This race featured a number of yachts making their series debut. Two debutants finished on the podium with a third recording the fastest elapsed time of the race. Twenty two yachts not only started but also finished the 8.2 nautical mile course 8 in 1:24:45 the fastest average elapsed time of the series. The fleet had been powered along by a breeze that varied but averaged about 12 knots for the morning and settled into the west south west after starting in the south west.

GISELLE (Robert Freeman) won the race in commanding style in her first completed race of the series. She finished 6 minutes 10 seconds ahead of her closest rival. In her first race of the series PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) finished in second place. Third was KISMET (Doug Jackson) who made this her second podium finish in two races.

There was a tie for Start of the Day between DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) and WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) who both recorded a 3 second start.

With the help of a spinnaker the fastest elapsed time of 1:07:10 was sailed by VELOCE (Phil Simpfendorfer) in her first race of the winter series.

Although CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE remains at the top of the aggregate, there were changes as a result of the race. LEBROK (Theo Korbel) moves into second place with SKULLDUGGERY (Gary McCarten) in third. FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) enters the aggregate top ten for the first time this series whilst VIVE LA VIE (Mark Sutherland) and KISMET re enter the top ten after slipping out after the first race.
GISELLE started the race 14 minutes 56 seconds before anyone else so it is not too surprising she led all the way and won by a margin of 6 minutes 10 seconds. She started 27 seconds late for her -2 minute handicap; sailed the course in 1:42:44; and, was first across the finish line at 11:10:44. Earlier this series GISELLE started but did not finish race 2 so this is her first completed race of the series. It is her first podium finish since race 1 of the summer series which she won. GISELLE moves up from 21st to be 14th in the aggregate.

PHOENIX started this race from 8th place 10 seconds late for her 24 minute handicap. This was 1 minute 58 seconds after FOGGY DEW who had a 22 minute handicap. PHOENIX sailed the course in 1:22:54 – 8 minutes 16 seconds faster than FOGGY DEW and finished in 2nd place crossing the finish line at 11:16:54. PHOENIX was a casual entry in the race so is not part of the aggregate.

This was the second race completed by KISMET this series. She started from 5th place only 9 seconds late for her 18 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 1:30:22 and crossed the finish line in 3rd place at 11:18:22 - 1 minute 28 seconds behind PHOENIX. KISMET and CASSANDRA started from the same handicap but KISMET sailed the faster of the two and crossed the finish line 10 minutes 16 seconds and 12 places ahead. She moves from 17th to 9th in the aggregate.
A median start time of 16 seconds (red line) made this the best start of the series. Eight yachts had starts of 10 seconds or less with only 1 yacht starting a minute or more late. DEBONNAIRE and WINSOME became the 4th and 5th different yacht to win Start of the day.

With 8 of the first yachts to start among the first half to finish this was something of a “soldier’s course”. Only 3 of the yachts starting at the back half of the fleet managed to finish in the first half.
With the help of a spinnaker in both downwind legs from 1 to 7 VELoce recorded the fastest elapsed time of the race. The median elapsed time was the fastest this series beating the previous fastest by 17 minutes 59 seconds. This wasn’t too surprising being the shortest course. WINSOME and FIRST PASSION sailed the course in almost the same time missing by just 1 second.

Despite being a “soldier’s course” there were a couple of last minute challenges. (Below left) XPRESSO (Damian & Ari Abrahams) did pass ALEGRIA (S. May & O. Horton) and cross the line 1 second ahead. (Right) HI JAC (John Gledhill) withstood a challenge from both PERFECT SENSE (Peter Sutton) and WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) and they finished 9th, 10th and 11th respectively.
(Left) CASSANDRA finished 15\textsuperscript{th} but it was enough to retain the aggregate leadership.

(Right) PLAYLIST recorded the 2\textsuperscript{nd} fastest elapsed time for the race.

(Left) THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) had the 3\textsuperscript{rd} fastest elapsed time and finished 16\textsuperscript{th}.

(Right) FOGGY DEW started from 7\textsuperscript{th} place and finished 4\textsuperscript{th}.

(Left) WHITE ONYX (Ben & Katherine Solly) finished 4\textsuperscript{th} with the 5\textsuperscript{th} fastest elapsed time in her first completed winter race.

(Right) COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) moved into 4\textsuperscript{th} in the aggregate after finishing 12\textsuperscript{th}.

\textbf{Race 5 is scheduled for 8 July 2018}