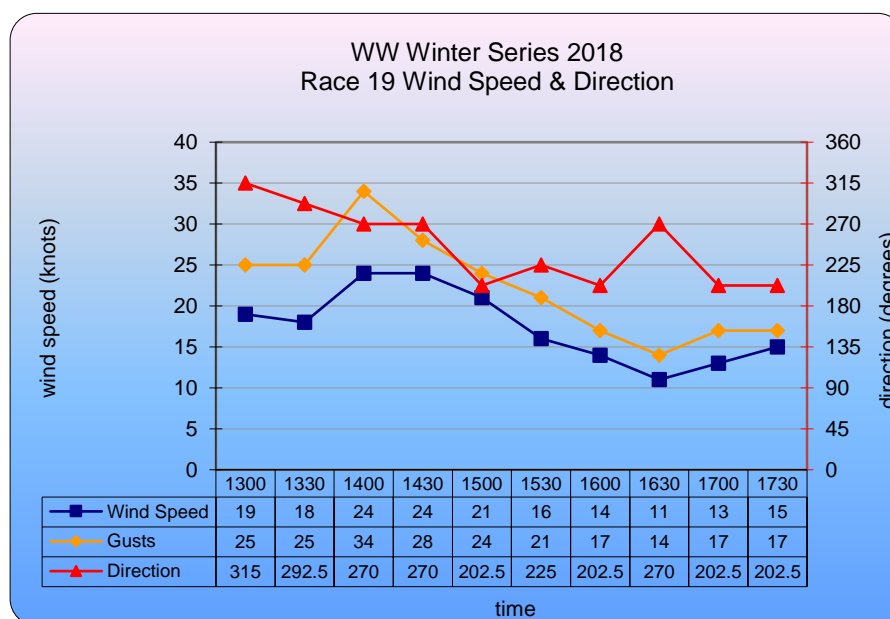


This One Held a Surprise!
Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2018 Race 19
 (8 Aug 2018)



Race 19 is likely to be remembered for the squall that struck the fleet shortly before 1400. It brought an increase in the wind strength and enough rain to reduce visibility. Fawkner Beacon recorded a gust of 34 knots and the potential fleet of 23 yachts was reduced to 17. Three yachts recorded DNS whilst three others retired. The wind did ease as the afternoon progressed and averaged about 18 knots. This was enough to produce some fast times around the 10.2 nautical mile course 29. It is a credit to all the 17 yachts that completed a long race in less than ideal conditions.



First across the finish line was FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) to record her second win of the series. The Beneteau 43, PERFECT SENSE (Peter Sutton), finished second, her third podium finish of the series. CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) collected her first podium finish of the series when she finished third. Before the squall arrived WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) produced the perfect start to win Start of the Day – the 11th perfect start of the series. For the sixth time in the series STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala) was the fastest yacht around the course.

After finishing in fourth place WILLARIE replaces CAFE RACER (Alan Clapham) at the top of the aggregate. Although both PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) and WHITE POINTER (Tom Raft) retired from the race they remain second and third in the aggregate positions they have held for 3 and 5 weeks respectively.



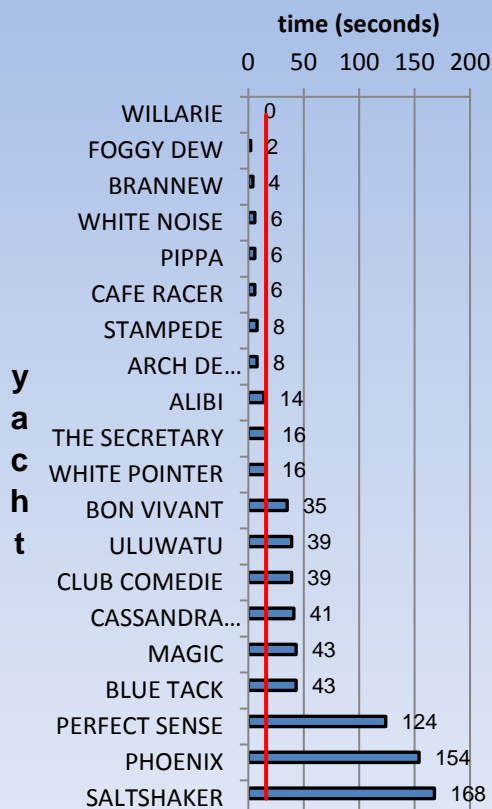
FOGGY DEW has completed 11 races and finished in the top ten on five occasions including three podium finishes. She began the series with a handicap of 20 minutes which fell to a series low of 14 minutes but had increased to 20 minutes by race 15. She recorded her best start this winter when she crossed the start line from 5th place, 2 seconds late for her 20 minute handicap. By the first rounding of SYC 4 FOGGY DEW had moved into 3rd place still 5 minutes 25 seconds behind the race leader. During the last 3 legs of the race she took the lead and crossed the finish line at 15:42:27 - 1 minute 52 seconds behind her closest rival. FOGGY DEW sailed the course in 1:52:27 the 10th fastest time of the race. She moved into 17th place in the aggregate her highest position in the series.

PERFECT SENSE has sailed all her seven races as a visitor. She has finished within the top ten on 4 occasions including two 1st and a 2nd. Her handicap started at 21 minutes and as increased to 30 minutes for this race. She didn't have the best of starts – 2 minutes 4 seconds late from 10th place. PERFECT SENSE sailed the first 4 legs of the course in 50 minutes 44 seconds and moved up from 10th to 6th place. By comparison STAMPEDE completed her 4 legs of the course in 41 minutes 40 seconds. It took PERFECT SENSE longer (51 minutes 31 seconds) to sail the last three legs than it did the first 4. She crossed the finish line at 15:44:19 to record her third podium finish of the winter



CASSANDRA won the 2017 winter aggregate with a total of 90.5 points. This score included 8 top ten finishes. So far she has been unable to repeat that performance this series with only 4 top ten finishes in 14 completed races. CASSANDRA started the race from 3rd place 41 seconds late for her 17 minute handicap – her lowest handicap of the series. By the first rounding of SYC 4 she had slipped back into 4th place 1 minute 47 seconds behind FOGGY DEW. In the final three legs of the race she was unable to overtake FOGGY DEW, was overtaken by PERFECT SENSE but managed to pass two yachts to finish third. CASSANDRA had sailed the course in 2:02:13 and crossed the finish line at 15:49:13. She is now 11th in the aggregate.

WW Winter Series 2018 Race 19 Start of the Day



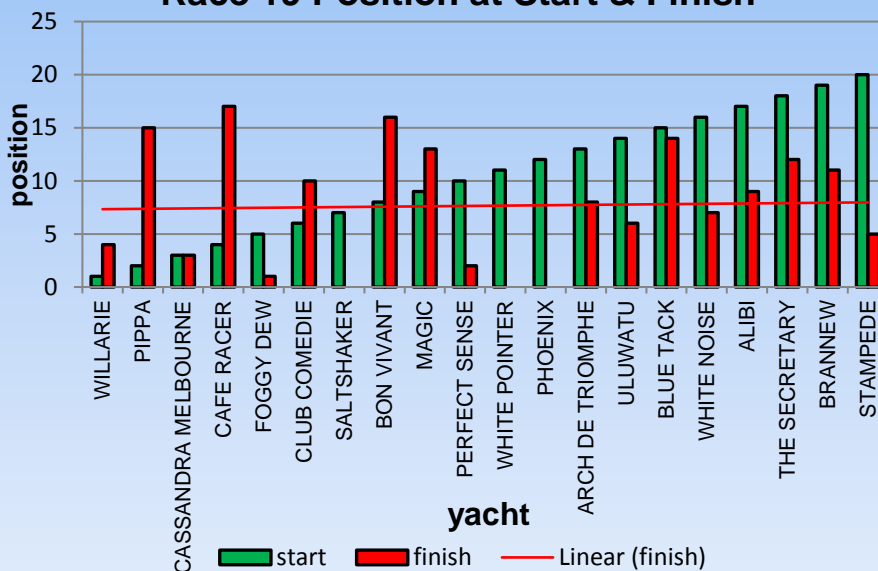
The average winning time for Start of the Day is 0.95 seconds influenced largely by the 11 perfect starts so far this series. WILLARIE became one of the perfect starters in a race that produced a median start time of 16 seconds (red line). Eight yachts started within 8 seconds or less of their handicaps whilst three yachts started more than 2 minutes late.



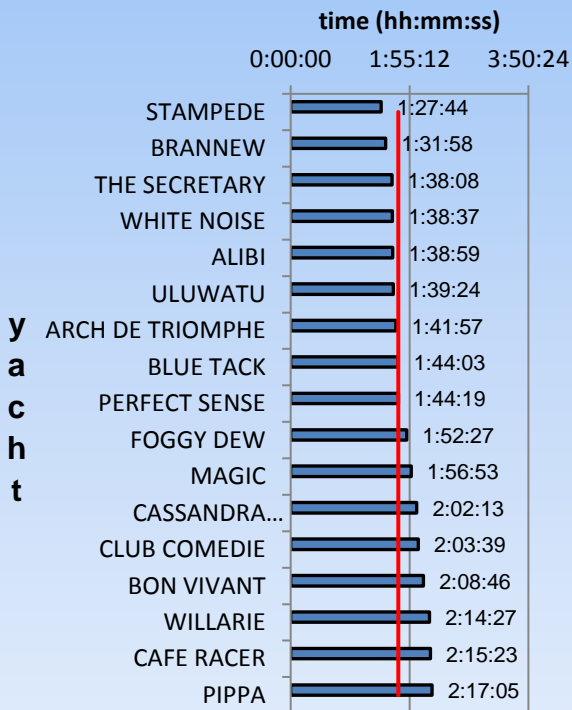
The twenty starters began the race 47 minutes 8 seconds apart. By the first rounding of SYC 4 this gap had reduced to 26 minutes 20 seconds which reduced further to 21 minutes 56 seconds at the finish line.

ARCH DE TRIOMPHE (Murray/Davis/Taylor) narrowly beat ALIBI (Denis Hambleton) by 2 seconds for 8th place. The same margin separated BLUE TACK (Andy Lynch) from PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) in the contest for 14th place. ULUWATU (Mal Billings) recorded her best result of the series finishing 6th after starting 15th.

WW Winter Series 2018 Race 19 Position at Start & Finish



WW Winter Series 2018 Race 19 Elapsed Time



The median elapsed time was 1:44:19 (red line) which was recorded by PERFECT SENSE. For the sixth time this series STAMPEDE recorded the fastest elapsed time. She was 4 minutes 14 seconds faster than BRANNEW (Clive Sondheim) and 10 minutes 24 seconds faster than THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) who had the third fastest elapsed time. The range of elapsed times was 49 minutes 21 seconds close to the 47 minute range of handicaps.



This was one squall that missed the WW fleet but probably hit the city



BLUE TACK & PIPPA
finished within 2 seconds
of each other.





Both CAFE RACER (left) & HOT CHIPPS (right) finished the race. CAFE RACER slipped 3 places in the aggregate HOT CHIPPS improved by 3 places.



BRANNEW sailed the course in the second fastest time whilst THE SECRETARY recorded 3rd fastest.



Photos
By
Bruce Parry
&
Graham Furness

Windward
Buoy