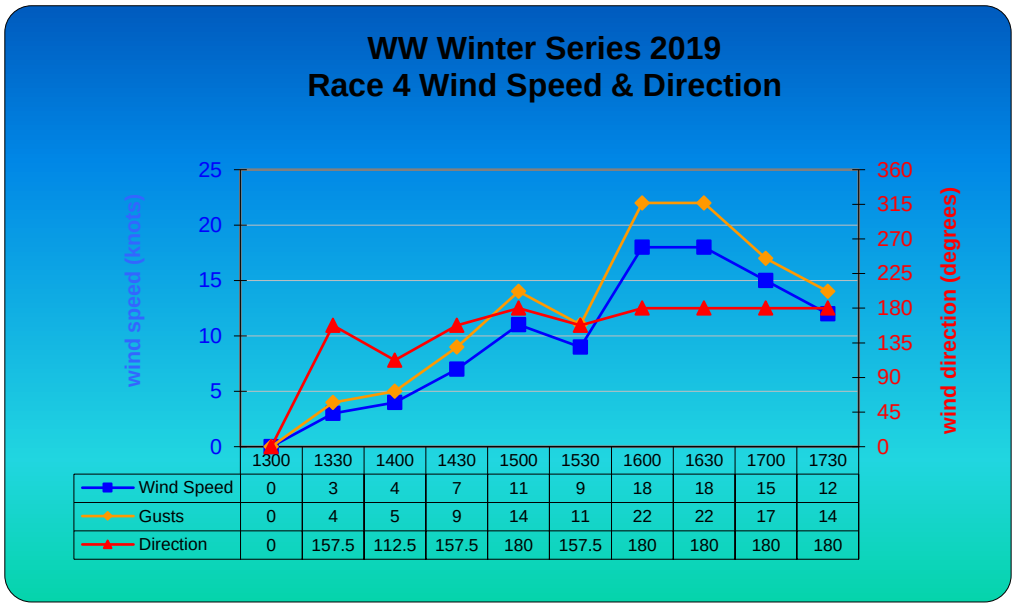
From a Tranquil Start to a Lively Finish
Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2019 Race 4
(24 Apr 2019)

Thirty four yachts gathered to contest race 4 around the 8.2 nautical mile course 9 in a breeze that grew from 3 to 18 knots. This was the largest increase in wind strength in a very long time. It was arguably this increase in wind strength that proved decisive. Twelve of the first 13 yachts to cross the finish line had handicaps of 40 minutes or more.



	1300	1330	1400	1430	1500	1530	1600	1630	1700	1730
Wind Speed	0	3	4	7	11	9	18	18	15	12
Gusts	0	4	5	9	14	11	22	22	17	14
Direction	0	157.5	112.5	157.5	180	157.5	180	180	180	180

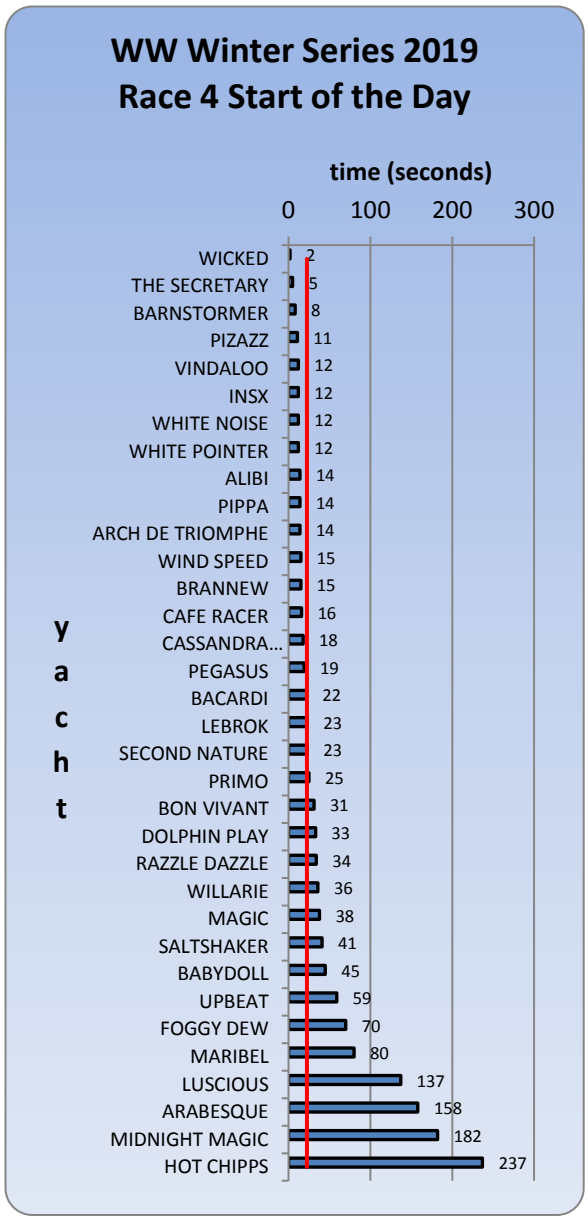
WICKED (Mike Welsh) won Start of the Day with a time of 2 seconds. Crossing the finish line in first place was BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) who recorded her first podium finish since race 4 of the 2018 winter series. ALIBI (Denis Hambleton) was second – her first podium finish since race 19 of the 2018-19 summer series. In third place was VINDALOO (John Taylor) who had her last podium finish in race 8 also in the 2018-19 summer series. Sailing the course in the fastest time of 1:29:47 was WICKED who has recorded the fastest elapsed time in each of the three races this series. Winning the first race in the Century Class was RAZZLE DAZZLE (Andrew Stopp) who finished 6th in the Summer Series Century Class.

BARNSTORMER, ARABESQUE (Milton Green) and WICKED are all equal on points at the top of the series aggregate. They are followed by THE SECRETARY (George Shaw), LEBROK (Theo Korbel) and ALIBI each on 2 points with VINDALOO and INSX (Rob Sill) both with three points.

BARNSTORMER completed 14 races in the summer series with a 4th place her best result. She carried over her 47 minute handicap from the summer into this series finishing 14th and 13th in the first two races. She started this race from 28th place, 8 seconds late for her handicap. She made significant progress during the first 4 legs of the race to round SYC 4 in 10th place only 3 minutes 5 seconds behind the leader. BARNSTORMER sailed the last three legs of the race in 37 minutes 32 seconds to cross the finish line at 15:47:41- 58 seconds ahead of her closest rival. She sailed the course in the second fastest elapsed time of the race.

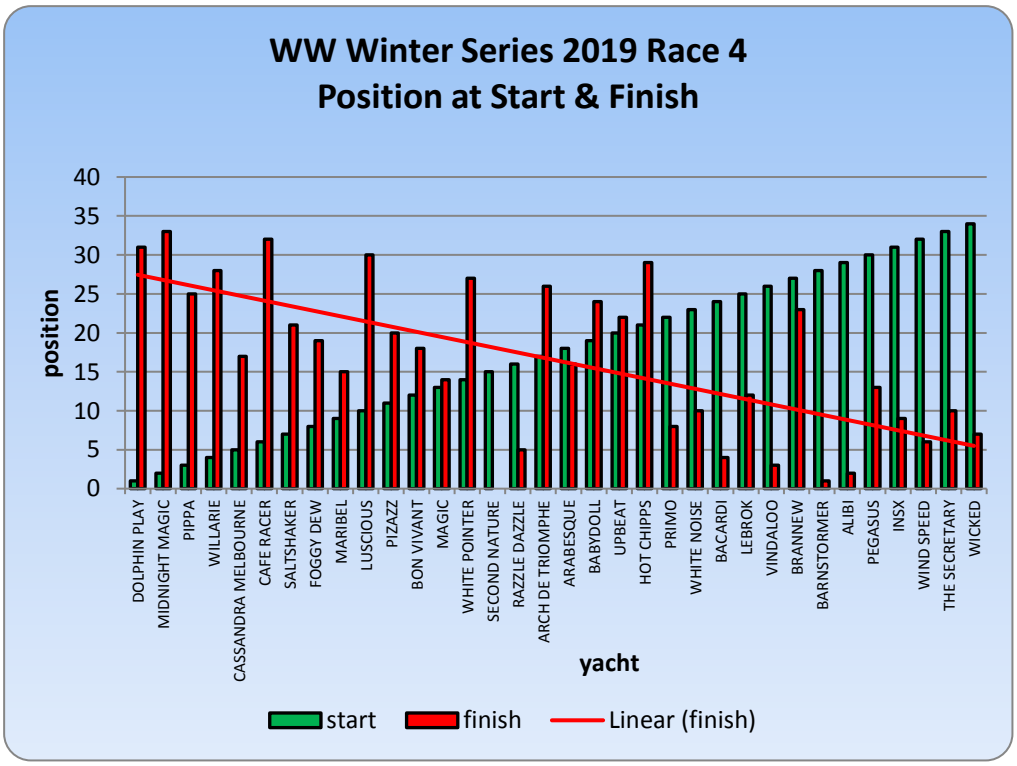
ALIBI started from 29th place only 6 seconds behind BARNSTORMER but took 1 minute 57 seconds longer to sail the first 4 legs of the course and rounded SYC 4 in 17th place. ALIBI was able to regain some ground in the last three legs of the race which she sailed 64 seconds faster. She was second across the finish line at 15:48:39 after completing the course in the third fastest elapsed time. ALIBI sailed 19 of the 20 races completed in the summer series and finished 12th in the series aggregate. She has made a very good start to this series sailing all three races and recording three top ten finishes – two 9 places and now a 2nd. She is currently in a three way tie for 2nd place in the aggregate.

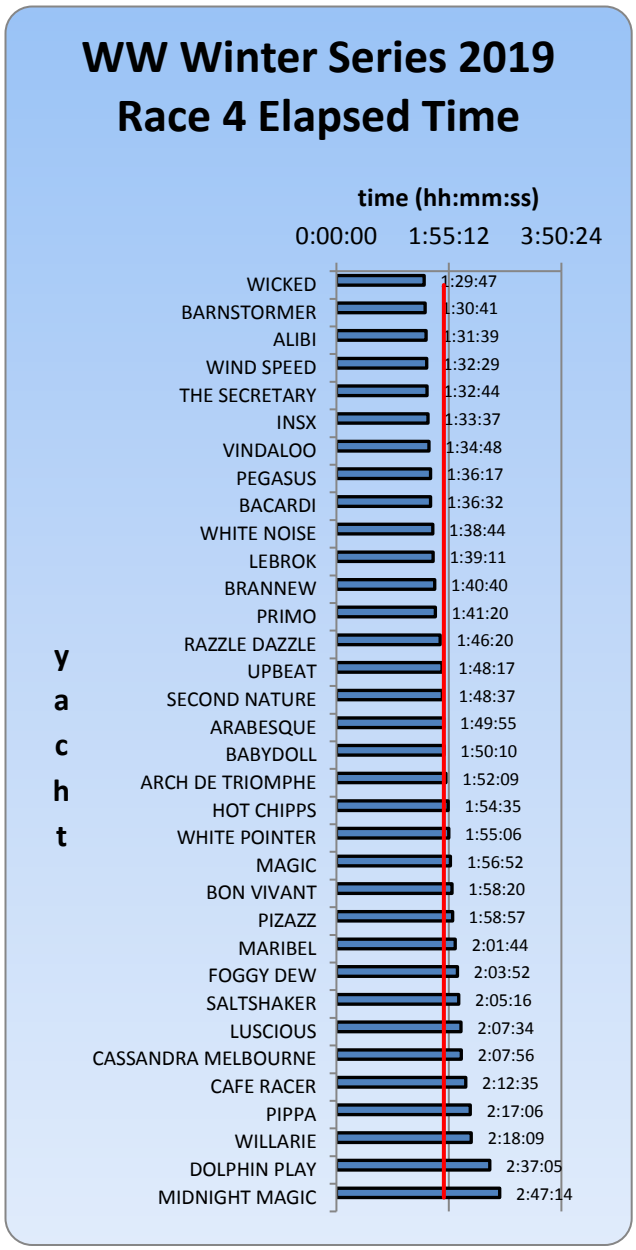
VINDALOO started this race from 26th place, 12 seconds late for her 44 minute handicap. She sailed the first 4 legs of the course in 56 minutes 26 seconds and rounded SYC 4 in 11th place. It took her 38 minutes 10 seconds to complete the remaining three legs and she crossed the finish line 15:48:48 – only 9 seconds behind ALIBI. This was the first race of the winter series for VINDALOO and she is in a two way tie for third place in the aggregate. She completed 9 of the races in the summer series accumulating 5 top ten finishes. She finished 40th in the summer aggregate.



The median start time for the race was 22.5 seconds – the highest since race 23 of the 2018 winter series. Only three yachts started within 10 seconds or less whilst 6 yachts started more than a minute late. As mentioned earlier WICKED won start of the day.

None of the first 14 yachts to start the race were able to improve upon their start positions. The last 14 yachts to start improved their start positions by an average of 17 places. There was a tie for 10th place with both THE SECRETARY and WHITE NOISE (Daniel Edwards) finishing at 15:51:44.





The median elapsed time for the race was 1:50:02 – by far the fastest of the series to date. Only 15 seconds separated the elapsed times of BABYDOLL and ARABESQUE who had handicaps of 37 and 35 minutes respectively. MIDNIGHT MAGIC (Bernadette Moore) got best value for money by sailing the course in 2:47:14.

There are 13 yachts in the Century Class Winter Series with 12 taking part in the first race of the series. The most recent inclusion in the series is CAFE RACER (Alan Clapham).The first race was won by RAZZLE DAZZLE with THE SECRETARY in 2nd place and MAGIC (Phil Spry Bailey) finishing 3rd.

CENTURY CLASS WINTER SERIES 2019 RACE 1						
PLACE	YACHT	DESIGN	SKIPPER	ELAPSED	FINISH	HCAP
1	RAZZLE DAZZLE	Swarbrick 111	Andrew Stopp	1:46:20	15:50:20	0:34:00
2	THE SECRETARY	J44	George Shaw	1:32:44	15:51:44	0:49:00
3	MAGIC	S & S 39	Phil Spry-Bailey	1:56:52	15:53:52	0:27:00
4	ARABESQUE	Farr 1020	Milton Green	1:49:55	15:54:55	0:35:00
5	CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	Mottle 33	Bob Reeves	2:07:56	15:54:56	0:17:00
6	BON VIVANT	S80	Russell Keays	1:58:20	15:55:20	0:27:00
7	SALTSHAKER	Jarkan 925	Ken Gayler	2:05:16	15:56:16	0:21:00
8	PIPPA	Triton 24	Jeffrey Woolhouse	2:17:06	15:58:06	0:11:00
9	WILLARIE	Triton 24	Graeme Kaufman	2:18:09	15:59:09	0:11:00
10	DOLPHIN PLAY	Triton	John Brennan	2:37:05	16:02:05	0:05:00
11	CAFE RACER	Peterson	Alan Clapham	2:12:35	16:02:35	0:20:00
12	MIDNIGHT MAGIC	East Coast 31	Bernadette Moore	2:47:14	16:14:14	0:03:00

MARIBEL was almost vertical at the start of the race but had a different slant on things towards the end.

(Below) All calm & serene waiting to start.

THE SECRETARY (right) made the 2nd best start of the race.

ARABESQUE (below) was not as fortunate starting 2 minutes 38 seconds after her handicap.

SECOND NATURE (right) crossed the finish line in 13th place, but didn't register on member point so received a 5 position penalty.

(Above) BON VIVANT crossed the finish line 32 seconds ahead of FOGGY DEW.

(Right) BACARDI finished 4th – her best result of the series.

PRIMO (below left) was the best of the 367's in this race beating both UPBEAT (below centre) & LEBROK (below right).

(Below) Approaching the finish.

Graham Furness