Sunday Sailors Report – Race 8 (18 Jan 2026)

The Race

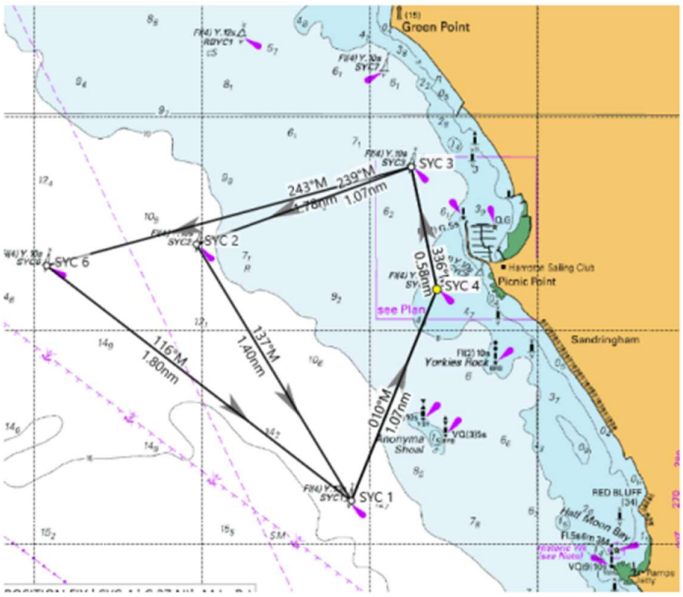
Race-8 was held in conditions that would be politely considered as challenging, but in reality others wood say totally miserable - for most boats.

1 to 2 m waves and often becalmed conditions. Wind direction ranged from 100 to 290 degrees.

It seemed as if a narrow beam of wind followed some boats around, with others wallowing.

Course 27 was selected with a Northerly start and then shortened.

COURSE 27



MARK	BEARING (Magnetic)	DISTANCE
All marks to Port		
SYC 3	336	0.58
SYC 6	243	1.78
SYC 1	116	1.80
SYC 4	010	1.07
SUB-TOTAL		**5.23**
SYC 3	336	0.58
SYC 2	239	1.07
SYC 1	137	1.40
FINISH	010	1.07
TOTAL		**9.35**

Sunday Sailors Report – Race 8 (18 Jan 2026)

Boats Entered and Results

16 boats entered, and 7 boats elected to fly a spinnaker.

4 boats retired, with one of them having and ENP (not signed on) and one an OCS

Score	Number	Name	Type	Skipper	Spin	H'cap (Spin adjusted)	Finish Time		
							Hrs	Mins	Secs
1	YC447	FIRST LIGHT	Beneteau First 47.7	Mike Coulter		22	11	44	42
3	SM385	FIREFOX	Beneteau 38.5	Anthony Clyne	Y	12	12	2	9
4	SM321	LAWLESS	Farr 920	Boyd Coulson	Y	9	12	3	45
5	SM86	SHEBA	Elliot 780	Michael Pisani	Y	21	12	13	6
6	SM351	FIRST PASSION	Beneteau First 35	Simon Lipman	Y	26	12	28	10
7	SM4535	PANACHE IV	Salar 40	Egils Stokans		-15	12	29	16
8	SM46	HOT CHIPPS	Dehler 46	John Chipp		37	12	29	58
9	SM4646	ALLIANCE	Beneteau Oceanis 46	Alex H Simon F Paul S		18	12	30	32
10	SM6002	LA MER	Dufour 36e Performance	Michael Ebeling	Y	27	12	40	17
11	SM2627	RAZZLE DAZZLE	Swarbrick 111	Graham Jones		19	12	42	10
12	SM451	DEBONNAIRE	Beneteau First 45	Phil Gomez	Y	36	12	46	59
7 (ENP)	SM47	XANTHIA	X-Yacht 45C	Nigel Cunniffe		15	12	2	8
RET	B47	CYAN MOON	Benneteau Oceanis 47.3	Wayne Arnold Seaward		18			
OCS/RET	SM6915	EMERALD	Beneteau Oceanis 40	Tony Tanner	Y	17			
ENP/RET	SM4379	SOUL MATE	Beneteau First 405	David Keyes-Tilley		7			
RET	SM190	WINSOME	Jeanneau Sunfast 40	Simon Hemingway		27			

The Winners

Congratulations to the winning boat **FIRST LIGHT** (Mike Coulter, Beneteau First 47.7 off a non-spinnaker handicap of 22) for blitzing the fleet, finishing some 17 minutes ahead of the next boat.

FIRST LIGHT's victorious crew comprised Catherine Mcfadyen, Gareth Edgley, Gemma Coulter, Kellie Cartledge, Mikaela Wong, Mike Coulter, Nathalie Goris, Nikola Edgley & Pierre Mattelaer.

The second-place prize was taken by **FIREFOX** (Anthony Cline, Beneteau 38.5 with a spinnaker handicap of 12) who gets a score of 3rd.

And the 3rd place prize was taken by **LAWLESS** (Boyd Coulson, Farr 920, spinnaker handicap of 9) who are officially 4th

It is understood that **LAWLESS** were leading the fleet when they got to the first mark, Mark 3, but then kept on going towards Mark 5 until they observed that the other boats in the fleet had turned and so they belatedly got back on course.

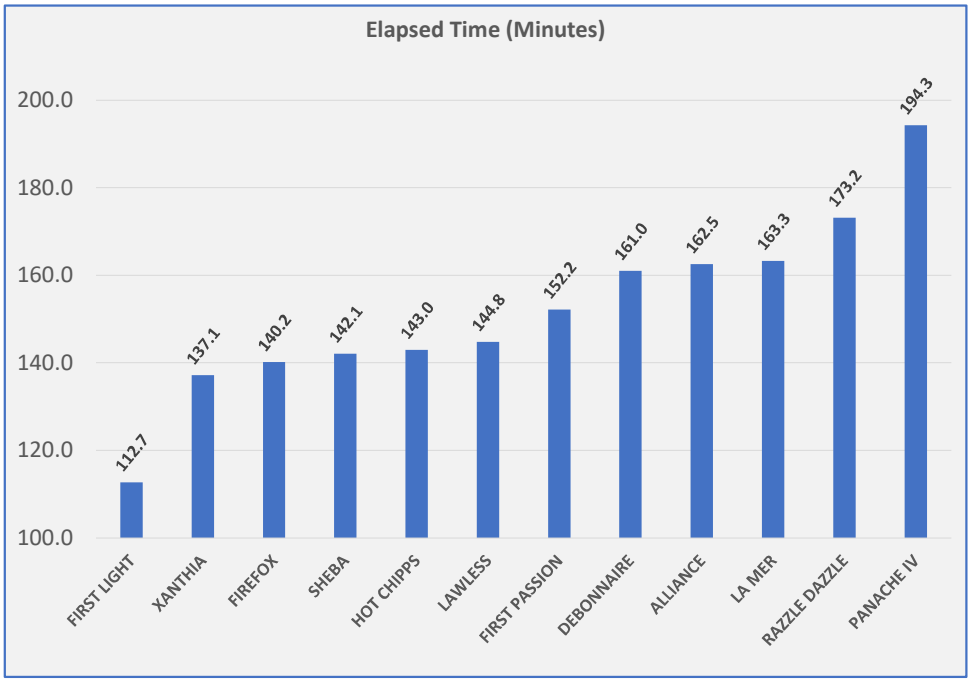
See the Gossip section for and explanation as to why no boat is officially 2nd and two boats are 7th.

Sunday Sailors Report – Race 8 (18 Jan 2026)

Boat Speed

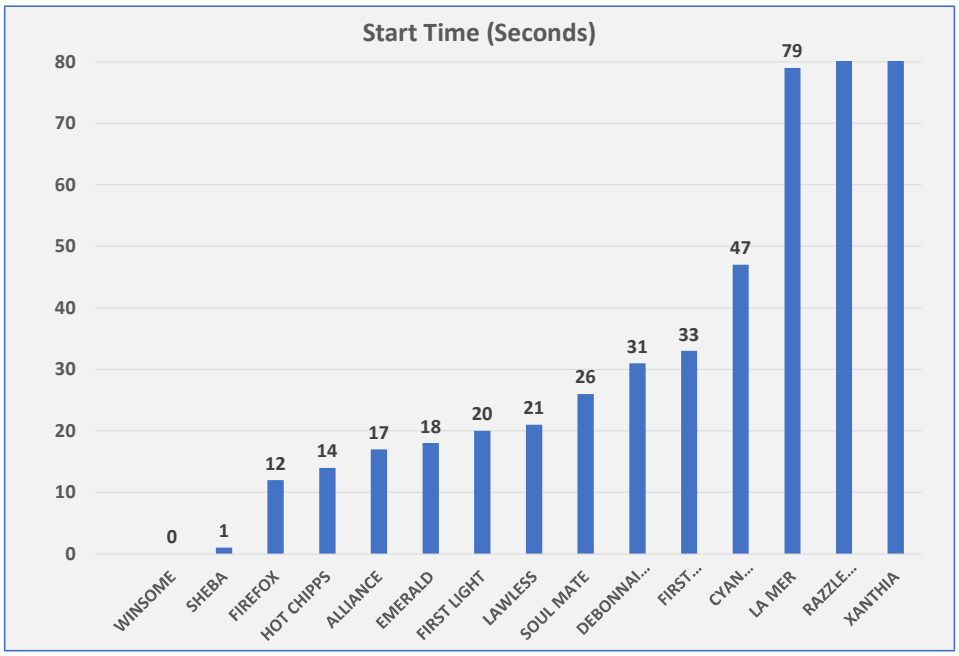
The fastest boat around the course was the winning boat **FIRST LIGHT** (Mike Coulter, Beneteau First 47.7 off a non-spinnaker handicap of 22).

Amazingly they were 25 minutes faster than the second place fastest boat **XANTHIA** (Nigel Cunniffe, X-Yacht 45C, non-spinnaker handicap of 15)



The Start

Start of the day was won by **WINSOME** (Simone Hemmingway, Jeanneau Sunfast 40, non-spinnaker handicap of 27) with a very impressive 0-second start.



Sunday Sailors Report – Race 8 (18 Jan 2026)

Series Results

Today's win cements **FIRST LIGHT** (Mike Coulter, Beneteau First 47.7 off a non-spinnaker handicap of 22) in the series lead.

They are closely followed by **WINSOME** (Simone Hemmdinger, Jeanneau Sunfast 40, non-spinnaker handicap of 27) and **LA MER** (Michael Ebeling, Defour 36e Performance, spinnaker handicap of 27)

Series Results [PurHC] up to Race 8 (Drops = 1)

Place	Ties	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	Sers Score	Race 8	Race 7	Race 6	Race 5	Race 4	Race 3	Race 2	Race 1
1		YC447	FIRST LIGHT	Mike Coulter	23.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	[13.0]	1.0	6.0	ABN	6.0
2		SM190	WINSOME	Simon Hemingway	26.0	[17.0R]	2.0	2.0	7.0	6.0	2.0	ABN	7.0
3		SM6002	LA MER	Michael Ebeling	30.0	10.0	[38.0C]	1.0	3.0	5.0	7.0	ABN	4.0
4		SM385	FIREFOX	Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne	33.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	9.0N	3.0	9.0	ABN	[11.0]
5		SM2627	RAZZLE DAZZLE	Grahame Jones	34.0	[11.0]	8.0	8.0	5.0	4.0	1.0	ABN	8.0
6		SM46	HOT CHIPPS	John Chipp	49.5	8.0	1.0	9.5	9.0	11.0	11.0	ABN	[16.0]
7		SM351	FIRST PASSION	Simon Lipman	62.0	6.0	10.0	7.0	1.0	36.0C	[36.0C]	ABN	2.0
8		SM440	SKULLDUGGERY	Garry McCarten	63.0	[38.0C]	11.0	6.0	6.0	36.0C	3.0	ABN	1.0
9		SM42	HITCHHIKER	David & Penny Goodman	74.0	38.0C	8.0N	[38.0C]	12.0	2.0	5.0	ABN	9.0
10		SM451	DEBONNAIRE	Philip Gomez	100.0	12.0	6.0	3.0	8.0	36.0C	[36.0C]	ABN	35.0C
11		SM4379	SOUL MATE	David Keyes-tilley	100.5	17.0R	9.0	9.5	15.0	36.0C	[36.0C]	ABN	14.0
12		SM4535	PANACHE IV	Egils Stokans	106.0	7.0	17.0R	14.0R	19.0R	36.0C	[36.0C]	ABN	13.0
13		G3851	GRUMPY	Andrew Stopp	111.0	38.0C	7.0	[38.0C]	19.0R	36.0C	8.0	ABN	3.0
14		SM86	SHEBA	Michael Pisani	116.0	5.0	13.0	[38.0C]	11.0	36.0C	36.0C	ABN	15.0
15		SM82	ISA LEI	Andrew Chapman	119.0	[38.0C]	14.0	11.0	14.0	9.0	36.0C	ABN	35.0C
16		SM321	LAWLESS	Boyd Coulson	128.0	4.0	38.0C	[38.0C]	2.0	36.0C	36.0C	ABN	12.0
17		SM6915	EMERALD	Tony/ Jo Tanner	129.0	17.0R	12.0	[38.0C]	19.0R	10.0	36.0C	ABN	35.0C
18		SM8	DREAM	Peter Hackett	133.0	38.0C	38.0C	[38.0C]	36.0C	12.0N	4.0	ABN	5.0
19		SM4646	ALLIANCE	Alex H Simon F Paul S	161.0	9.0	38.0C	[38.0C]	36.0C	7.0	36.0C	ABN	35.0C
20		SM47	XANTHIA	Nigel Cunniffe	163.0	7.0N	38.0C	[38.0C]	36.0C	36.0C	36.0C	ABN	10.0

Handicap News

There were minimal changes to handicaps for Race-8.

EMERALD, **SOUL MATE** and **SHEBA** had some reprieve.

WINSOME copped an additional 2 minutes and **HOT CHIPS** copped an extra 1 minute despite winning the previous race.

Sunday Sailors Summer 2025/26 Series - Handicap Tracking

Boat			Handicaps (Base)										
Sail	Name	Type	End of last season	Change (Race No)									Latest
				1	2	4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
YC447	FIRST LIGHT	Beneteau First 47.7	16	5		-2	3						22
1385	FIREFOX	Beneteau 38.5	12			-2	-1						9
SM321	LAWLESS	Farr 920	9										9
SM86	SHEBA	Elliot 780	21		-4	2						-2	17
SM351	FIRST PASSION	Beneteau First 35	19							4			23
SM4535	PANACHE IV	Salar 40	-15										-15
SM46	HOT CHIPPS	Dehler 46	44		-2	-3	-3					1	37
SM4646	ALLIANCE	Beneteau Oceanis 46	21										21
SM6002	LA MER	Dufour 36e Performance	25	-1			-2				2		24
SM2627	RAZZLE DAZZLE	Swarbrick 111	19										19
SM451	DEBONNAIRE	Beneteau First 45	35										35
SM47	XANTHIA	X-Yacht 45C	17		-2								15
B47	CYAN MOON	Benneteau Oceanis 47.3	21		-3								18
SM6915	EMERALD	Beneteau Oceanis 40	20				-3					-2	15
SM4379	SOUL MATE	Beneteau First 405	13							-2	-1	-3	7
SM190	WINSOME	Jeanneau Sunfast 40	25									2	27

Sunday Sailors Report – Race 8 (18 Jan 2026)

Gossip

Lots of 7th's and No 2nd !!!

Keen observers may note that two boats (**XANTHIA** and **PANACHE II)** have official scores of 7th for Race-8. How can this be you might ask?

To explain:

XANTHIA crossed the finish line second, but did not sign on hence was ESP (Event Specific Penalty) of 5 places. Hence their official score became 7th.

But the rules state that other boats below do not move up to fill the scoring gap. Hence there is no 2nd place in the official scores.

But this does not translate to prize giving.

In this case, the 3rd place boat (**FIREFOX)** gets the coveted 2nd place glass, and the 4th boat across the line **(LAWLESS)** gets the 3rd place glass.

WINSOME Is Still On a 1-Minute Handicap Penalty - Unbelievable.

Leward Larry notes that despite proven mastery in spinnaker management, the super-fast **WINSOME** still enjoys only a 1-minute spinnaker handicap whereas other boats of that size all have 3 minutes.

Has SKULLDUGGERY Taken the Pirate Theme Too Far.

It is understood that the skipper of **SKULLDUGGERY** has damaged his foot – possibly in a misguided attempt to imitate a 'peg leg pirate'.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

A special thank you to those that enabled this Sunday Sailors race: Tower volunteers; our Handicapper Stuart Morrison-Jack and the Boating Office.

Sunday Sailors Report – Race 8 (18 Jan 2026)

Photos are not from this race)

First Place

FIRST LIGHT (Mike Coulter, Beneteau First 47.7 off a non-spinnaker handicap of 22)

Start of the Day

WINSOME (Simon Hemmingberg, Jeanneau Sunfast 40, non-spinnaker handicap of 27).

Second Place Prize

FIREFOX (Anthony Cline, Beneteau 38.5 with a spinnaker handicap of 12)

Third Place Prize

LAWLESS (Boyd Coulson, Farr 920, spinnaker handicap of 9)

Leeward Larry