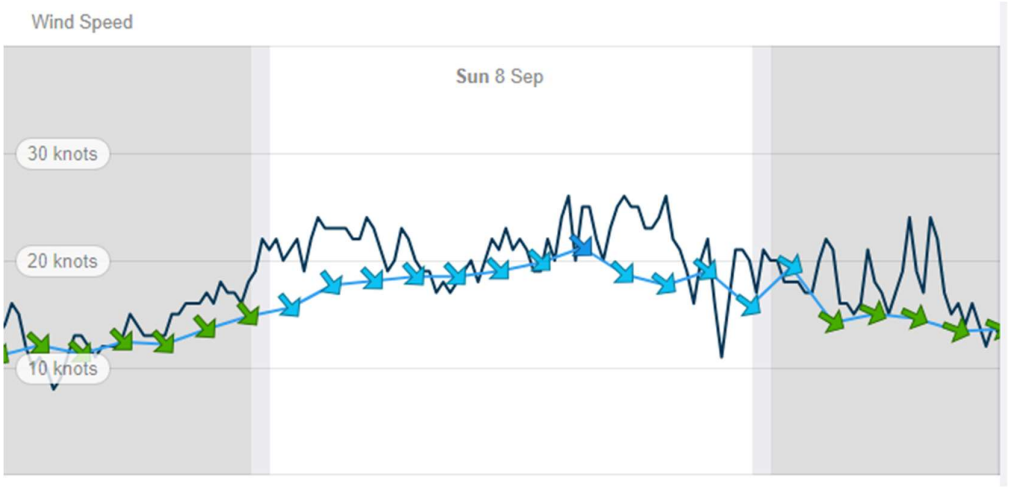
Sunday Sailors Report – Race 12 (08 Sep 2024)

The Race

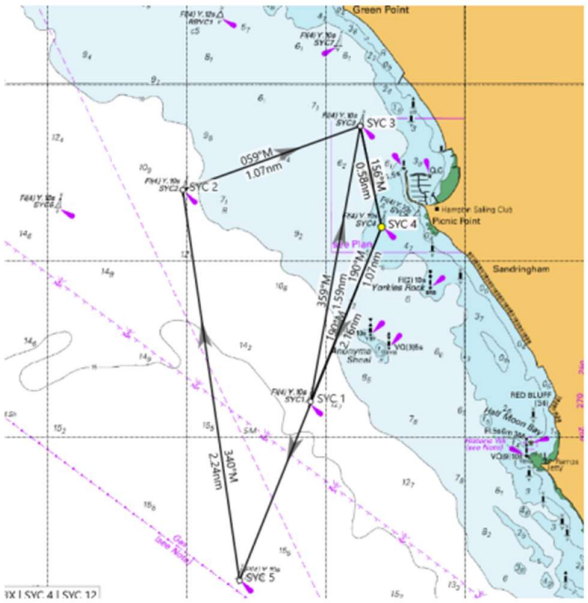
With morning winds suggesting a likely race cancellation, only 4 boats started in Race-12, 8 Sept, the last Sunday Sailors Race for the 2024 winter series.

The wind was around 23 knots prior to the starting time, and then dropped to around 19 knots as the race started.

Courses 12 was selected with a Southerly Start and two circuits.



COURSE 12



MARK	BEARING (Magnetic)	DISTANCE
All marks to Stbd		
SYC 5	190	2.16
SYC 2	340	2.24
SYC 3	059	1.07
SYC 4	156	0.58
SUB-TOTAL		**6.05**
SYC 1	190	1.07
SYC 4 (pass)	NA	NA
SYC 3	359	1.59
FINISH	157	0.58
TOTAL		**9.29**

Note: Reciprocal = Course 24

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The Fleet

4 Boats started and none elected to fly their Spinnaker.

Boats Entered and Results

Score	Number	Name	Type	Skipper	Spin	H'cap (Spin adjusted)	Finish Time		
							Hrs	Mins	Secs
1	SM42	HITCHHIKER	Beneteau Oceanis 41.1	David Goodman		27	11	35	18
2	SM6915	EMERALD	Beneteau Oceanis 40	Tony Tanner		24	11	35	33
3	SM6002	LA MER	Dufour 36e Performance	Michael Ebeling		32	11	39	21
4	SM351	FIRST PASSION	Beneteau First 35	Simon Lipman		26	11	42	15

The Winners

Congratulations to the winning boat **HITCHHIKER** (David Goodman, Beneteau Oceanis 41.1, non-spinnaker handicap of 27) with winning crew of David Goodman, Andrea Cadzow, Louise Dann, Penny Goodman and Rodney Warner.

Just 15 seconds behind and in second place was **EMERALD** (Tony Tanner, Beneteau Oceanis 40, non-spinnaker handicap of 24).

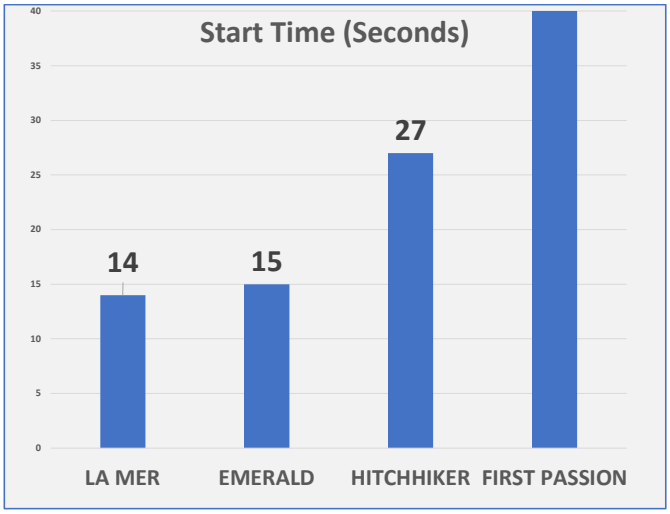
Another 4 minutes crossing the line and in third place, and also second last place, was **LA MER** (Michael Ebeling, Defour 36e Performance, non-spinnaker handicap of 32).

And a special mention to **FIRST PASSION** (Simon Lipman, Beneteau First 35 off a non-spinnaker handicap of 26) who were in fourth place (and last place) after starting 12 minutes and 38 seconds late according to the tower time sheets. They would have been the fastest boat and won the race if they had started on time, noting that they appeared to sail a different, shorter (the correct) course than the others – See Gossip Section.

The Start

Congratulations to **LA MER** (Michael Ebeling, Defour 36e Performance, non-spinnaker handicap of 32) for winning Start-of-the-Day on 14 seconds.

They beat **EMERALD** (Tony Tanner, Beneteau Oceanis 40, non-spinnaker handicap of 24) by just one second for the coveted Start of The Day trophy.



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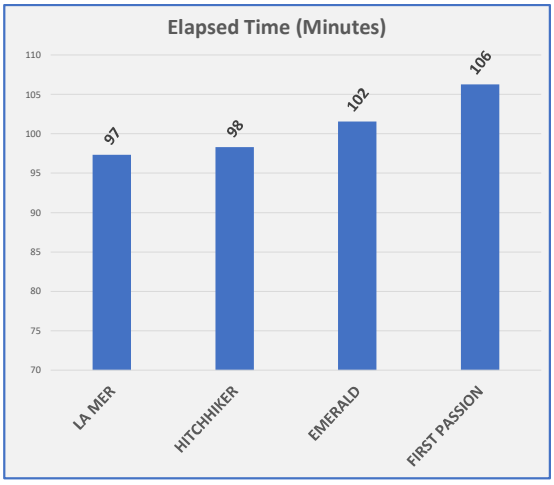
Boat Speed

Based on their handicap start time, the fastest boat was **LA MER** (Michael Ebeling, Defour 36e Performance, non-spinnaker handicap of 32).

They were just one minute faster than **HITCHHIKER** (David Goodman, Beneteau Oceanis 41.1, non-spinnaker handicap of 27).

LA MER was also 9 minutes faster on elapsed time than First Passion.

However, **FIRST PASSION** started 12.6 minutes late, which would mean they travelled the course in the fastest time if this was counted from their actual start time, rather than their handicap start time. How come? See Gossip.



Series Results

With the winter series now finished, it is with great fanfare that the series winner is announced as **LA MER.** Congratulations to **LA MER** and all who sail on her.

Congratulations also to **EMERALD** for second place in the series. And **WINSOME** and **HOT CHIPPS** who came equal third.

Series Result

Place	Ties	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	Sers Score
1		SM6002	LA MER	Michael Ebeling	39.0
2		SM6915	EMERALD	Tony Tanner	43.0
3	1.0S	SM190	WINSOME	Simon Hemingway	60.0
4		SM46	HOT CHIPPS	Gavin Stewart / Murray Swarbrick	60.0
5		SM2627	RAZZLE DAZZLE	Grahame Jones	65.0
6		YC447	FIRST LIGHT	Mike Coulter	70.0
7		SM440	SKULLDUGGERY	Garry McCarten	109.0
8		SM385	FIREFOX	Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne	117.0
9		SM88	UPBEAT	Peter Dunne	121.0
10		SM4646	ALLIANCE	Alex H Simon F Paul S	122.0

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Handicap Monitoring

The most notable handicap variation is for **LA MER** with very bouncy handicaps, including 4 minutes added in the last two races, 9 minutes relief earlier in the season, and 11 minutes added before that, and 9 minutes relief before that.

Mr Handicapper – is this now settling down?

Sunday Sailors Winter 2024 Series - Handicap Tracking

Boat			Handicaps (Base)											
Sail	Name	Type	End of last season	Change (Race No)										Latest
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	
SM42	HITCHHIKER	Beneteau Oceanis 41.1	28									-1			27
SM6915	EMERALD	Beneteau Oceanis 40	16			6		4		-1				-1	24
SM6002	LA MER	Dufour 36e Performance	35	-9		11		-2	-7				3	1	32
SM351	FIRST PASSION	Beneteau First 35	26												26

Gossip

First Passion's Performance

It appears that most of the fleet sailed to Mark 6 instead of Mark 2 on the second leg. Follow the leader maybe! This added significant unnecessary distance to be covered by those boats. They then passed Mark 2 on the next leg so nothing illegal.

However, **FIRST PASSION** who started well last after being 12.6 minutes late for their start went straight to the correct Mark 2 on the second leg, resulting in a shorter sailing distance than others in the fleet.

The outcome was that First Passion blitzed the field in terms of the actual time to get around the course if this was taken from their actual start time rather than their handicap start time.

Third or Second Last – The Handicapper's Dilemma.

Normally our esteemed Handicapper gives some next race penalty to the first 3 boats for each race, and some relief for the last two boats.

But for this race LA MER has disrupted the normal handicap setting process by coming both THIRD and SECOND LAST in this race.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

For organising a great 2024 winter keel boat race season.

The Boating Office – James, Mitch, Clay, Nick.

The Tower Volunteers – for this last race were Cathy Higgins (RO), Bruce Reidy.

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(Photos are not all from this race)

LA MER

- **Overall 2024 Winter Series Winner**
- **Race-12 Start of the Day winner**
- **Race-12 Fastest elapsed time winner**
- **Race-12 Third place Winner**
- **Race -12 Second last place winner.**
- **Season winner for the most handicap variations.**

LA MER (Michael Ebeling, Defour 36e Performance, non-spinnaker handicap of 32).

Leeward Larry

First Place

Hitchhiker (David Goodman, Beneteau Oceanis 41.1, non-spinnaker handicap of 27).

SECOND PLACE.

EMERALD (Tony Tanner, Beneteau Oceanis 40, non-spinnaker handicap of 24).