

SUNDAY SAILORS REPORT May 7 2023 – Winter Series First Race

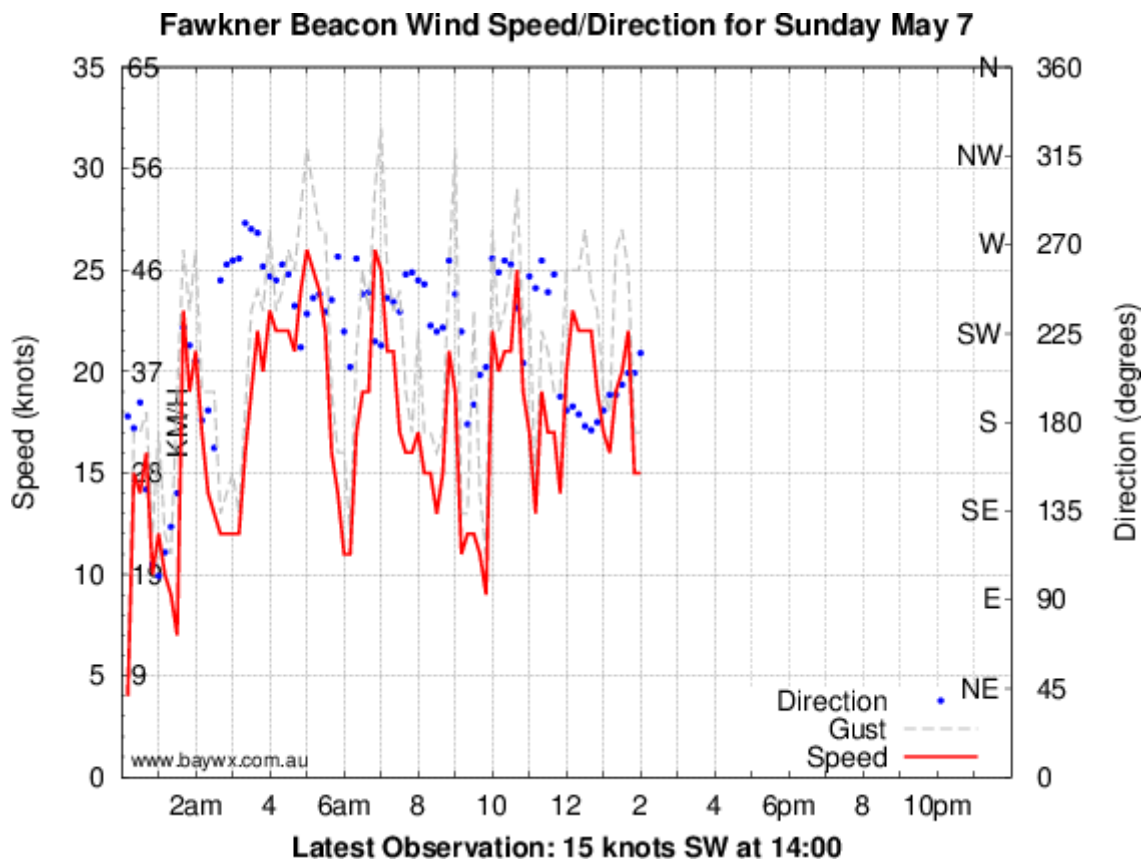
Intro

Well what happened to the nice autumn weather?? Headlines said coldest Melbourne Weekend in 3 years. Who can believe that?? 20 cm of snow across the alpine regions with more falling....

And today... cold wet, forecast of hail and thunderstorms with 30 knot squalls in the rain showers as they came through.... It's a wonder we had 9 starters!!

So the wind was changeable from West to South and back, which meant the seas were not large. Lulls of 15 knots were followed by gusts of up to 30 knots. At least four rain showers crossed the race course, one containing intense hail!!!

The course was Number 12 - 9.3 nM.



Results

Nine boats started with no spinnakers being sighted. In a 3 way tussle between **Hitchhiker (Dave and Penny Goodman)**, **Winsome (Simon Hemingway)** and **Firefox (Kim Beveridge and Anthony Clyne)**, **Hitchhiker** just held on to win. Two boats retired (see the Gossip section).

The first beat to number 5 included an intense hailstorm (just around Anonyma Reef for the leaders) followed by strengthening winds on the broad reaches from 5 to 2 and then 2 to 3. The wind was regularly around 25-27 knots with gusts over 30. Throw in two gybes and there were some nervous skippers and crew.



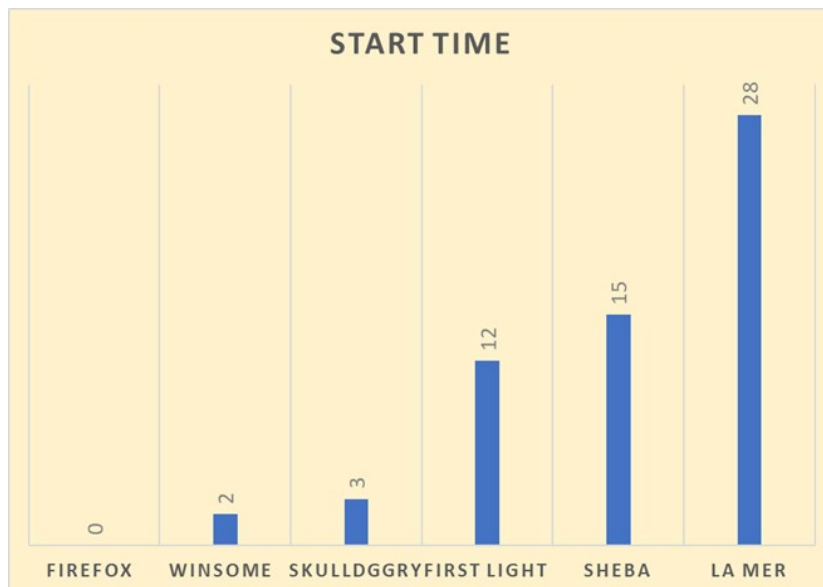
Your worthy winner Hitchhiker

Start of the Day

Start of the day was **Firefox (again)** in 0 seconds (to add to her 3rd – a good day). Winsome was reportedly confident until Firefox's result was announced. At 2 seconds along with Dulldrudgery's 3 seconds, these were some good results in tough conditions. The average start was 68 seconds (a couple of late starters) with 33% of the boats starting at 10 seconds or less.

Once again, in the visual below I have left out the starts over 60 seconds to spare the blushes of those concerned.....

Looking at the last 12 months the average boat start is 43 seconds (not very inspiring) with about one boat in four starting withing 10 seconds of their allotted handicap..... Room for improvement clearly.

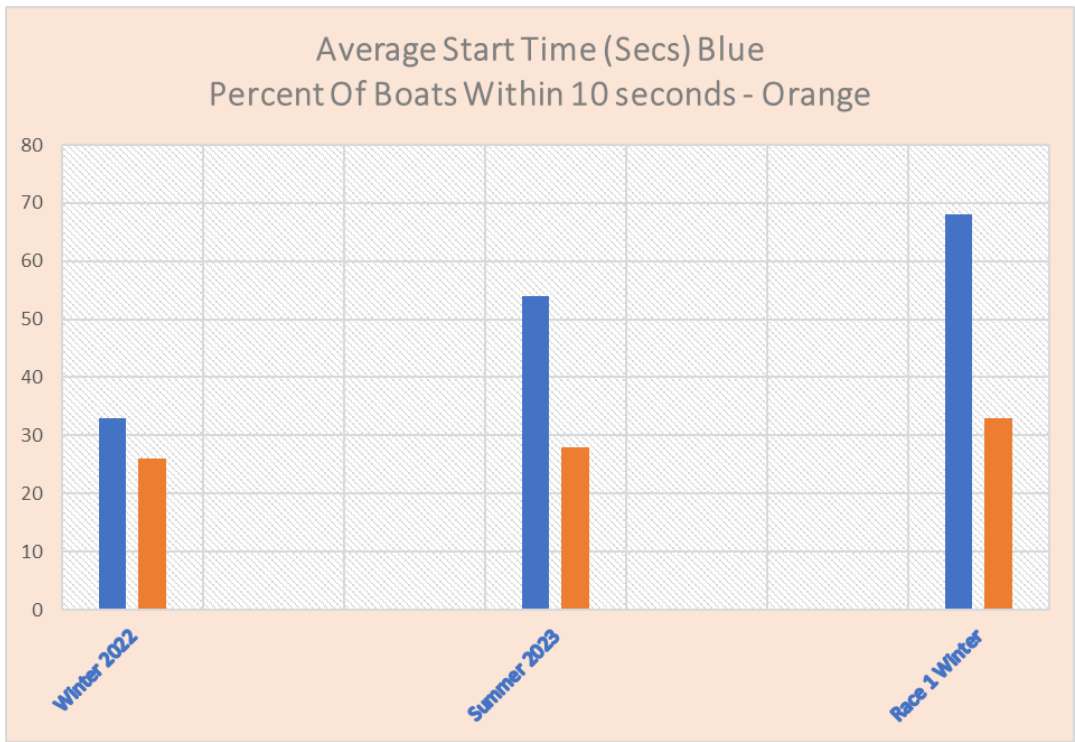




Winsome sailing out to sea on another day. She finished second in the race and second in start of the day.



A great day for **Firefox**: Start of the Day and third



SERIES BEST STARTERS

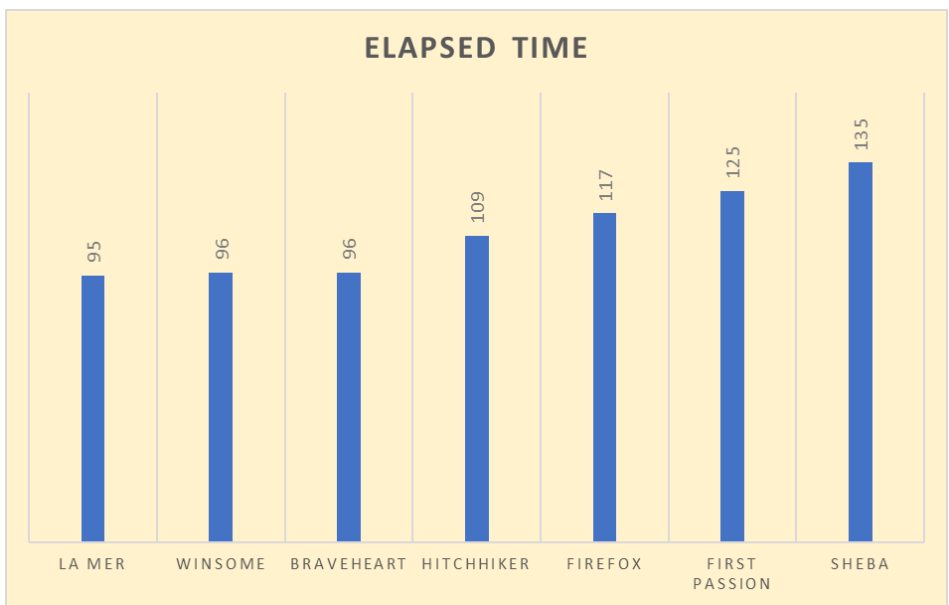
Firefox leads the way after one race!!!

Half Time Score

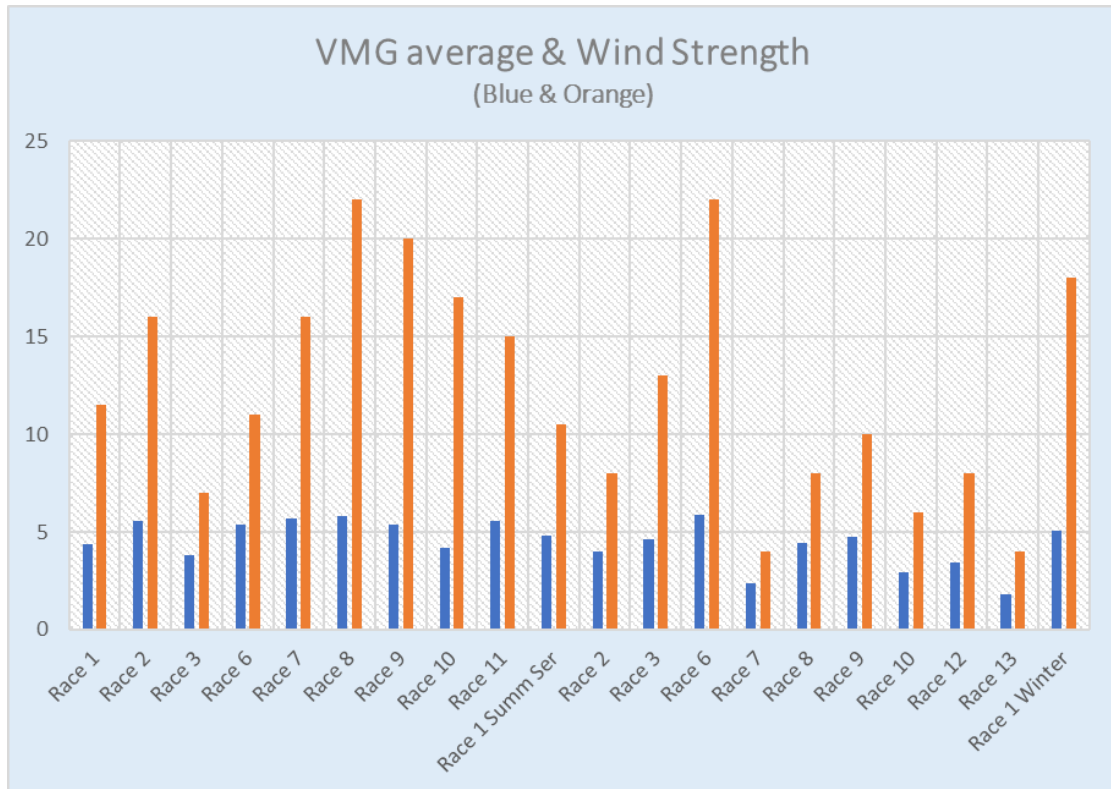
The leader after one lap was **Hitchhiker** (despite some technical foul ups after rounding mark 3) from **Firefox**, with **Winsome** closing the distance.. A long look back was needed to see the next boat – **La Mer (Michael Ebeling)**. But **La Mer** sailed well on the second lap to close the gap well.

Elapsed Times

La Mer had the fastest elapsed time- well done. **Braveheart** and **Winsome** were about a minute slower on 96 minutes.



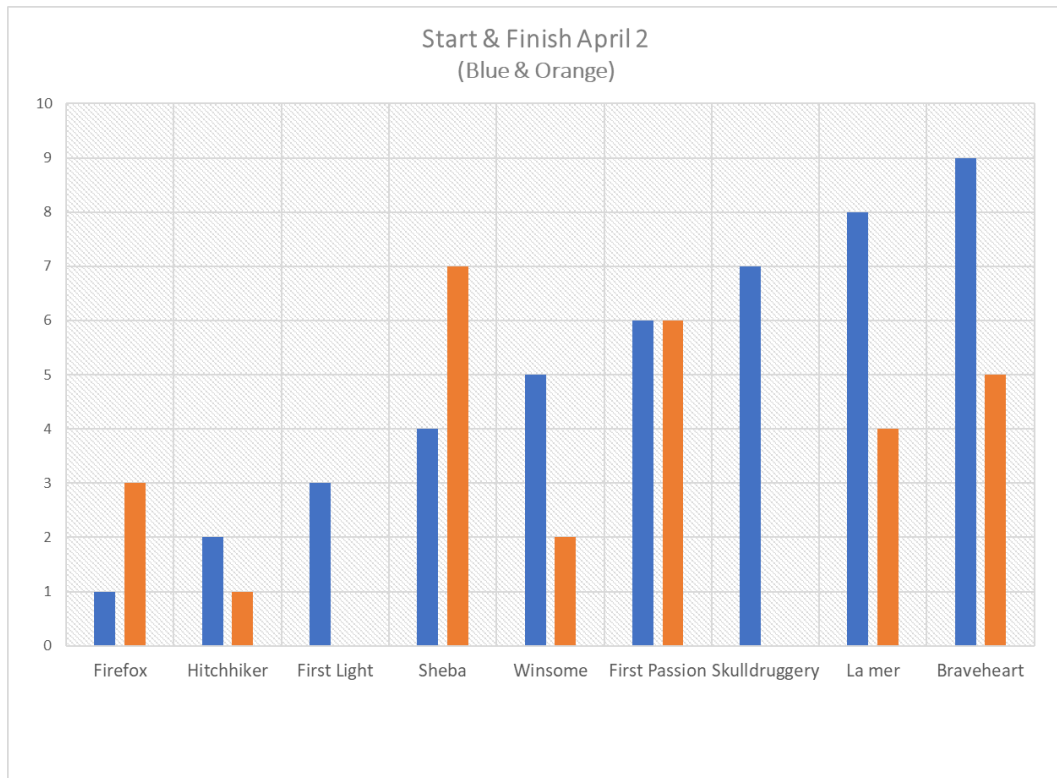
Average winds at Fawkner beacon was 18 knots (seemed much more than that), the average VMG was 5.1 knots. This was quite quick but not as quick as previous races. Your correspondent heard tales of average VMG of 5.9 knots, average speeds of over 7 knots and 12 knots seen in the waves. Enough to make an old man's pulse quicken!!



La Mer had the fastest time today – well done

START AND FINISH POSITIONS

Given it was an upwind and reaching course, there were no major gains. **La Mer** and **Winsome** did well.



SERIES LEAD

Firefox leads from Winsome after one race (obviously).

PurHC results Start : 09:30

Place	Sail No	Boat Name	Skipper	T ahc	Fin Tim	Elapsd	Score
1	42	HITCHHIKER	David Goodman	15.0	11:34:06	01:49:06	1.0
2	190	WINSOME	Simon Hemingway	28.0	11:34:25	01:36:25	2.0
3	385	FIREFOX	Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne	15.0	11:42:15	01:57:15	3.0
4	6002	LA MER	Michael Ebeling	39.0	11:44:21	01:35:21	4.0
5	499	BRAVEHEART	Leigh Maddison James Billson	53.0	11:59:28	01:36:28	5.0
6	351	FIRST PASSION	Simon Lipman	33.0	12:07:39	02:04:39	6.0
7	86	SHEBA	Michael Pisani	27.0	12:11:59	02:14:59	7.0
DNF	440	SKULLDUGGERY	Garry McCarten	34.0			10.0
DNF	447	FIRST LIGHT	Mike Coulter	26.0			10.0

Gossip and other matters.

Garry McLartin had to retire after mark 5 with a torn mainsail on **Skullduggery**. His crew numbered 12 on Saturday but diminished to 9 on Race Day, but they still handled the pull down of the main sail out on the water (in-mast furling) with skill. Also Garry's port electric winch has failed and so

they had to manually wind one of their genoa winches. The coffee maker also failed (a power issue), other crews were seen commiserating with them in the bar. The mainsail should be right for Wednesday. Harry (or is it **Larry**) **MacCarten** complained bitterly before and after the race about his handicap. The gist was he had to start behind much smaller boats including **Firefox** and **Winsome**. Our thoughts go out to you **Larry**, but remember, you won the last series with three races to go.

Speaking of handicaps: there was some bar talk of scandal surrounding **Hitchhikers** massively generous 15 minute handicap. **David Goodman**, in an interview with your correspondent, said he had been accused of sandbagging towards the end of the last series, a claim he bitterly denied. Also **Braveheart** were speechless at having to start so late. When approached on the subject your handicapper **Mr MJ** offered "no comment" . **Mr MJ** was under the weather today as he had too many coronation quiches the night before and his Mercedes benz refused to start this morning.

First Light also retired early in the Race after being overtaken when her opponents hid in a hail storm and snuck through unawares. Fortunately no gear problems.

Special call out to **Sheba (Michael Pisani)** who sailed out there single handed and got around the course and finished. A big effort!!

With thanks to the tower volunteers, and the sponsors Mercedes Benz Brighton.....

LUFFING LANCE