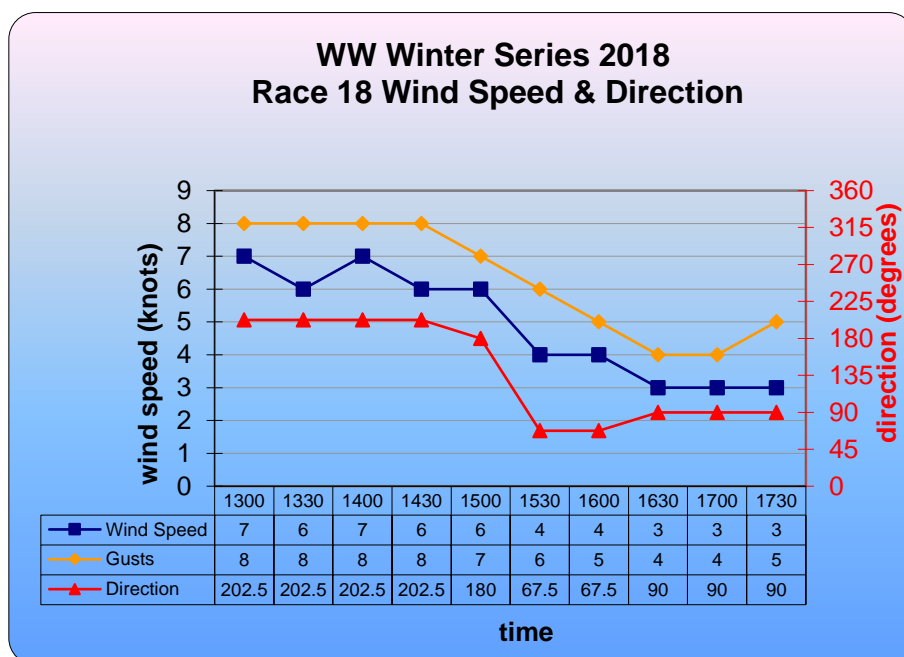


A Good Start but Then..... Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2018 Race 18 (1 Aug 2018)



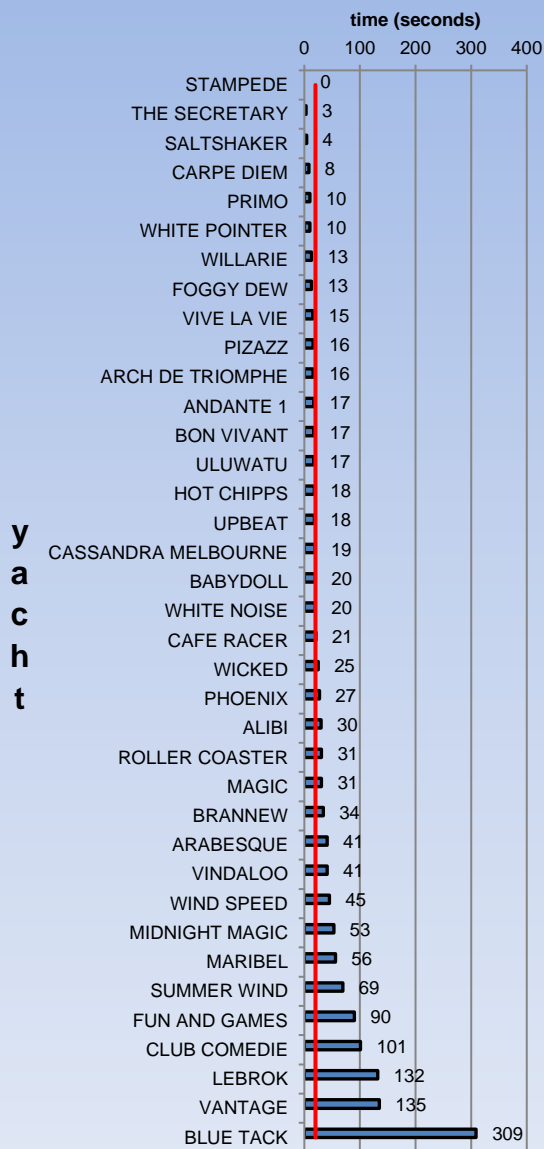
The Bureau forecasted variable winds below 10 knots for Wednesday afternoon. Regardless a group of enthusiastic optimists gathered for the start of race 18 in what, for a Melbourne winter, were balmy conditions. The selection of the 9.9 nautical mile course 14 was an ambitious selection in such a light breeze. However, the 37 yacht fleet all managed to start the race in a SSW breeze that fluctuated around 7 knots. These conditions didn't last and many yachts, particularly those of heavy displacement, found difficulty in tacking for the first mark. To the relief of some and disappointment of others the race was abandoned at 1451 as the breeze eased. Observations at Fawkner Beacon saw the wind speed halved between 1500 and 1530 and shift in direction from SSW to easterly.



This is the 4th race in the 26 race series to be abandoned - two the result of strong winds and two due to light winds. In addition to the 4 abandoned races there have been 5 races around a shortened course. The average course length for this series is 8.8 nautical miles with an average elapsed time of 119.9 minutes. By comparison the average course length for the summer series was 9.9 miles with an average sail time of 128.5 minutes.

The aggregate remains the same for another week with CAFE RACER (Alan Clapham) and PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) equal on 52 points at the top and WHITE POINTER (Tom Raft) 1 point behind.

WW Winter Series 2018 Race 18 Start of the Day



The median start time of 20 seconds (red line) was above the 15.4 second average for the series. Only six yachts recorded a start time of 10 seconds or less whilst 6 yachts had starts of over 60 seconds. STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala) won Start of the Day with a perfect start. This is the second win for STAMPEDE and follows her perfect start in race 7. She becomes the 4th yacht to win the start on 2 occasions.



There was some deep thought, pondering & planning in the pre race stages.





Slowly but surely the race got underway



A bit of weight on the "low side" proved popular



Photos by

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