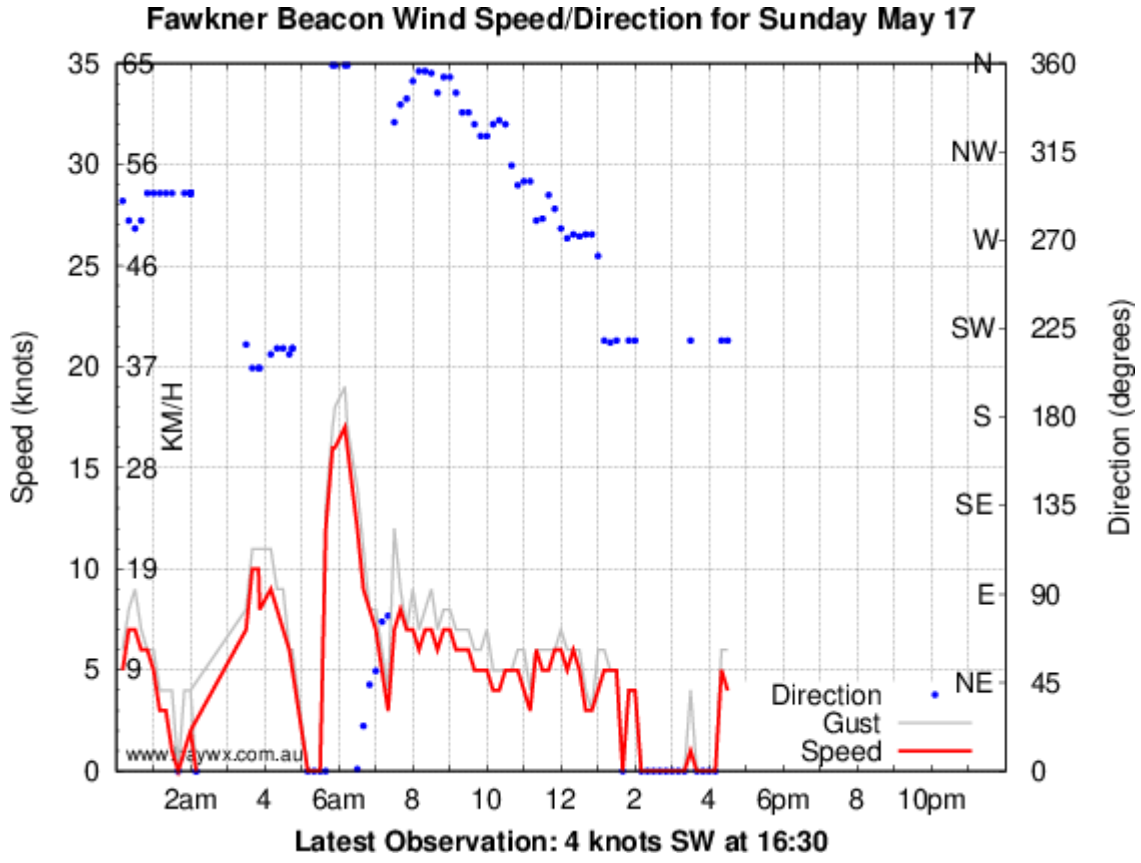
SUNDAY SAILORS ***May 17, 2026*** ***RACE "3" WINTER SERIES***

Intro

The forecast was for light winds and for 90% showers and cool temperatures. Well, we got the cool temperatures and light NNW winds, but they swung to the West during the racing. Miraculously after a shower at 8.45 am we had no rain whilst on the course, whilst it may have rained in at SYC whilst we were out in the middle of the bay, labouring (sorry flying) down to Number 5 from 2.

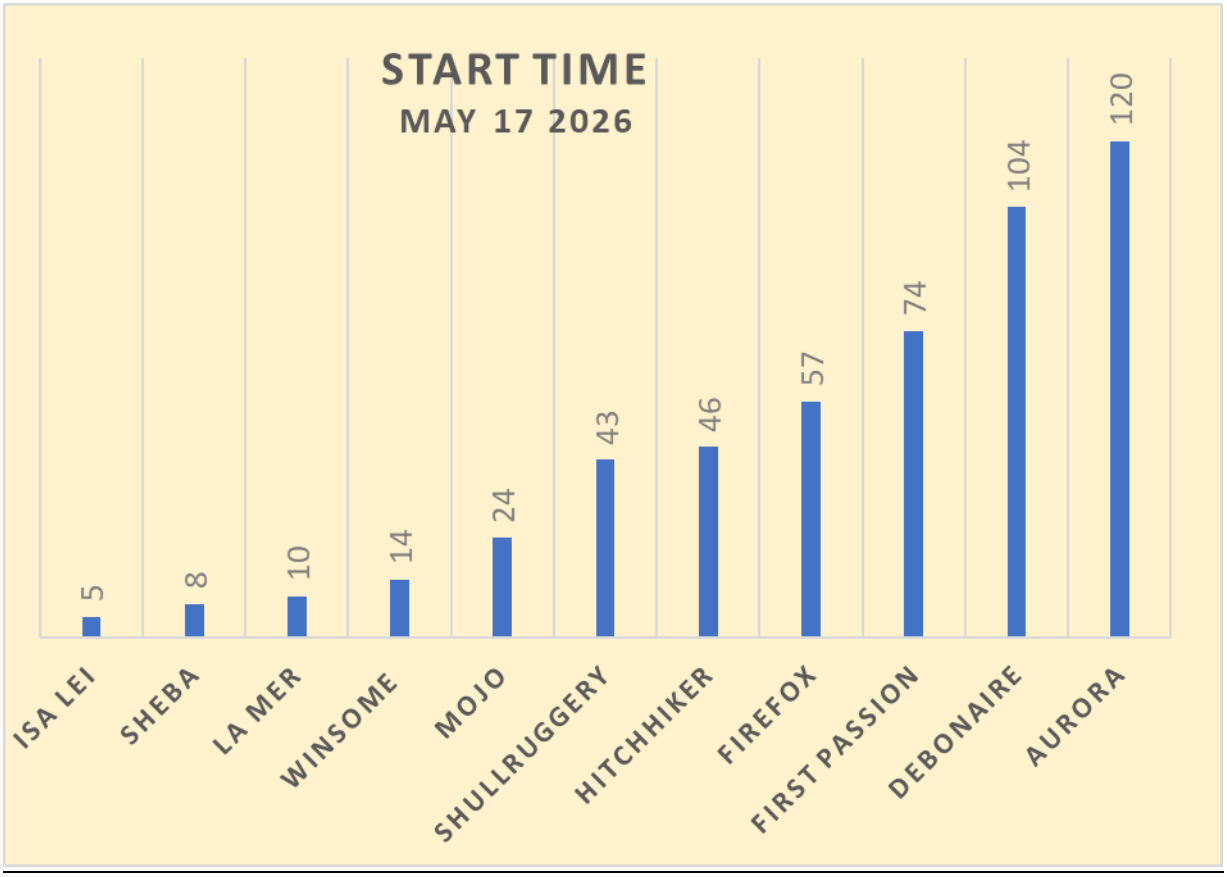
The course set was as 24 which was a shortened course: 4 to 3 (upwind light), 3 to 2 (reach light), 2 to 5 (downwind light) and 5 to 4 (close reach becoming reach).

11 boats toed the line, with many obviously put off by the wet forecast… One boat didn't enter Memberpoint and one boat decided last week not to race. More on that later…



Start of the Day

In the light conditions, starting was difficult. There were some good starts, and some that were average given the skill of the participants. Starting in a very good 5 seconds was **Isa Lei (Andrew Chapman**). The smallest boat, started first and didn't front to collect his trophy. A worthy second in 8 seconds was **Sheba (Michael Pisani**) in the second smallest boat in the fleet. There must be something happening here!!! Good starts (in the conditions) from **La Mer (Michael Ebeling) and Winsome (Simon Hemingway**), 10 and 14 seconds respectively – but you would expect at least that from these grizzled veterans.



Sheba: a great win in very light conditions – they showed it all today and only 2 up.

SERIES Starts of the Day

After the 2 races sailed (1 abandoned) we have a pulsating fight in the **greatest event at SYC that has NO TROPHY.** **La Mer** has come roaring back after a poor season last year. Clearly the counselling, by professionals and by crew, and training in technical aspects of starting – including time on distance judgements, are paying big dividends for **Michael Ebeling** and crew . A very close second is **Isa Lei**. Not for **Andrew** expensive training, he does it all on a shoestring budget, very well done. Also worth a big shout is **Sheba**. There is something about these smaller two handed boats, they just get it done without fuss and fanfare. No practice running at the line, no pinging the line and use of onboard computers. Just skill and nerve…

SUNDAY SAILORS Winter 2026	
Best 2 starts (seconds total)	
La Mer	17
Isa Lei	18
Sheba	20
Winsome	33

First Passion (simon Lipman) – second today **(with Sheba). Firefox (Anthony Clyne)** a commendable third today.

RESULTS

Again blessed with very light conditions, 2-5 knots with a swinging breeze, we had a dominant result from **Sheba,** who started mid pack and charged through to win. Light breeze and flat sea suited het but still a great 2 up display. **First Passion (Simon Lipman**) sailed very well and a late tussle with **Firefox (Anthony Clyne)** ended with **First Passion** second and **Firefox** third. Good podium positions. **La Mer** sprinted from 2nd last to take 4th in a strong display of near reaching with a secret weapon. Fifth was **Hitchhiker (David Goodman)** who were quietly happy with their display….

Noorden Real Estate Sunday Sailors

Hosted By Sandringham Yacht Club

Race 3 (17/05/2026) PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Updated: 17/05/2026 1:35:44 PM

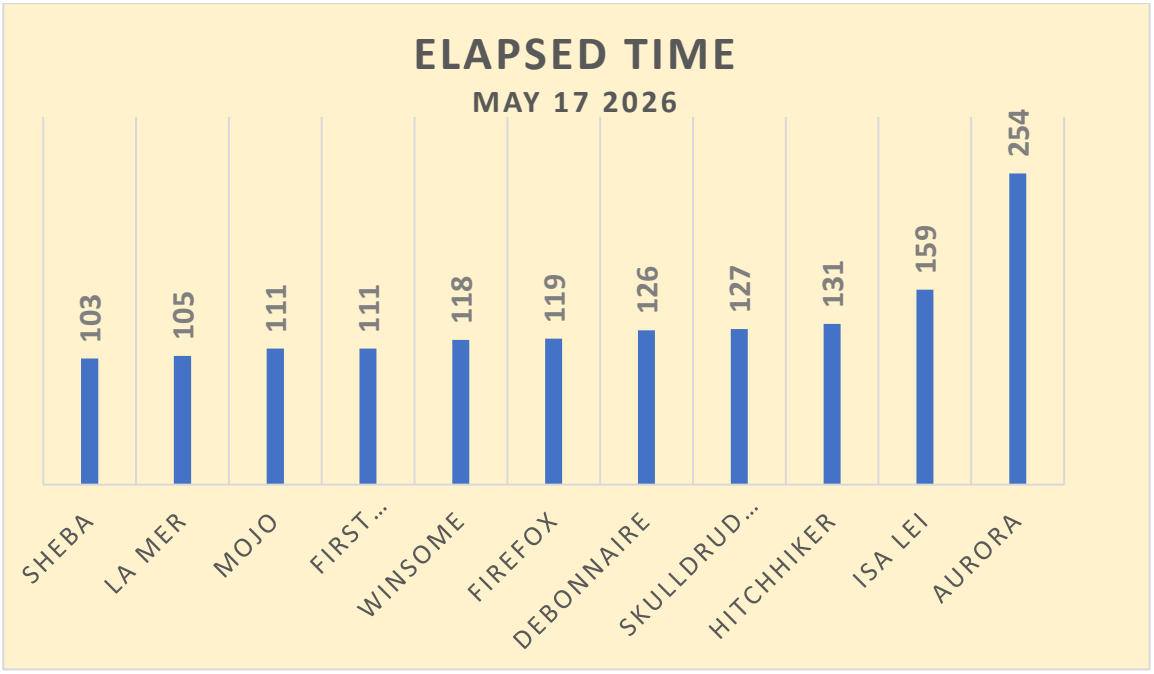
PurHC results Start : 09:30

Place	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	Fin Tim	Elapsd	Score
1	SM86	SHEBA	Michael Pisani	11:35:39	01:41:39	1.0
2	SM351	FIRST PASSION	Simon Lipman	11:41:03	01:53:03	2.0
3	SM385	FIREFOX	Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne	11:45:26	01:58:26	3.0
4	SM6002	LA MER	Michael Ebeling	11:46:11	01:49:11	4.0
5	SM42	HITCHHIKER	David Goodman	11:50:50	02:11:50	5.0
6	SM190	WINSOME	Simon Hemingway	11:59:17	02:05:17	6.0
7	SM440	SKULLDUGGERY	Garry McCarten	11:59:27	02:10:27	7.0
8	SM82	ISA LEI	Andrew Chapman	12:02:25	02:37:25	8.0
9	SM499	MOJO	James Billson Leigh Maddison	12:02:42	01:50:42	9.0
10	SM451	DEBONNAIRE	Philip Gomez	12:06:13	02:06:13	10.0
ENP	M010	AURORA	Paul Challis	12:19:19	02:54:19	14.0

A great start of the day by **Isa Lei** – showed us all up.

Elapsed Times

In a great display of light weather sailing **Sheba** was the fastest boat, even quicker than the fleet footed **La Mer**. Great sailing those boats. **First Passion and Mojo (James Billson/ Leigh Maddison**) were of similar speed, next quickest.



SERIES LEAD

With two light weather races under our belt, that light weight specialist **Sheba** leads with a 4th and a 1st. **Firefox** is a close second and **First Passion** is a worthy third. Last Season's winner, **La Mer**, keeps plugging away in fourth and **Isa Lei** is a very great 5th. Good to see some new blood up there.

Noorden Real Estate Sunday Sailors

Hosted By Sandringham Yacht Club

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Updated: 17/05/2026 1:35:59 PM

Series Results [PurHC] up to Race 3

Place	Ties	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	Sers Score	Race 3	Race 2	Race 1
1	1.0S	SM86	SHEBA	Michael Pisani	5.0	1.0	ABN	4.0
2		SM385	FIREFOX	Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne	5.0	3.0	ABN	2.0
3		SM351	FIRST PASSION	Simon Lipman	9.0	2.0	ABN	7.0
4		SM6002	LA MER	Michael Ebeling	13.0	4.0	ABN	9.0
5		SM82	ISA LEI	Andrew Chapman	14.0	8.0	ABN	6.0
6		SM190	WINSOME	Simon Hemingway	18.0	6.0	ABN	12.0
7		M010	AURORA	Paul Challis	31.0	14.0N	ABN	17.0
8		SM321	LAWLESS	Boyd Coulson	36.0	35.0C	ABN	1.0
9		SM309	ALEGRIA	Simon May	38.0	35.0C	ABN	3.0
10	3R	SM42	HITCHHIKER	David Goodman	40.0	5.0	ABN	35.0C

Very Important Information (Formerly known as "Gossip")

Well this was going to be brief but people wanted to just talk to Luffing Lance today, so I just had to listen…

- **The Firefox** had a new spinnaker up today it was a cracker. They were distraught about surrendering second place to First Passion, right on the line they claimed (Ed note: the margin was 4 minutes so I am not sure what line they were talking about). They also had **Bob "The Wind Whisper" Reeves** an mainsail today and were gushing in their praise for him. Until **Anthony** said " You can't teach an old Bob new tricks" … I think it was meant to be a compliment.
- **Emerald (Tony Tanner**) keep on **not** sailing but grabbing the headlines. Today they won the prize for the earliest withdrawal. They pulled the pin on Friday. But they were waiting at the front door at 11.30 Am for when the bar opened. In their cohort was the world's best maritime photographer, and one of the great Rear Commodores.
- **La Mer:** had a very good race today. Steamed away from **Debonaire (Phil Gomez) and Winsome** at the start by tacking in to the shore on the first leg (" just luck, my boy"). They also tried to sell me yachting clothing for my boat (**Simon Buckley 0438 759 534**) – it looks really good. They also revealed they flew their new large reaching sail on 3 of the 4 legs. It was an A3 which I didn't know. So I have looked it up on some thingy called an AI and got this response:

An A3 sail (short for A3 Asymmetrical Spinnaker) is an all-purpose reaching sail used on sailboats for sailing at apparent wind angles (AWA) of 70° to 130°. It is smaller, flatter, and made of heavier fabric than pure running spinnakers, offering better control and stability in medium to heavy air.

I have asked the sail committee to do a sail count on **La Mer** because they have too many sails…

- **Skulldrudgery (Garry MacKraken)**: good to see them back. They made themselves felt. Dicing on the line with **Sheba** (" starboard, starboard"), flying the black beast, and then dicing with **Winsome** on the last leg. **Winsome** came from about 1 km back to draw level, the wind shifted aft about 20 degrees so the **Skulls** Code Zero finally started to work and then it was on for young and old. 10 minutes where they were side by side in a grim struggle. Of course the good guys won.
- **Hitchhiker (David Goodman**)had a nice sail today. They had **Matt Pylyp** from **Hot Chipps (Mr Chipps** is overseas and the "crew don't like cold and wet weather"). **Matt** is sailing Apollo Bay with **Hitchhike**r so good luck. They had to hire an 8 man life raft just for the crew. Cost was $280 – worth remembering.
- **Mojo** raced well but they have a dirty bum, plus their foredeck wizard, **Louise Cotter** didn't turn up so they couldn't fly a spinnaker. Turned out **Louise** didn't turn up because they forgot to invite her. I left them arguing amongst themselves over whose fault it was…
- **Debonnaire**, well what can I say. They started nearly 2 minutes late but **Phil Gomez** didn't know, he was below deck cleaning out his speed log – well that is what he claimed. When he popped his head up they were halfway to number 3, and he was left wondering how **La Mer** got in front of them. Also the food was below normal standard with no sausage rolls, although nice pastries from Caroline. Also **Cathryn** was away so there was no one to control **Phil,** and no one to put up the spinnaker.

Many thanks to our tower people **Erryl Harris and Del Lamont**. **Also Stuart Morrison Jack** , our esteemed handicapper. There would be no race without the efforts of the volunteers, handicapper and boating office staff. Many thanks.

Also **Norden Real Estate** for sponsoring us. They offer great service for prospective clients, whether you are looking to buy, or want to market your property. Try them first.

Please support them!!

Luffing Lance

The Winning Crew of Sheba. **Bob "The Wind Whisperer" Reeves** is photo bombing.