

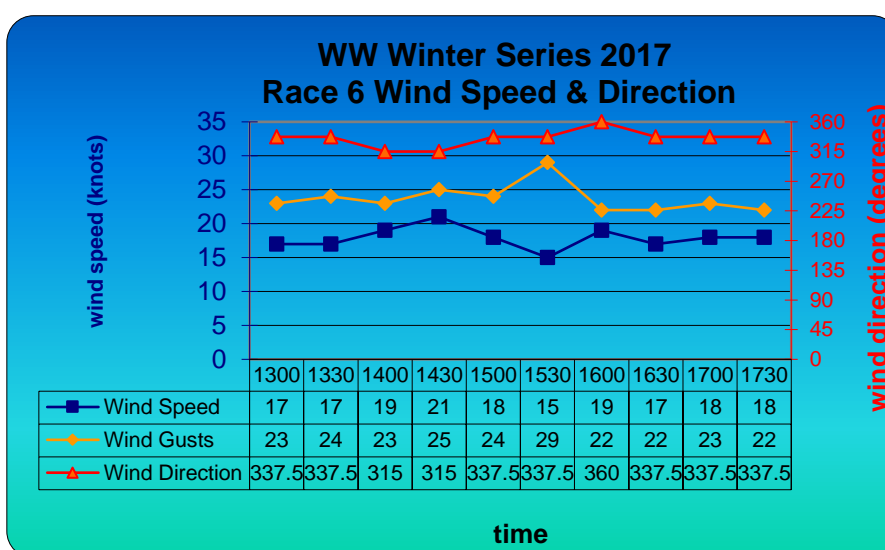
Long Course but Fast Time

Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2018 Race 6

(9 May 2018)



With an average speed of about 18 knots from the NNW this was the strongest wind of the series so far. The breeze produced something of a lumpy sea but ensured all 39 yachts completed the 10.1 nautical mile course 28 in record time. By comparison the average course length of the first 5 races was 8.3 miles. The average elapsed time was 1:46:38 compared to 2:00:19 for the first 5 races.



It was the first time on the podium for two of the yachts and a second time for the third. With 14 seconds to spare SURI (Rick Blanck) was first across the finish line to record her first podium finish of the series. VIVE LA VIE (Mark Sutherland) followed in second place to record her second podium finish of the series. Also making her first podium finish of the series was ROLLER COASTER (Geoffrey Simpson) who finished third.

It is proving difficult to keep WICKED (Mike Welsh) out of the limelight when she followed up 2 wins in the last two races with a perfect start to win Start of the Day. She becomes the 4th yacht in the series to start a race right on her handicap. STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala) showed she was more at home with the stronger breeze recording the fastest elapsed time. Five minutes eleven seconds faster than her closest rival ESPRIT (Garry Anderson).

VINDALOO (John Taylor) stays at the top of the aggregate for another week with WICKED in 2nd place. PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) is back in 3rd place after a week down at number 10. There are yachts in the shadows of the leaders that are accumulating good sets of numbers. Among them is the 2017-18 summer series aggregate winner WHITE POINTER (Tom Raft) along with ALIBI (Denis Hambleton), FUN & GAMES (Alan Edwards) and WIND SPEED (Les Browne).



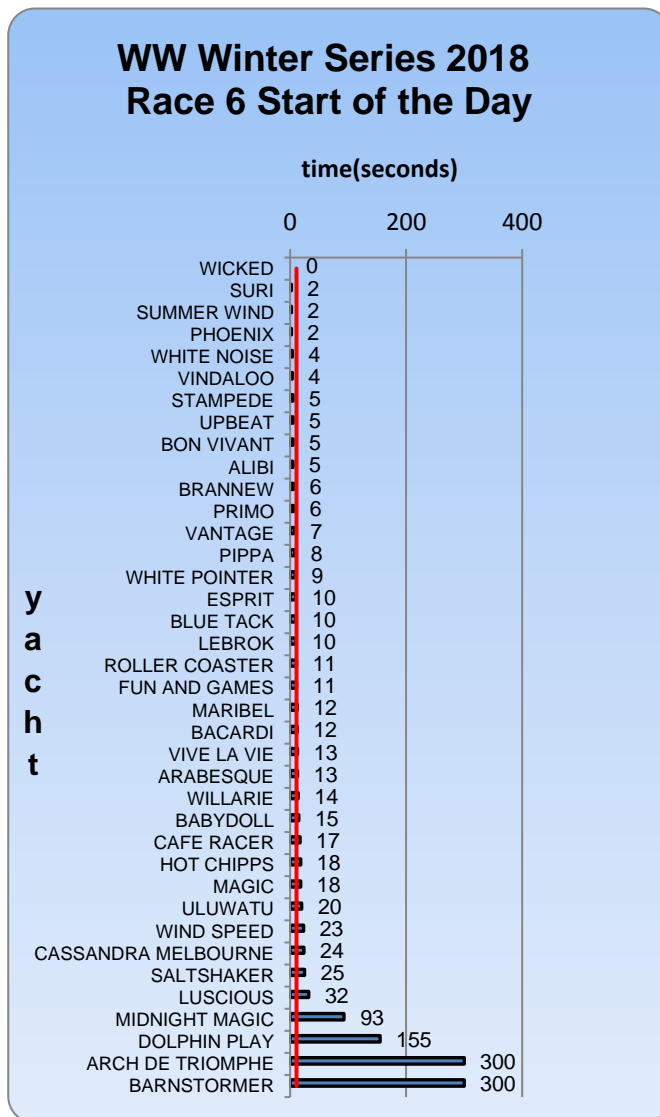
It seems that SURI performs better in the stronger breezes. She has completed 5 of the 6 races in the series and this is her best result so far. She started from 8th place only 2 seconds late for her 20 minute handicap – her best start. She sailed the first 4 legs of the course in 1:01:50 rounding number 4 for the first time in 5th place. At that stage of the race she was 6 minutes 41 seconds behind the race leader – VIVE LA VIE. SURI was able to make up the difference in the last 4 legs of the race and after sailing the course in 1:49:55 she was first across the finish line at 15:39:55 fourteen seconds ahead of VIVE LA VIE. SURI started the race 10 seconds ahead of MARIBEL (Graham Fraser) but proved to be 6 minutes 46 seconds faster. SURI improved her place in the aggregate from 32nd to 19th.

The Hunter 36 VIVE LA VIE has had her ups and downs in the six races of the series. So expect the unexpected. She won race 3 after finishing 44th in the first race of the series and came 2nd in this race after finishing 31st in race 5. She started this race from 5th place 13 seconds late for her 9 minute handicap. After completing the first 4 legs she had established a good lead over the remainder of the fleet. VIVE LA VIE sailed the course in 2:01:09 - the 7th slowest time of the race - and crossed the finish line at 15:40:09. This second place lifted her from 29th to 13th in the aggregate,

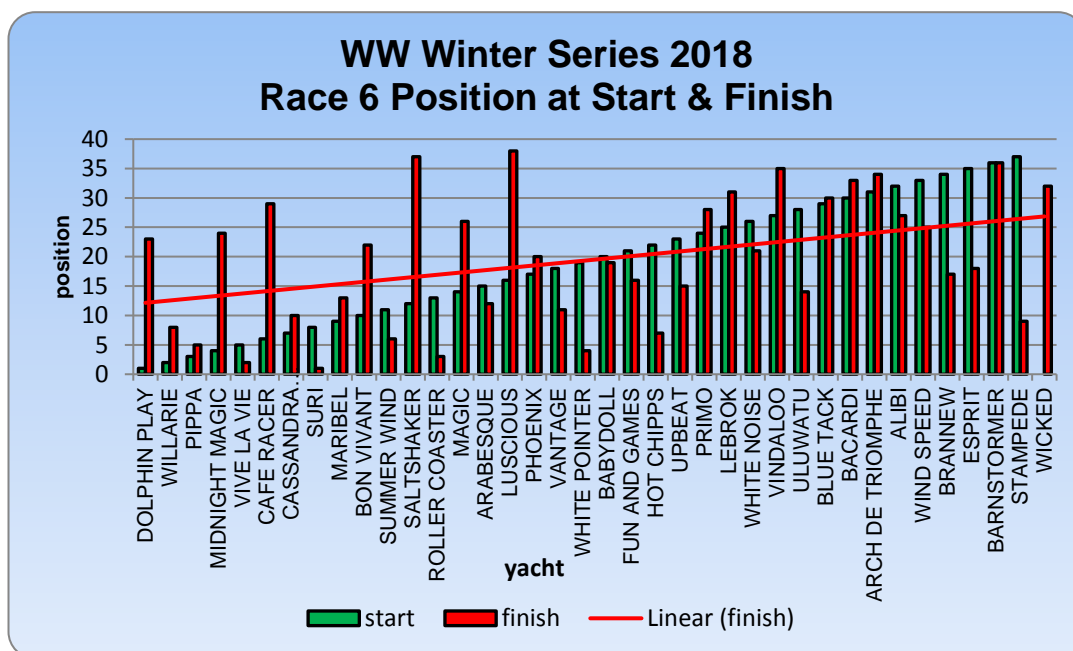


In her 4 previous races in the series the Hanse 38 ROLLER COASTER has an average finish place of about 27th. Finishing 3rd marks a big change. She started from 13th place 11 seconds late for her 25 minute handicap. This was 15 minutes 58 seconds behind VIVE LA VIE. She sailed the first 4 legs of the course in 1:00:49 by which time she was in 8th place still 12 minutes 9 seconds behind VIVE LA VIE. Although unable to catch her in the final 4 legs of the race she sailed fast enough to reduce the deficit to 23 seconds at the finish line. ROLLER COASTER sailed the course in 1:45:32 to cross the finish line at 15:40:32 to record her first podium finish of the series. She is currently 26th in the aggregate.

With a median start time of 11 seconds (red line) this was the second best start of the series. ARCH DE TRIOMPHE (Murray/Davis/Taylor) and BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) started too soon by 2 and 3 seconds respectively, were penalised 5 minutes and lost 6 and 10 places. WICKED won Start of the Day but was challenged by SURI, SUMMER WIND (Martyn Sly) and PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) each starting within 2 seconds of their handicaps.



The fleet started 53 minutes 25 seconds apart, were 29 minutes 29 seconds apart after the first four legs and finished 22 minutes 44 seconds apart. With 8 of the 13 early starters among the early finishers the mid fleet starters found it difficult to near the front of the fleet. STAMPEDE was the most successful starting 37th and finishing 9th.



The red line on the chart (left) indicates the median elapsed time of 1:42:21. This was the same time recorded by both BABYDOLL (Brendan Kruger)



and PRIMO (Steve Copley) who had handicaps of 36 and 39 minutes respectively. For the second time STAMPEDE had the fastest time.

By the Way

Is the winter series receiving more participation? At what is almost a quarter the way through the winter series an average of 40.7 yachts have contested each of the 6 races. This compares with an average of 37.7 yachts at the same time in the summer series.

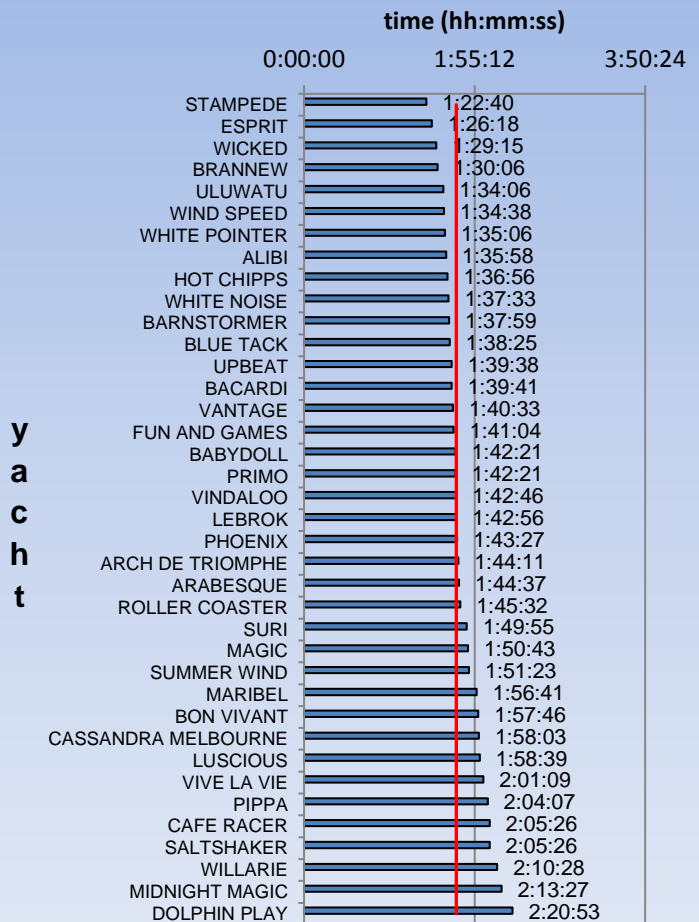
Result of Noelle Coram Trophy Reviewed

The reviewed results are shown below

NOELLE CORAM TROPHY SUMMER 2017-18			
YACHT	WED WONDERS	SUNDAY SAILORS	COMBINE
LEBROK*	4	7	11
RAZZLE DAZZLE	8	3	11
FOGGY DEW	12	9	21
THE SECRETARY	9	23	32
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	31	14	45
BLUE TACK	19	27	46
ALLIANCE	27	20	47
MYUNA III	35	12	47
VIVE LA VIE	45	18	63
DOLPHIN PLAY	47	22	69
PERFECT SENSE	49	26	75

* LEBROK won being better placed in the Wednesday series

WW Winter Series 2018 Race 6 Elapsed Time





WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) finished 8th – her best result for the series.

(Right) ARABESQUE (Milton Greene) receives some concentrated attention.



Wind gusts reached 29 knots at Fawkner. Above SUMMER WIND (Martyn Sly) and MARIBEL (Graham Fraser) discovered a couple.



WIND SPEED (Les Browne) & BLUE TACK (Andy Lynch) presenting as much sail as possible to the following breeze.



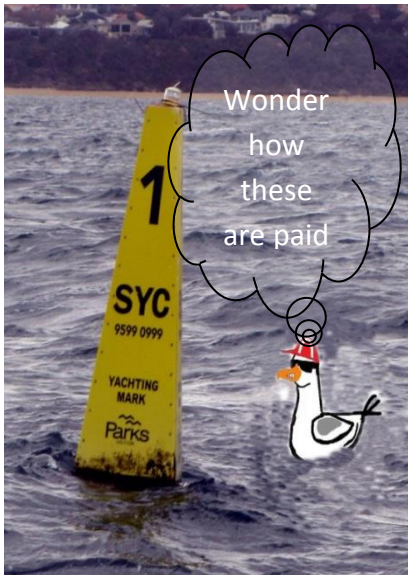


(Left) BON VIVANT (Russell Keyes) enjoying the race.

(Right & below) Sails work well for both VANTAGE (Darren Hunter) & ESPRIT (Garry Anderson).



The race is almost at an end for these 6 yachts.



Wonder how these are paid



Higher Purchase

Photos by Bruce Parry

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Sami the Seagull