

## SUNDAY SAILORS REPORT DECEMBER 10 2023 – RACE 6

### Intro

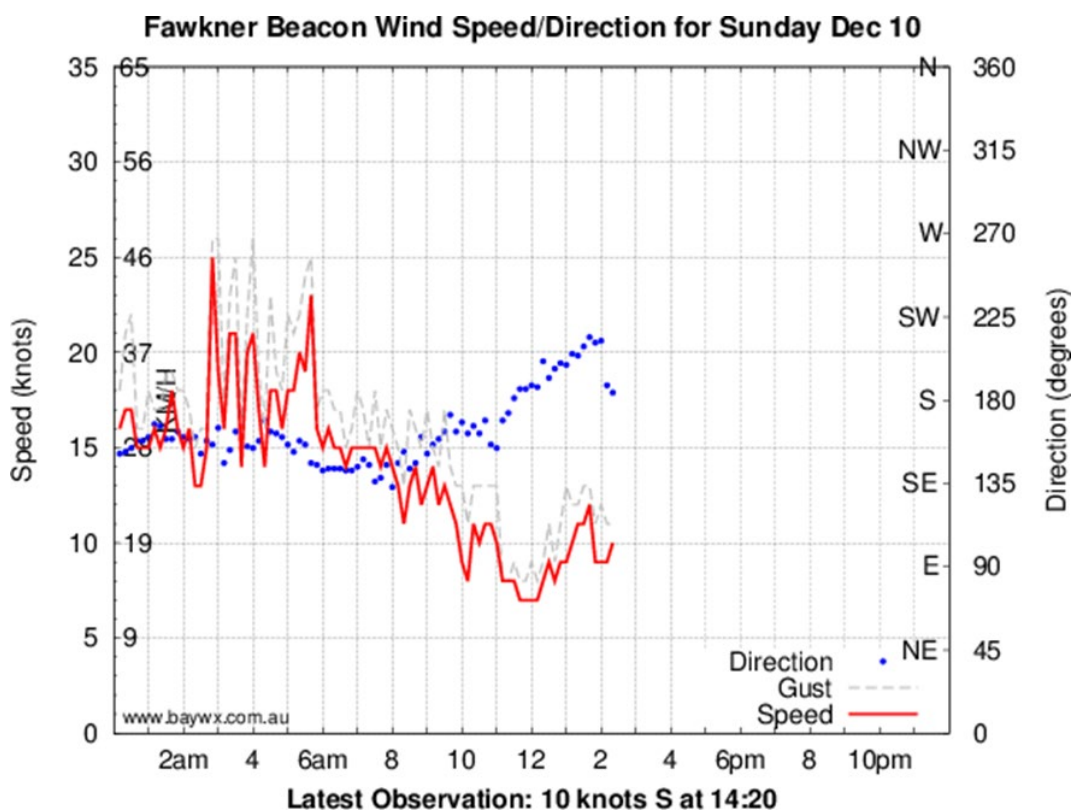
Sunday ended up being better than forecast. It was dry – despite showers elsewhere, moderate temperatures (slightly cool at the start) and moderate winds. Not too much trouble was had negotiating (yet another) triathlon on Beach Road, your correspondent made it straight across at about 8.40 AM.

The wind was fairly steady at 7-12 knots with a bit of residual chop from the dawn winds. It was close to a Southerly for a while and wandered slightly to the West in the second half of the face. It was moving about a bit.

There was a lot of dinghy action, and smaller keelboats, in the middle of our course, and off Green Point. It was great to see the fleet of dinghies and one designs in action.

We were set course 24: start (to the North) 3, 2, 5, 4, 3, 1, finish – just under 9,3 NM. Two good spinnaker legs for the kite boys (and girls).

17 boats started with two retiring/DNF.



### RESULTS

After **Hitchhiker (David Goodman)** won the last two races it was good to see a new winner. **La Mer (Michael Ebeling)**, powered by her blue and white asymmetrical kite, won by 10 minutes: that is right, ten minutes, with an elapsed time 15 minutes quicker than the next boat. An amazing turn of speed upwind as well as downwind. Second was **Amicus 2 (Warwick Stenford)** in a great showing in the conditions. Third was **Soulmate (David Keyes Tilley)** continuing a run of strong results. Fourth was the afore mentioned **Hitchhiker** – still coping very well with her modified handicap. **Emerald (Tony Tanner)** and **Winsome (Simon Hemingway)** were locked on the line, with **Winsome** winning by 5 seconds, although I was told that on the boats it was too close to call. Very pleasant conditions for the 17 starters.



**La Mer** on her way to a resounding win in Race 6



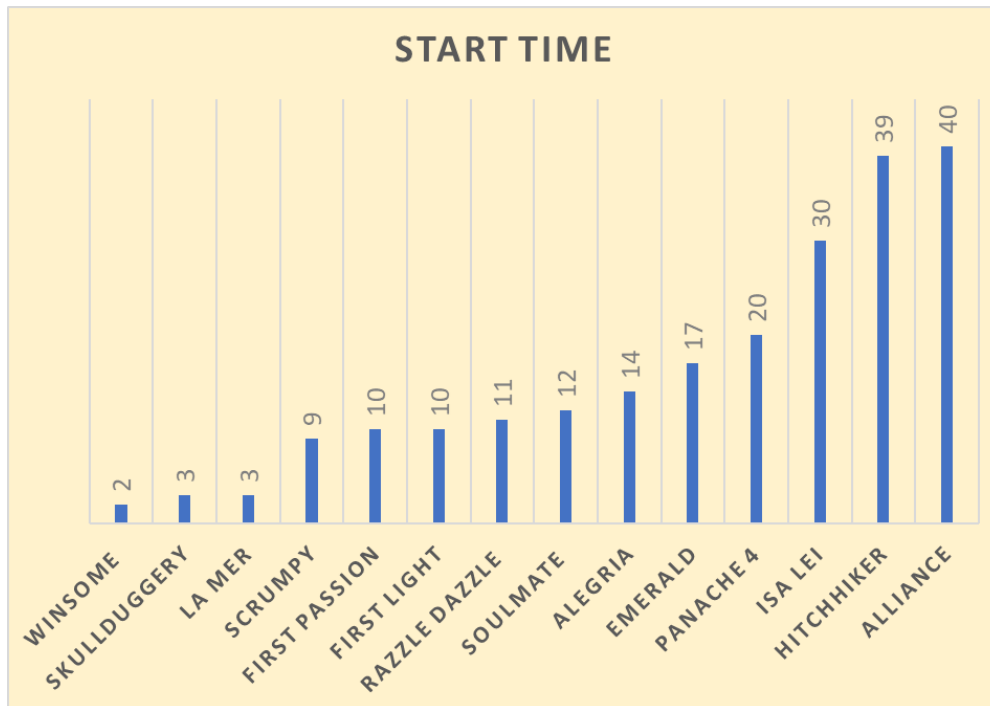
Second placing to **Amicus**, great result. Third **Soulmate** – a boat on the improve. **Soulmate** is also the series leader.

### Start of the Day

**Winsome** won her second start in a row with a time of 2 seconds. She started with **Skullduggery (Garry McCarten)** (welcome back) and in a little tussle of the backmarkers, at the start, the Skulls were pipped by 1 second. In fact **La Mer** had 3 seconds also so the three best starting boats over the last 18 months, were at the forefront today. Sadly it fell away a little after the first three.

### Series: Start of the Day

Best four starts (after 5 completed races) has **Winsome** in front still (14 seconds), with **La Mer (38 seconds, Emerald (48 seconds) and Alegria (Simon May) (50 seconds) next.**

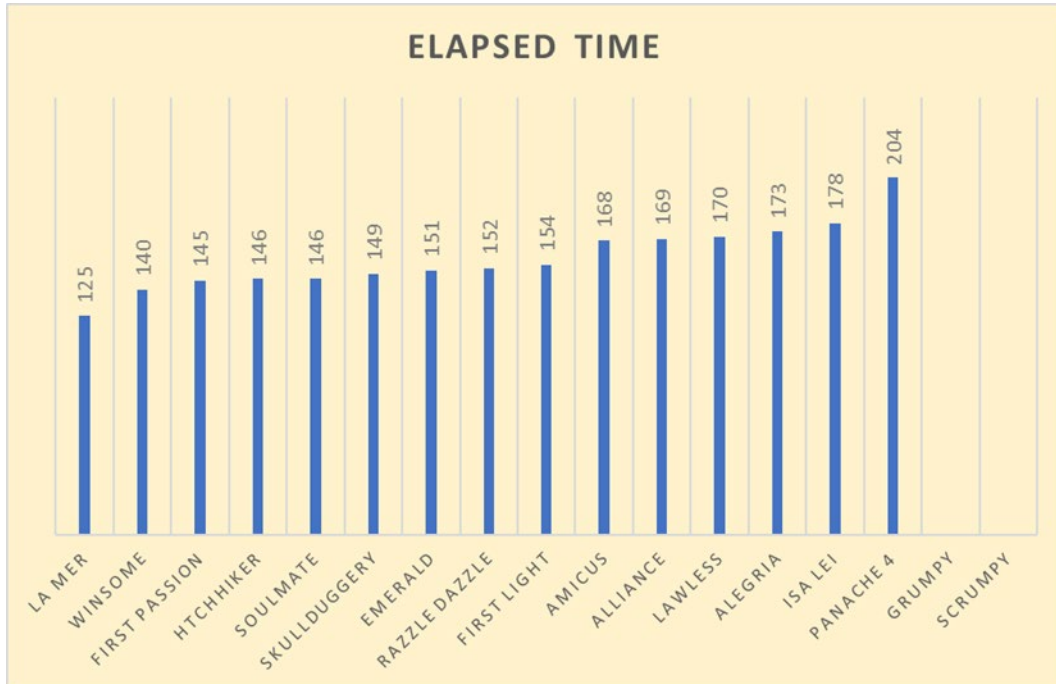


Start of the Day: **Winsome**. Also leading the series Start of the Day

### Elapsed Times

Congratulations to **La Mer** who ran away from the field to win by 10 minutes. Their elapsed time was 15 minutes quicker than **Winsome** who were second fastest. Then several boats finished with times between 145 and 146: **First Passion (Simon Lipman)**, **Hitchhiker** and **Soulmate** (in a much improved sail).

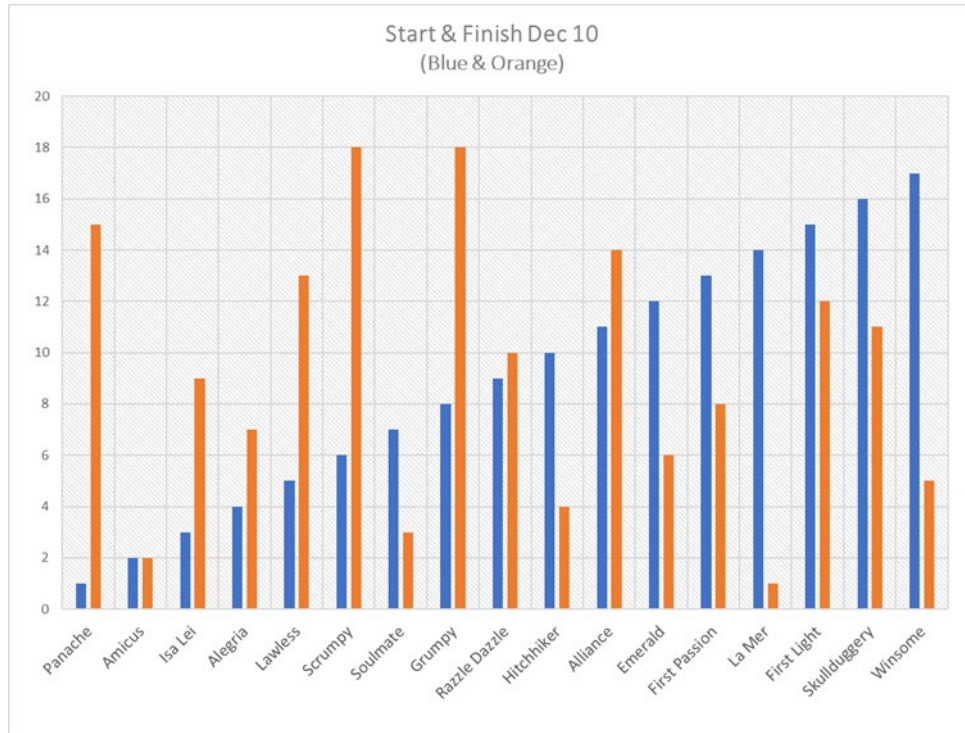
The average VMG was 3.53 knots in 8 knots of average breeze. **La Mer** averaged 4.53 knots by comparison.



**Hitchhiker**, fourth today and third in the series

### START AND FINISH POSITIONS

The biggest mover in the fleet was **La Mer** (naturally) 13 places. A very strong first upwind leg set up the win. **Winsome** (12 places), **Hitchhiker** and **Emerald** (6 places) also did well. **Amicus** gets the Stone award for starting second and finishing second.



**Emerald** and **Razzle Dazzle** tussle before the start. **Razzle Dazzle** is second in the series. **Emerald** is seventh



**Alegria** before the start

**SERIES LEAD**

**Soulmate** retains a good grip on her series lead after a very good third in the latest race. Congrats. **Razzle Dazzle** remains in second after dropping her 10<sup>th</sup> today. Razzle has won this series as recently as two series ago so can't be counted out. Third is **Hitchhiker** after two wins and a fourth has catapulted her from 15<sup>th</sup> to third. Well done!! **Winsome** (the current title holders) and **La mer** are also well placed.

At the time of writing there were no overall results posted, so your correspondent had to pull out his abacus and use his fingers to complete the task. Another high tech result.

**Mercedes Benz Sunday Sailors – SYC  
Series Results after 6 races Drops = 1**

1	SM4379	Soulmate	David Keyes-Tilley	14	3, 5, 3, 11, 3
2	SM2627	Razzle Dazzle	Grahame Jones	17	10,3, 4, 5, 5
3	SM 42	Hitchhiker	David Goodman	20	4, 1, 1, 18, 14
4	SM190	Winsome	Simon Heffingway	21	5, 7, 6, 4, 6
5	SM6002	La Mer	Michael Ebeling	25	1, 6, 8, 10, 12
6	SM4646	Alliance	Alex Simon Paul	29	14, 2, 11, 14, 2
7	SM6915	Emerald	Tony tanner	35	6, 4, 14, 15, 11
8	YC447	First Light	Mike Coulter	39	12, 38, 7, 16, 4

### Gossip and other matters.

**Skulldruggery update:** well Garry and his band of pirates made a reappearance, complete with a hot start and the black beast (spinnaker). Rumours are swirling over the absence for 6 weeks. Ranging from faulty electronics (the official story), to a mutiny over crew welfare – unfair division of the pirate loot.

A Skullduggery joke: how much does a pirate pay to have his ears pierced? A buccaneer.

**Hitch hiker** – well the results keep coming but the reasons for the improvements are petering out. The crew say that it is better crewing but David thinks the boat is being steered better. Handicapper Mr Stuart MJ – please note.

**La Mer-** won by 10 minutes and was 15 minutes quicker than the rest. When one of my many undercover reporters subtly quizzed the crew, there was some talk of good wind shifts on the first upwind leg... because they looked further out to sea and saw the boats being knocked. There are stories she was up getting the bottom redone and brand new lettering... I personally believe it is another matter for the handicapper, MR Stuart MJ, to sort out.

**Alliance** – again my sleuths discovered that Alliance was basically crewed by **Firefox** today, as various matters struck down the availability of the normal Alliance crew. Strike one for Firefox.

**Razzle Dazzle-** had the “wind whisperer” Bob Reeves at the steering wheel, and it showed in their upwind performance.

**Soulmate-**another boat with much improved form. When Ian Hetherington was interviewed he claimed they were “gradually getting to know the boat, where to put the travellers” etc. Pleeeeee.  
Mr Stuart MJ please note.

**Bacardi-** after gracing us with her presence for 6 months, Bacardi has disappeared to Sydney for the Sydney Hobart (what else). You think she would get her priorities right!!!

**Crew Shortages:** A number of boats were short, or claimed to be short or scratching for crew this week. Winsome sailed 3 up and La mer, Skullduggery, Soulmate and Skullduggery or all down somewhat. People have a lot on leading into Xmas.

Again many thanks to the tower people, Scotty, Eryl and Christine.

LUFFING LANCE



**Grumpy enjoyed a good sail before retiring today**



**Isa Lei (Andrew Chapman) on another day in conditions more suited to her.**