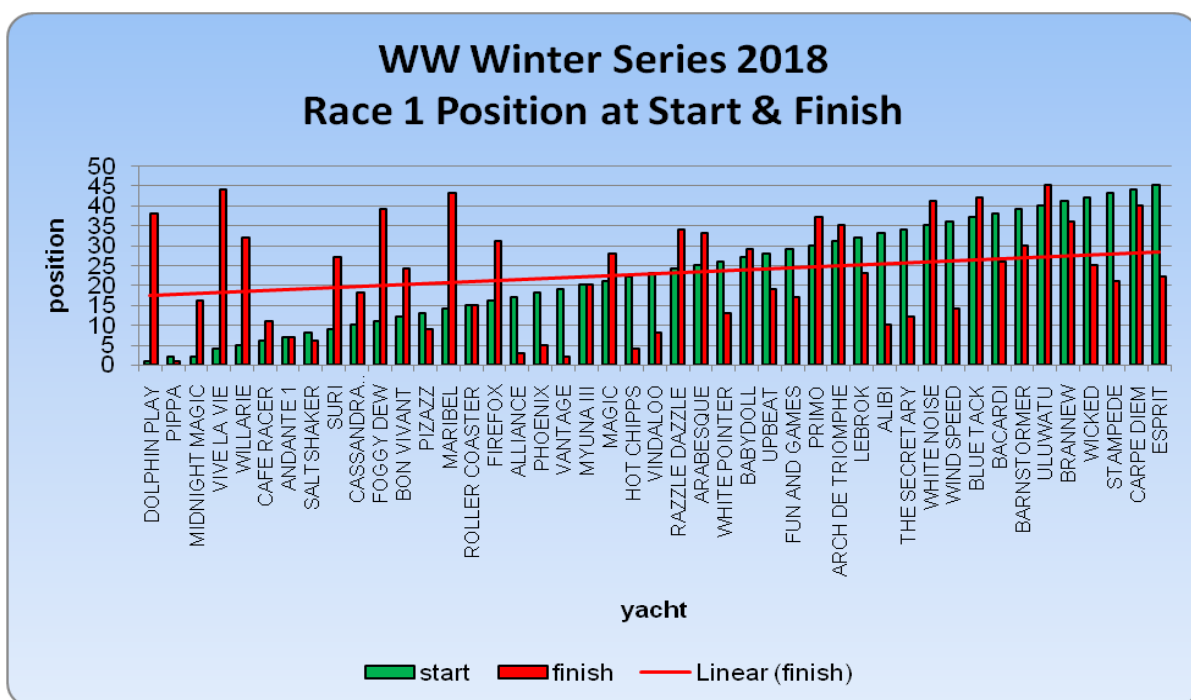


Last summer series was the first aggregate competition for ALLIANCE. She had 5 top ten finishes in 16 races and finished 14th in the aggregate. Generally, she improved as the series progressed. She started this series from 17th place only 3 seconds late for her 29 minute handicap. She rounded number 4 for the first time in 10th place after sailing the first 3 legs in 1:05:11. ALLIANCE sailed the last 3 legs of the race in 49 minutes and crossed the finish line in 3rd place at 15:53:14. She sailed the race as a casual entry so this result will not count towards the aggregate.

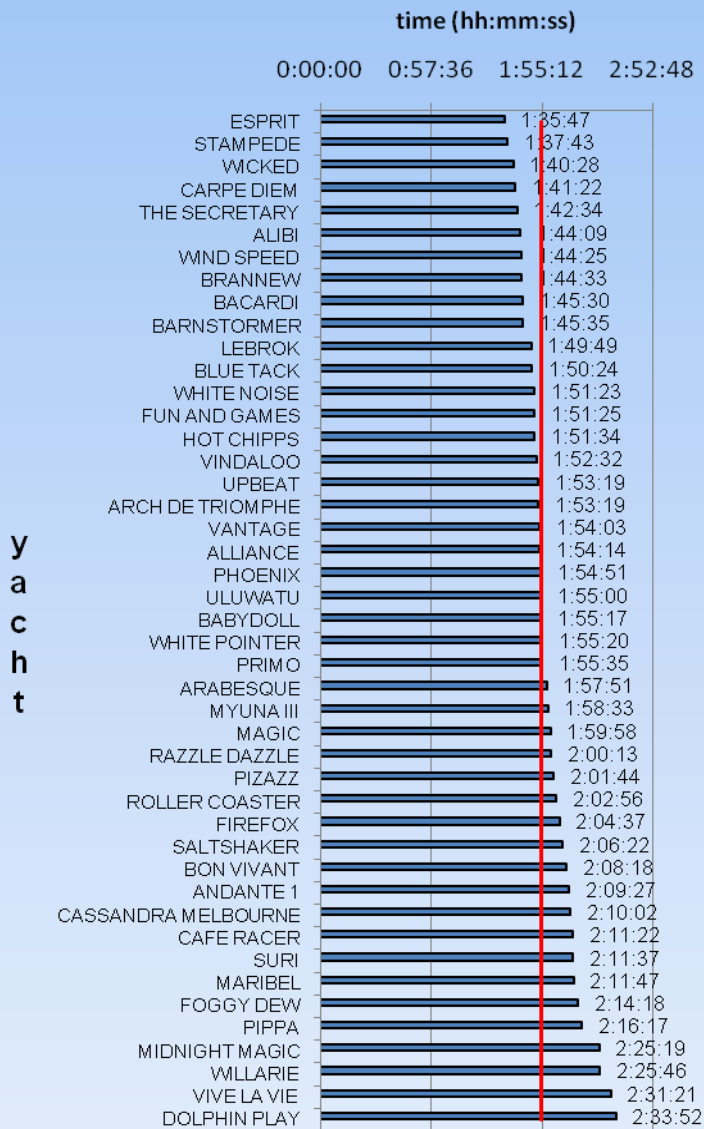
Almost half the fleet (21 yachts) started within 10 seconds or less of their handicaps. The median start time was 12 seconds (red line). Two yachts started too soon. WHITE POINTER by 1 second and ULUWATU by 11 seconds. Both received the 5 minute penalty. This cost WHITE POINTER 12 paces and a podium finish whilst ULUWATU finished 7 places further back. The winning start time of 2 seconds equals the highest winning start time recorded in the summer series.



The first third of the fleet to cross the finish line comprised 6 early and 6 mid fleet starters but only 3 late starters. It was a good day for those with little to gain and much to lose. Those with little to lose and lots gain did not fare so well.



WW Winter Series 2018 Race 1 Elapsed Time



The median elapsed time for the race (red line) was 1:55:08. The range of elapsed times spanned 58 minutes and 5 seconds which aligns closely with the 55 minute range of handicaps. UPBEAT (Peter Dunne) and ARCH DE TRIOMPHE (Rob Davis & Alistair Murray) received handicaps of 37 and 40 minutes respectively but were able to sail the course in the same time of 1:53:19. There was only 2 seconds difference between the elapsed times of WHITE NOISE (Daniel Edwards) and FUN & GAMES who received handicaps of 44 and 38 minutes respectively.

It was DOLPHIN PLAY (John Brennan) who had the best value for money.



By The Way

It looked as though VIVE LA VIE (Mark Sutherland) was sailed single handed! Quite an achievement negotiating the Wednesday afternoon peak hour traffic.





WIND SPEED (Les Browne) and ULUWATU (Peter Geary & Mal Billings) - a couple of well heeled yachts.



Four Beneteau Oceanis competed the first race of the series. They finished 3rd, 4th, 13th and 27th. HOT CHIPPS (John Chipp) was 4th.



You've got to concentrate really had to spot the next mark.
It worked for PHOENIX who finished 5th.

Thanks to Bruce Parry for the Photos.

Windward
Buoy