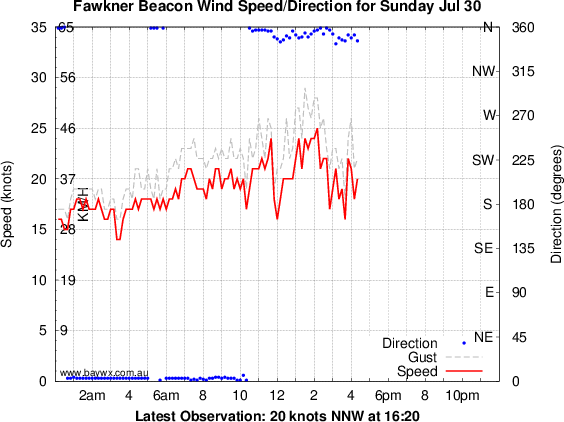
**SUNDAY SAILORS REPORT July 30 2023 – Winter Series Seventh Race**

**Intro**

Sunny skies, no rain, what more could a crew want?? Maybe 5 knots less wind. In a Northerly – fairly flat seas, although some wave surfing occurred approaching No 5, we were treated to 20-22 knots of wind, with occasional gusts to 26-28 knots!! The course was number 40, 10.6 nM which our handicapper Mr **Stuart Morrison-Jack**, with tower staff **Eryl Harris** and **Christine Walsh**, hatched up after some deliberation. The conditions were fair for smaller boats as well as such warhorses as **Bacard**i and **Lumiere.** Apologies but all photos are from other races….



**Results**

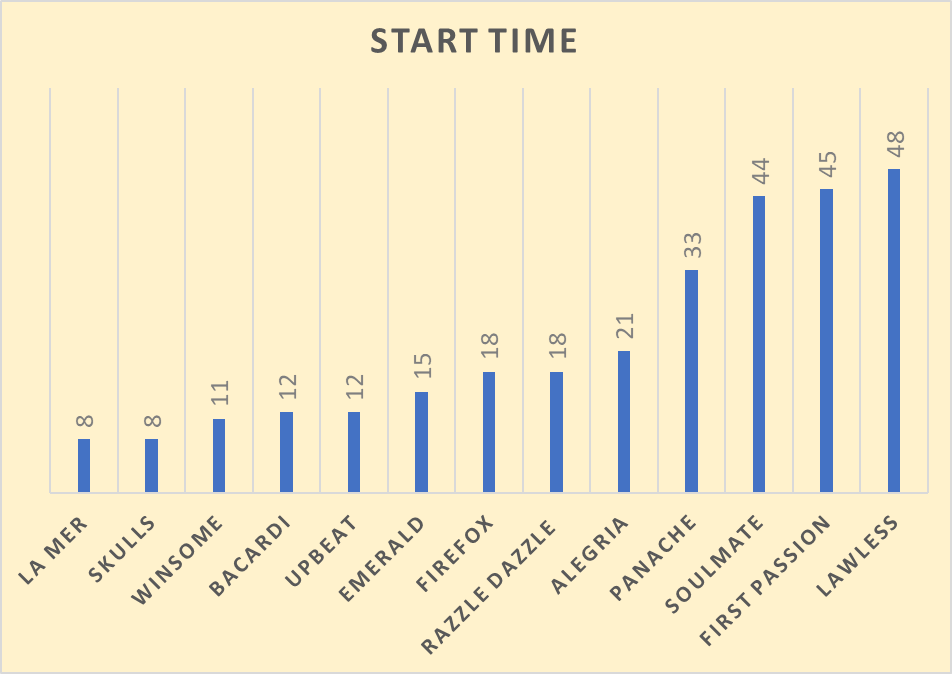
Seventeen boats toed the line with fifteen finishers. Five minutes separated the first four. **Emerald (Tony Tanner)** sailed very quickly in the conditions to finish first, holding off a fast finishing **Lumiere (Matt Kebbell**). Third was **Alliance (Alex Hall, Simon F, Paul S,** Uncle Tom Cobbely and all). Fourth was **Winsome (Simon Hemingway**- who was actually on the boat) after a race long tussle with **Razzle Dazzle (Grahame Jones**) who finished fifth. The wind direction was fairly steady although backed slightly easterly on the first reach (and strengthened) and shifted a bit Westerly on the last beat, giving a lift to those further out when they tacked in.



**Emerald takes the gun – well Emerald took the gun Photo from another day**

**Start of the Day**

Start of the day was tied at 8 seconds (not too great) with **La Mer (Michael Ebeling**) and the **Skullthuggery crew (Garry MacCarten**). Next best was **Winsome (11 seconds**), **Upbeat (Peter Dunne)** – 12 seconds , **Bacardi (Martin Power)** also 12 seconds. **Peter Dunne** was heard complaining that he had right of way on the line and **Winsome** barged in on port and tacked in front of him. Not so **Upbeat** after all. Discussions were held in the bar afterwards apparently.



Again starts over a minute are not shown to spare the blushes of the miscreants.

**Series: Start of the Day**

Best 5 Starts: **Skullduggery** 25 seconds, **Winsome** 47 seconds, **Firefox** 61 seconds, **La Mer** 78 seconds.



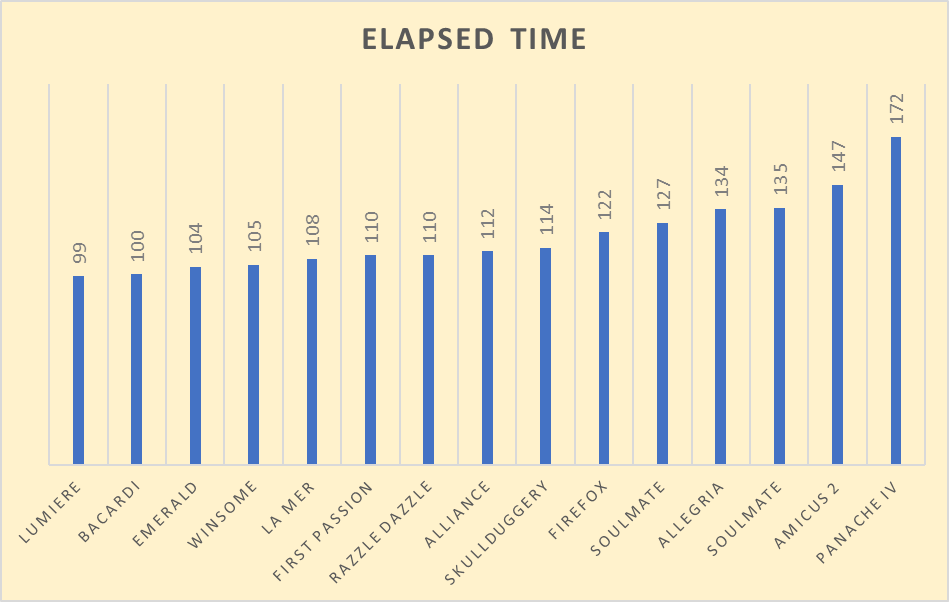
**Lumiere** placed second and had the fastest elapsed time



A third place for **Alliance** and crew, a consistently strong race!!.

**Elapsed Times**

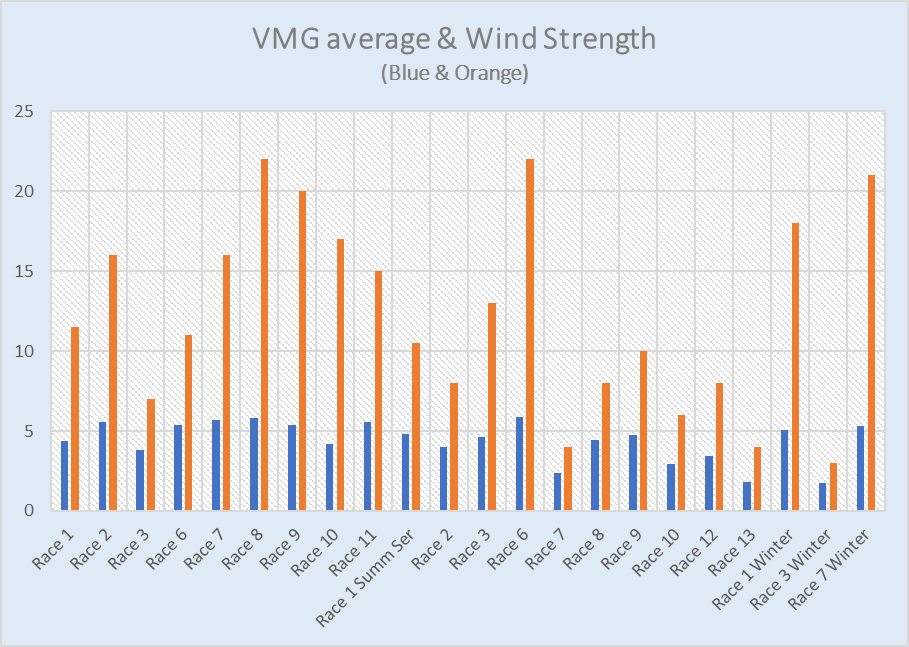
The first 9 boats had elapsed times bracketed by 14 minutes. **Lumiere** was just fastest (99 minutes) from **Bacardi** (100 minutes), with **Emerald** a very good 104 minutes, seven seconds faster than **Winsome.** **Lumiere** missed her start by three minutes but was still fastest – Mr Handicapper?? Average elapsed time was 120 minutes, giving a fleet average VMG of 5. 3 knots.



5.3 knots was one of the faster VMG’s, in a race with an average wind strength of 21 knots.

Start of the day shared between **Skullduggery and La Mer**

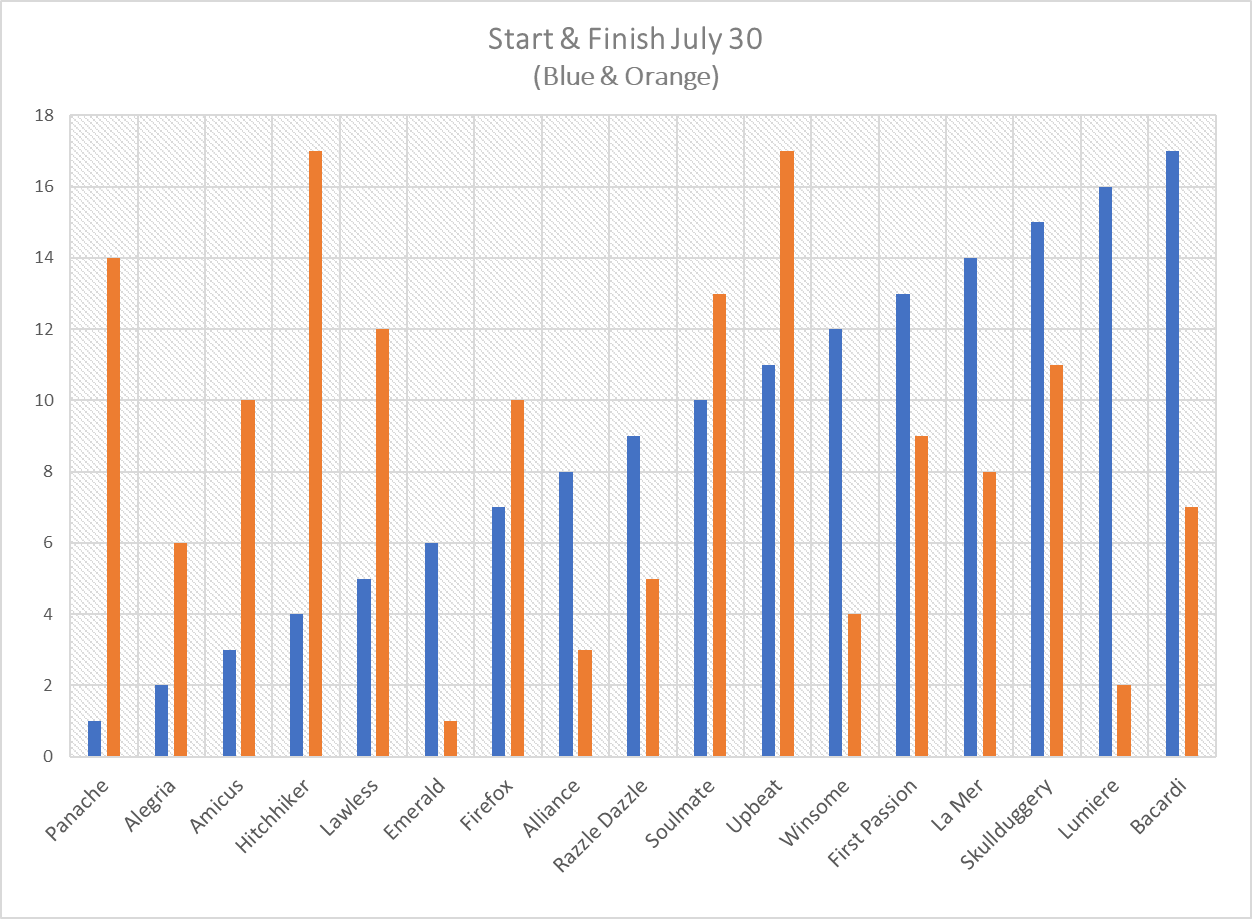




**Firefox** , placing second in the series

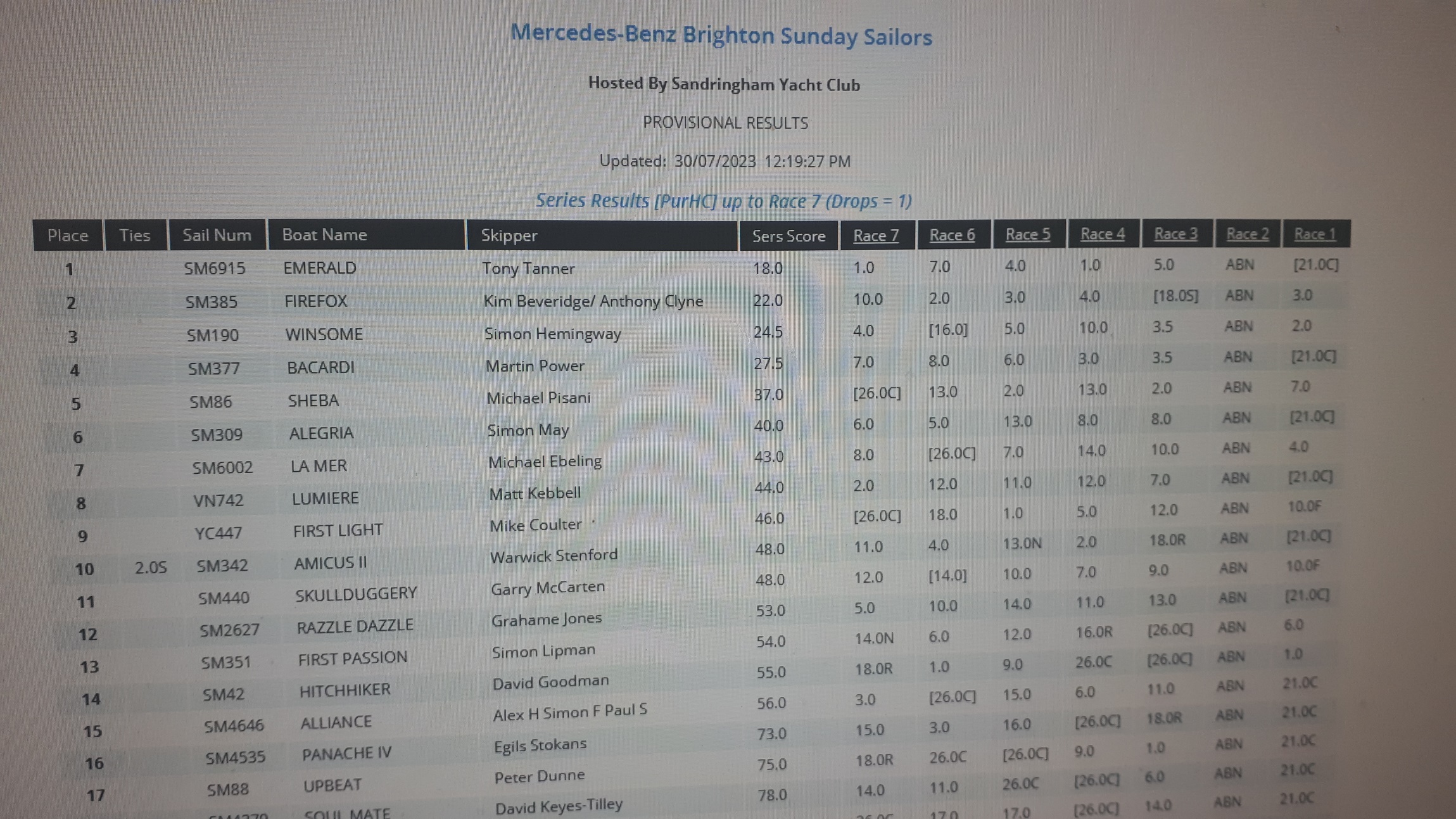
S**TART AND FINISH POSITIONS**

The biggest movers in the fleet were **Lumiere** (14 places), **Bacardi** (10 places) and **Winsome** (8 places). **Emerald , Alliance** and **La Mer** also faired well. There were two retirements, **Upbeat** and **Hitchhiker** in very different circumstances – more on that later!! **First Passion (Simon Lipman)** copped an ENP, but only dropped 1 place with the 5 minute penalty. Dodged a bullet there!!



**SERIES LEAD**

After 7 races (with 1 drop and 1 abn) **Emerald** leads the way, with a great win in the latest race. **Firefox** is in second close behind, remembering that they won race 3 by about 10 minutes, and then were disqualified for starting 2 minutes early – they forgot about their spinnaker penalty. Third is the old warhorse **Winsome**, still in contention with **Bacardi** also lurking close, in their first Sunday series since, well since your correspondant can remember – going back to at least 2009!!.



Only the latest high tech presentation from your race correspondant!!

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**Gossip and other matters.**

**Retirements today:** well **Peter Dunne,** when unwittingly interviewed in the bar afterwards gave several reasons for his retirement. First he was “in a hurry to get to the bar”. Then he thought better of that and decided that when he saw 28 knots on his dial it was time to pack it in. He qualified that by saying he only had 5 on board when he should have had 7 – with two late crew withdrawals. On **Hitchhiker** it was more traumatic. Fourth place was there for the taking, after sailing well all day. But in the panic caused by the fast approaching **Winsome** there was an override on the port genoa winch after the final tack to the line. Apparently it couldn’t be cleared and they couldn’t lay the finish mark. My source said, and I quote, “good job it wasn’t my fault or I would have been spoken to “.

**Garry McLartin** took his spinnaker penalty (I think the only one) and then with great discretion, decided against hoisting the dreaded Black Beast (note the capitals).

**Bob the ex- builder** sailed on Alliance today so not surprising they had a good showing!!

With thanks to the tower volunteers, **Eryl Harris** and **Christine Walsh**, the sponsors **Mercedes Benz Brighton** and apologies to anyone he feels they have been slandered or misrepresented.

**LUFFING LANCE**



**Panache (Egils Stokans)** – value for money today. Well sailed.



**First Passion**