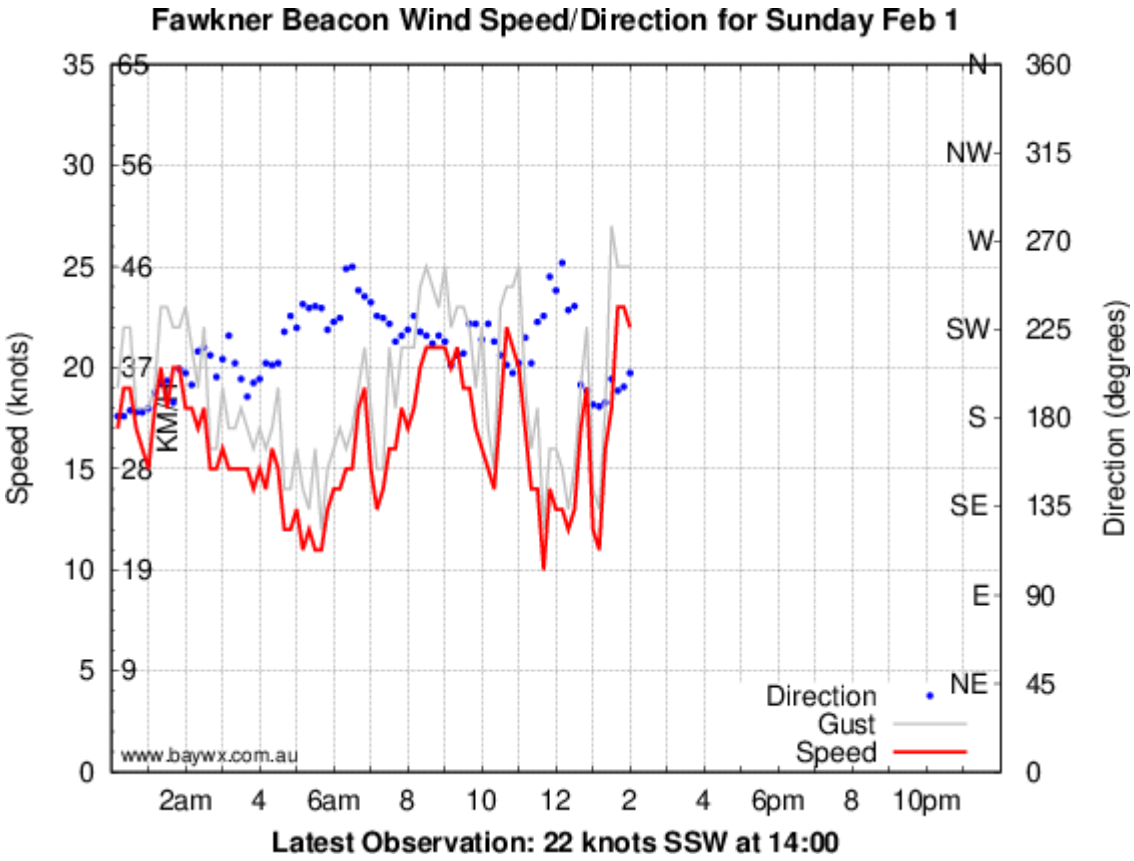
SUNDAY SAILORS ***February 1, 2026*** ***RACE "9" SUMMER SERIES***

Intro

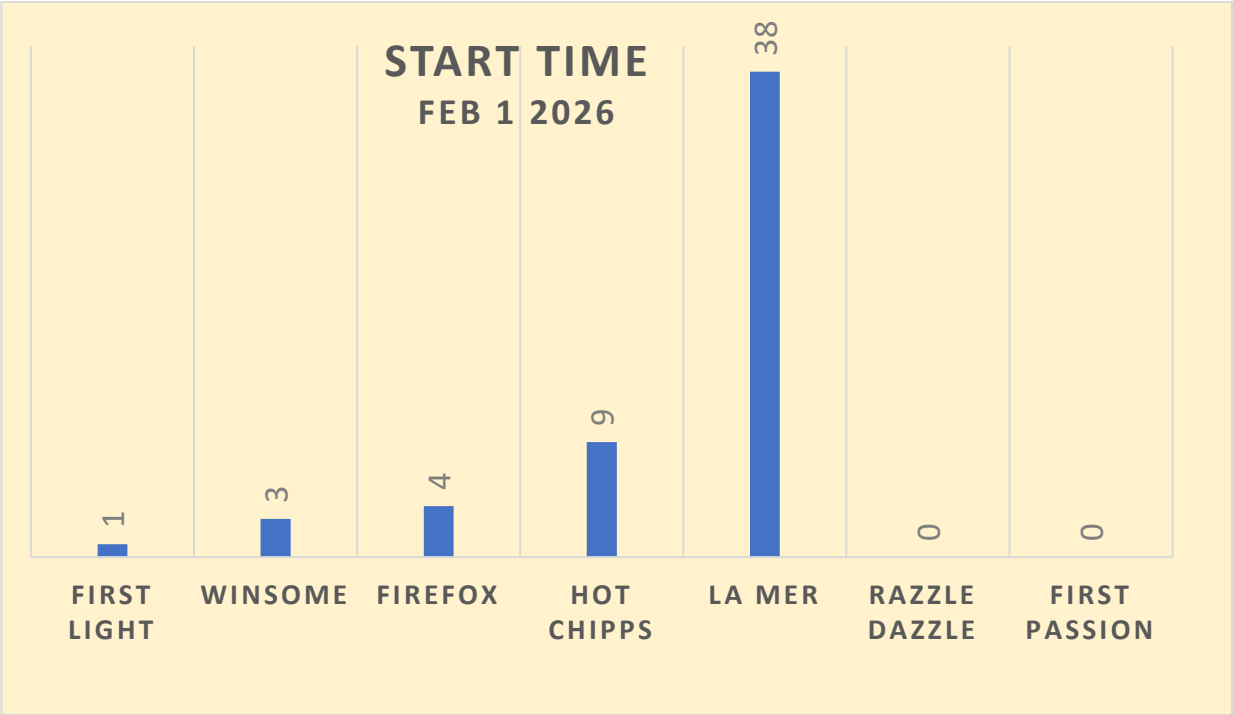
Forecast was fairly bleak. SW winds of 15-20 knots becoming 20-25 knots Sunday morning and then 30 knots around 3PM; passing showers and a fair sea and low temperatures. This explains why we had a small fleet and even as late as 9AM it was doubtful we would race with 20+ knots and quite a lumpy sea.
It moderated to 16 knots at the start, had another spike for about an hour and was 14 knots at the finish. The sun came out for the last two legs and the 24 knot squalls of the first two legs were forgotten.
We sailed course 13: start to 5 (beat), to 7 (very broad reach) to3 (close reach) to 1 (beat) to 3 (broad reach) to finish (close hauled). Course length 9.4 nm. The sea was a fair size and quite steep at times. Port tack was easier to manoeuvre the waves than starboard where hitting the waves was problematic.

7 boats started and all finisher (bravo)- clearly the hardier boats, or the boats well placed in the series. 28 minutes separated the fleet at the start and 20 minutes at the finish. The finishing difference would have been 12 minutes if **First Passion (Simon Lipman**) had got out of bed early enough.
Most boats went inside the reef both times and it seemed quite good with maybe a very moderate lift off the land. The SW wind veered slightly to the South in the middle of the race.



Start of the Day

Winner of the start of the day was **First Light (Mike Coulter)** whose 1 second start in the conditions was very excellent – some would say daring. It is hard to judge the start when the bow is nearly 50 feet from the stern. **Winsome (Simon Hemingway**) did well with 3 seconds , **Firefox (Anthony Clyne**) continued a recent good run of good form with 4 seconds. **Razzle Dazzle (Grahame John**) and **First Passion (Simon Lipman)** missed their start times by minutes but there are many stories to tell about these two…. The average start time was 11 second without these two, and about an hour if we include them.



SERIES Starts of the Day

After 9 races we have tabulated the best 7 starts. **Winsome** has edged out **Firefox** and with a better drop than **Firefox** is in a good position. **First Light (Mike Coulter**) is still third and has had two 1 second starts and a 2 and a 3 as well. **Hot Chipps (John Chipp) and Razzle Dazzle** are there but living on hope…

High drama in **the greatest event at SYC that has NO TROPHY.**

SUNDAY SAILORS SUMMER 2025/26	
Best 7 starts (seconds total)	
Winsome	30
Firefox	38
First Light	54
Hot Chipps	68
Razzle Dazzle	97

The view we all had of **La Mer (The Water) (Michael Ebeling)** today. A great win and return to series leadership (joint)

RESULTS

La Mer sailed very efficiently and well for a great result. Sailing with a full main and a No 3 genoa it looked briefly like **Winsome** might catch her for a short time (a chimera that vanished in the face of **La Mer's** relentless progress), but she powered away. Second was **Razzle Dazzle** and if the Razzles hadn't fluffed the start it would have been very close for first place. Good sailing by the **Grahame Jones** gang. **Winsome** was third finishing close up to an increasingly nervous **Razzle**, but pursuit was in vain. Fourth was **First Light** in a good heavy weather display.

Noorden Real Estate Sunday Sailors

Hosted By Sandringham Yacht Club

Race 9 (1/02/2026) PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Updated: 1/02/2026 13:27:02

PurHC results Start : 09:30

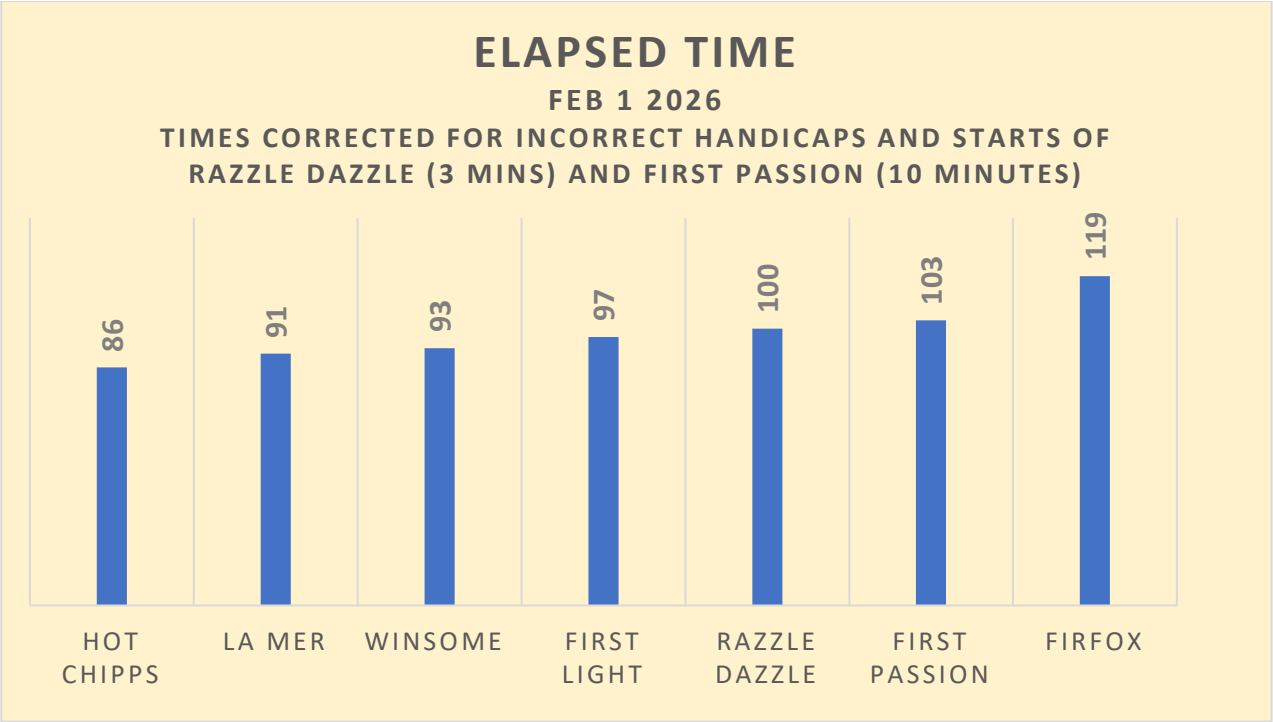
Place	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	T ahc	Fin Tim	Elapsd	Score
1	SM6002	LA MER	Michael Ebeling	24.0	11:25:22	01:31:22	1.0
2	SM2627	RAZZLE DAZZLE	Grahame Jones	19.0	11:29:54	01:40:54	2.0
3	SM190	WINSOME	Simon Hemingway	27.0	11:30:21	01:33:21	3.0
4	YC447	FIRST LIGHT	Mike Coulter	29.0	11:31:51	01:32:51	4.0
5	SM46	HOT CHIPPS	John Chipp	33.0	11:32:22	01:29:22	5.0
6	SM385	FIREFOX	Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne	13.0	11:37:48	01:54:48	6.0
7	SM351	FIRST PASSION	Simon Lipman	19.0	11:45:34	01:56:34	7.0

Razzle Dazzle a strong second today despite a late start. Fourth in the series.

Winsome third today, third in the Series and leading the "Season Start of the Day"

<u>Elapsed Times</u>

Hot Chipps had the quickest time around the course with 86 minutes. Second was **La Mer** with 91 minutes and third fastest was **Winsome** with 93 minutes**.** I have taken 3 minutes off **Razzle dazzle** time and 10 minutes off **First Passion's** time as they both missed the start by a wide mark, partly due to gear issues. I also corrected the results as the official results had incorrect handicaps – which affected the elapsed times but not the finishing order or the series results, to date.

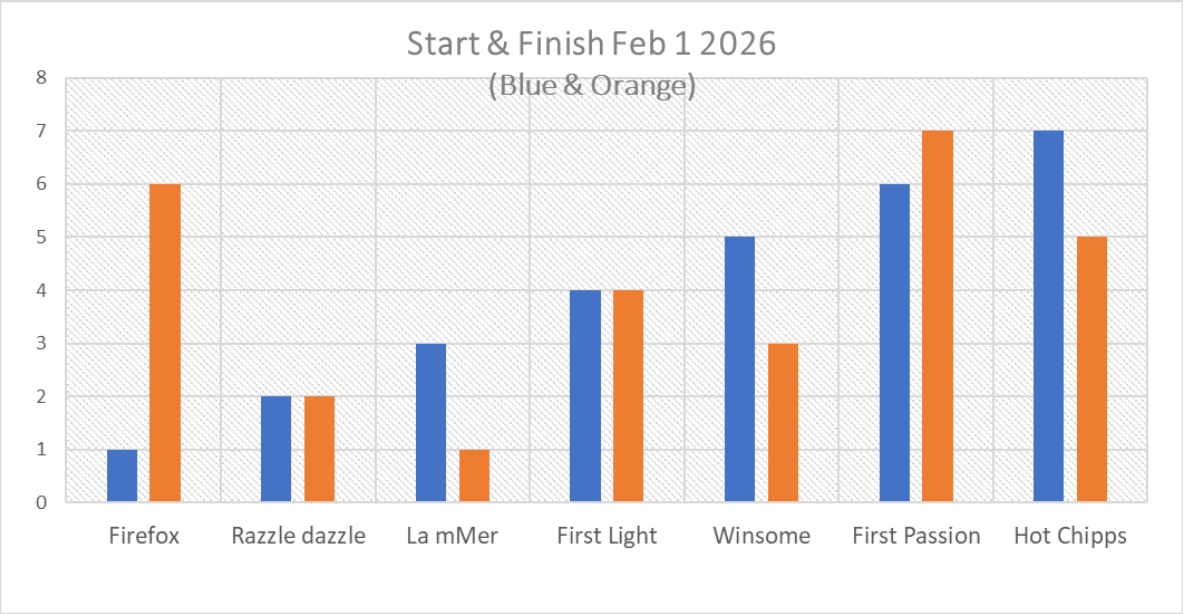


The average speed (VMG) was 5.73 knots in 17 knots of average breeze at Fawkner Beacon. Moderately quick for the conditions, also helped by the average boat size being larger than normal (40.5 feet). The sloppy and fairly large waves slowed boats down, particularly on starboard tack upwind, and there were no real reaches…. No boats called in a spinnaker which is just about a first, from memory. I am sure **Skullduggery (Garry McCracken**) would have called one in if sailing, if only as a matter of pride.

First Light: Start of the Day (1 second), equal leader in the series and fourth today.

START AND FINISH POSITIONS

A bit of a lonely chart today with only 7 boats. Three boats picked up 2 places: **La Mer, Winsome and Hot Chipps**. Very little to report.



SERIES LEAD

Noorden Real Estate Sunday Sailors

Hosted By Sandringham Yacht Club

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Updated: 1/02/2026 13:28:42

Series Results [PurHC] up to Race 9 (Drops = 2

Place	Ties	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper	Sers Score	Race 9	Race 8
1	3.0S	SM6002	LA MER	Michael Ebeling	21.0	1.0	[10.0]
2		YC447	FIRST LIGHT	Mike Coulter	21.0	4.0	1.0
3		SM190	WINSOME	Simon Hemingway	22.0	3.0	[17.0R]
4		SM2627	RAZZLE DAZZLE	Grahame Jones	28.0	2.0	[11.0]
5		SM385	FIREFOX	Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne	30.0	6.0	3.0
6		SM351	FIRST PASSION	Simon Lipman	33.0	7.0	6.0
7		SM46	HOT CHIPPS	John Chipp	43.5	5.0	8.0
8		SM440	SKULLDUGGERY	Garry McCarten	63.0	[38.0C]	[38.0C]
9		SM42	HITCHHIKER	David & Penny Goodman	74.0	38.0C	[38.0C]
10		SM451	DEBONNAIRE	Philip Gomez	100.0	[38.0C]	12.0

With 8 races complete (plus one abandonment for light winds), only one point seperates the top 3. **First Light** (last race leader) is joined by **La Mer** (the previous leader) as joint top two. 1 point back is **Winsome** (the previous but one leader). **Razzle Dazzle** is lurking close in 4th and **Firefox** will be hopeful in 5th. **Firefox**

was series leader only 3 races ago. The top five have very similar drops in reserve, and have been very consistent throughout the season. **Hot Chipps** would have been in amongst it also if it wasn't for a patch of poor form at the start of the season…. **Skullduggery** has dropped away as they haven't sailed the last two races due to a physical (not emotional) injury to her skipper, the doughty **Barry Mccarten**.

Handicaps

This segment, particularly in the hand s of my " Esteemed Colleague (ha) " **Leeward Larry**, was unofficially called **Stuart MJ's** oversight. When I interviewed **Stuart** about this he seemed unfussed and even confused. Who is this **Leeward Larry** he asked?

Review of the handicaps reveals little change of note. The biggest winners this season are **Antares (12 minutes), Firefox (**15 – Anthony what are you doing right?), **Lawless (9), Razzle dazzle (10**) and **Hot Chipps (7). Amicus (+8) and First Passion** (+3) have had their handicaps increased. As noted 2 races ago, **Stuart** has generally reduced the handicaps on average (by 4 minutes)

Handicaps	Start	Race 8/9	Handicap Change
Antares	0	-12	**-12**
Alegria	0	-4	-4
Isa Lei	-4	-4	0
Amicus	-10	-2	**plus 8**
Grumpy	8	5	-3
Firefox	24	9	**-15**
Lawless	18	9	**-9**
Soulmate	18	13	**-5**
Hitchhiker	18	12	-6
Emerald	20	20	0
Alliance	21	21	0
Razzle dazzle	27	17	-10
Skullduggery	23	19	-4
Raku	24	19	-5
Sheba	22	21	-1
First Light	26	25	-1
First Passion	20	23	plus 3
La Mer	26	24	-2
Winsome	29	27	-2
Debonnaire	35	35	0
Hot Chipps	44	37	-7

Very Important Information (Formerly known as "Gossip")

Your correspondent sent several of his agents into the bar after the race….

- The incident from 2 races ago- the radio call about keeping the line clear for the finishers, has raised it's ugly head again. Several crews still interested to establish who the claimant was and who the alleged perpetrator had been. **Luffing Lance** now knows the identity of the perpetrator (alleged) but cannot reveal this information due to threats of releasing certain

informations embarrassing to **Luffing Lance**. I understand the US Department of Justice has launched an enquiry into the identity of the claimant and a grand jury is standing by.

- **Skullduggery** has not been racing for several weeks. **Garry " the juggler" MacBarten** damaged his foot in the kitchen. He claimed he was cooking at the time, but **Jen** advises he was practicing his knife juggling act.
- **Firefox** took the long way home on the second leg, and after engaging in a luffing match with **Razzle Dazzle**, detoured off to Geelong. Turns out she was shaking out reef 2.
- **Razzle Dazzle** had issues of her own. She sailed very nicely with No 3 genoa and a reef but when they put the genoa out before the race, the sheets were under the spinnaker pole. In the strong winds at the time , it was an effort to release them and she was caught 5 minutes from the line with two minutes to go, hence the late start. Well done on the second and a win may have resulted if the start had been better. **Grahame Jones** has his own foot issues and helmed today as he couldn't move much. **Bob The Wind Whisperer Reeves** was transferred to mainsheet duty, after some argument (only joking).
- **First Passion** was just late (" too relaxed sitting in the marina" according to **Trevor Weathershore** – name changed to protect the source) plus they had a reef that wasn't working and had to be reattached. But they were very vocal about their handicap adjustments. **Mr Lipman and Ms Giorgi** (newly returned from skiing the Dolomites) complained about 7 minutes of extra time whilst another boat got far less for the same placings at the same time. That boat (**The Water**- name changed to protect the boat) obviously said they were blameless.
- Talking of **The Water,** sorry **La Mer**, they sailed very smoothly today, taking the lead on the second leg and never looked back (metaphorically and physically). They were very condescending towards **Winsome** in the bar afterwards. **La Mer** have been on a hot streak lately. They won a very tough Division at Festival of Sails (Div 2 Spinnaker), performed strongly at the Petersville Regatta and picked up trophies in the Cock of the Bay for Div 2 and the Cruz division. All this whilst their handicap is very favourable. Oh and their foredeck lady took credit for today's win.
- Talking of foredecks, **Kelly** on the foredeck of **First Light** was drowned when **First Light** put her bow into a particularly large wave. She came up like a drowned rat after actually swimming for a couple of seconds. **First Light** had a very solid 4th today despite electing to tack downwind rather than pole out the genoa – allowed **La Mer** and then **Winsome** past.
- Then we come to **Hot Chipps**. Such a wronged boat. Today they had only 1 working winch, auto helm was playing up and grumbled about a bow thruster. But they went well and were trying very hard to overhaul **First Light** at the end.
- The only boat I haven't mentioned was **Winsome**. The ceaseless campaign that **Leeward Larry** has waged about the Winsome 1 minute spinnaker penalty has finally borne fruit. Lo and behold a 3 minute penalty. **Simon Hemingway** was seen taking the two spinnakers off the boat after the race and rumour is that they are in the shed in his back garden and will never see the light of day again.

Many thanks to our tower people: **Cathy Higgins** Race Officer **Margaret Whitbread 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.

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Luffing Lance

First passion and Firefox