**SUNDAY SAILORS** ***January 4, 2026*** ***RACE "7" SUMMER SERIES***

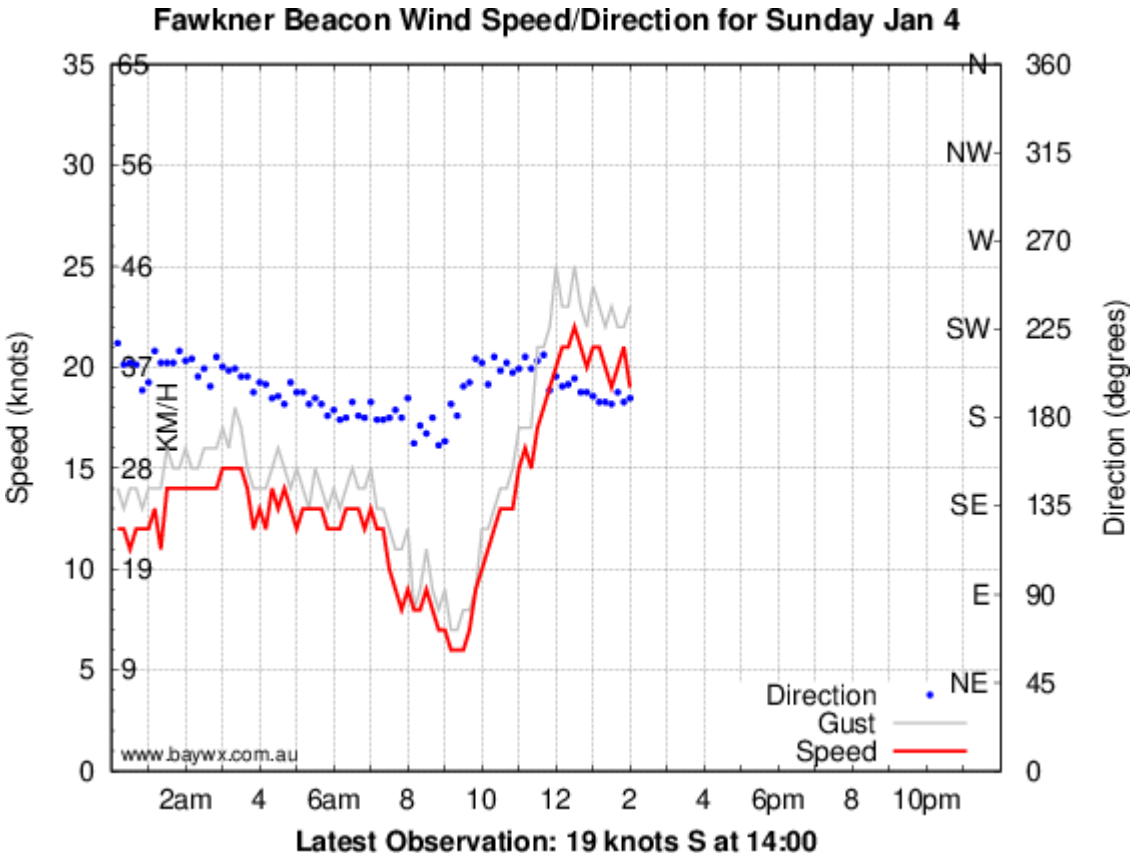
**Intro**

Forecast was for partly cloudy but dry, chance of a thunderstorm in the North of the bay, 10-15 knots becoming 15-20 at midday with winds from the SW. What eventuated was 18-20 degrees, partly sunny with light winds from the South that turned slightly westerly and strengthened as the race went on, hitting about 20 knots at the end (with some gusts at 23-24). The seas were reasonably flat at the start although minor surfing was possible on the last down wind leg, depending on the skill level of the crew.

We sailed course 51. Upwind to 1, a reach to 2, downwind to 7, close hauled to 4, a beat to 5, a run to 3 and a short close hauled to the finish at 4. Course length 9.97 nautical miles.

16 boats toed the line with 14 finishers. 54 minutes separated the starters and 31 minutes the finishers…

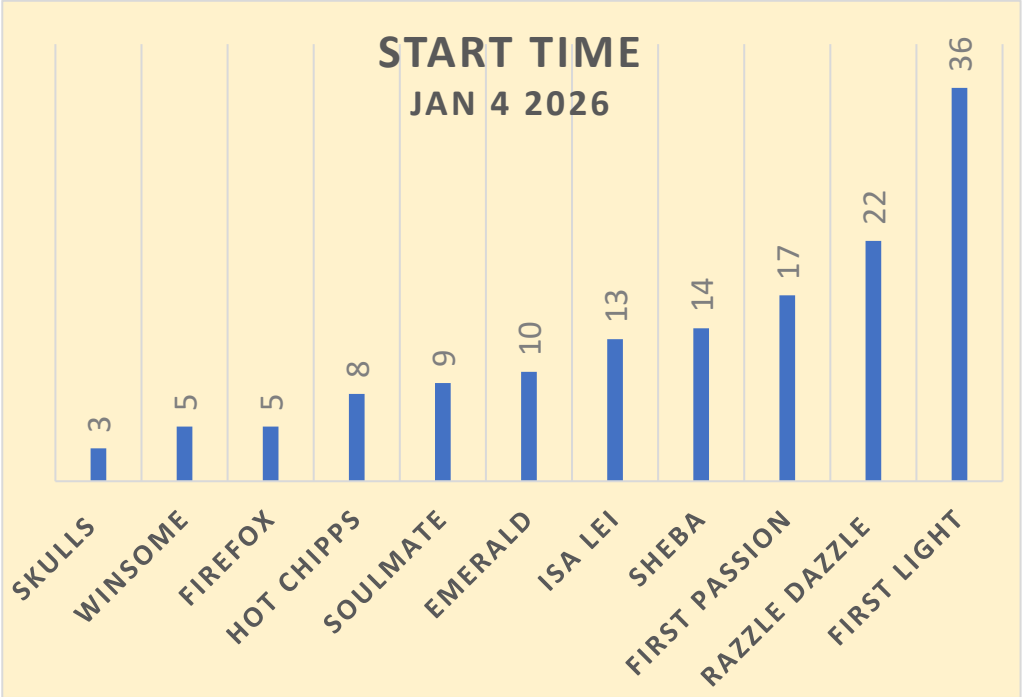
Going inside the reef the first time (to No 1) didn't pay. Due to the lighter winds, I think, and also a small shift to the West, the boats that went out to sea picked up3-4 minutes. The second time around, the inside course (in 15 plus knots) seemed to be fine, and the boats that went out early suffered.




**Start of the Day**

In an another great leap forward we have arranged the results in chronological order. So the start results come before the finish. Winner of the start of the day was **Skullduggery (Garry McLarten**) with a good 3 second start. Next was 5 seconds from **Winsome (Simon Hemingway**) tied with **Firefox (Anthony Clyne**). **Winsome** couldn't believe their time as they did everything except hit No 4, trying to avoid going over early. They had quite a tussle on the line with **First Passion (Simon Lipman**) with the favoured leeward position being swapped three times in the last 60 seconds. **Hot Chipps (John Chipp**) and **Soulmate (David**

**Keyes-Tilley)** also had sub 10 second starts. 40% of the field were 10 seconds or less (about average for this non-super hot mob of starters) with the average being blown out to 54 seconds (again another very average effort) by 5 starters above one minute.




**SERIES Starts of the Day**

After 7 races we have tabulated the best 5 starts. **Firefox and Winsome** are locked together on 27 seconds. This is closely followed by **First Light (Michael and Gemma Coulter)** on 33 seconds. Honorable mentions to **Razzle Dazzle (Grahame Jones) and Hot Chipps…**
Perrenial strong achievers, **La Mer (Michael Ebeling) and Skullflubbery** are down the list due to a couple of stuffed starts and race absences… Can they claw their way back in the 5 remaining races, or has that ship sailed??

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

| SUNDAY SAILORS SUMMER 2025/26 | |
|---|---|
| | |
| **Best 5 starts (seconds total)** | |
| | |
| **Firefox** | **27** |
| **Winsome** | **27** |
| **First Light** | **33** |
| **Razze Dazzle** | **41** |
| **Hot Chipps** | **45** |

**RESULTS**

**Hot Chipps** had a great day out. Last to first for a great victory and naturally the fastest elapsed time. Second was **Winsome** who managed to pick up three places on the second last run, partly due to some downwind manouvering by **Hitchhiker (David Goodman**), who themselves were third across the line but an ENP opened the door for **Firefox** to get the valued glassware. **First Light and Debonnaire (Phil Gomez**) were well placed. There were some close finishes with 3rd to 6th (plus **Hitchhiker**) being within a minute and similarly 8th to 11th separated by a minute. It made for good clubhouse viewing.

## Noorden Real Estate Sunday Sailors

**Hosted By Sandringham Yacht Club**

Race 7 (4/01/2026) PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Updated: 6/01/2026 3:29:01 PM

*PurHC results Start : 09:30*

| Place | Sail Num | Boat Name | Skipper | T ahc | Fin Tim | Elapsd | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | SM46 | HOT CHIPPS | John Chipp | 35.0 | 11:47:07 | 01:42:07 | 1.0 |
| 2 | SM190 | WINSOME | Simon Hemingway | 26.0 | 11:50:12 | 01:54:12 | 2.0 |
| 3 | SM385 | FIREFOX | Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne | 12.0 | 11:52:21 | 02:10:21 | 4.0 |
| 4 | YC447 | FIRST LIGHT | Mike Coulter | 22.0 | 11:52:25 | 02:00:25 | 5.0 |
| 5 | SM451 | DEBONNAIRE | Philip Gomez | 36.0 | 11:52:53 | 01:46:53 | 6.0 |
| 6 | G3851 | GRUMPY | Andrew Stopp | 5.0 | 11:53:40 | 02:18:40 | 7.0 |
| 7 | SM2627 | RAZZLE DAZZLE | Grahame Jones | 20.0 | 11:55:10 | 02:05:10 | 8.0 |
| 8 | SM4379 | SOUL MATE | David Keyes-Tilley | 7.0 | 11:55:40 | 02:18:40 | 9.0 |
| 9 | SM351 | FIRST PASSION | Simon Lipman | 21.0 | 11:55:59 | 02:04:59 | 10.0 |
| 10 | SM440 | SKULLDUGGERY | Garry McCarten | 21.0 | 11:56:34 | 02:05:34 | 11.0 |
| 11 | SM6915 | EMERALD | Tony/ Jo Tanner | 16.0 | 11:59:14 | 02:13:14 | 12.0 |
| 12 | SM86 | SHEBA | Michael Pisani | 20.0 | 12:02:20 | 02:12:20 | 13.0 |
| 13 | SM82 | ISA LEI | Andrew Chapman | -4.0 | 12:18:23 | 02:52:23 | 14.0 |
| RET | M010 | AURORA | Paul Challis | -5.0 | | | 17.0 |
| RET | SM4535 | PANACHE IV | Egils Stokans | -15.0 | | | 17.0 |
| ENP | SM42 | HITCHHIKER | David & Penny Goodman | 12.0 | 11:51:43 | 02:09:43 | 8.0 |

**Hot Chipps** a very good last to first today .

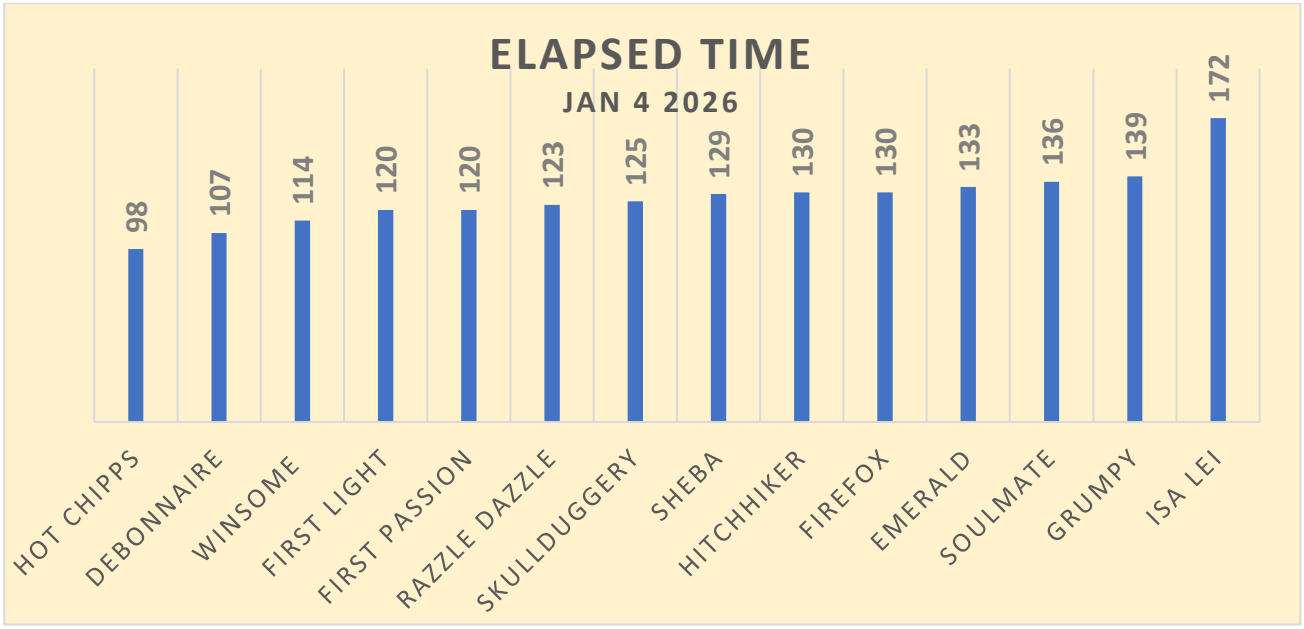
**Skullduggery** start of the day, and also fifth in the series.

**Firefox**. Third today and equal leader in the series start of the day.

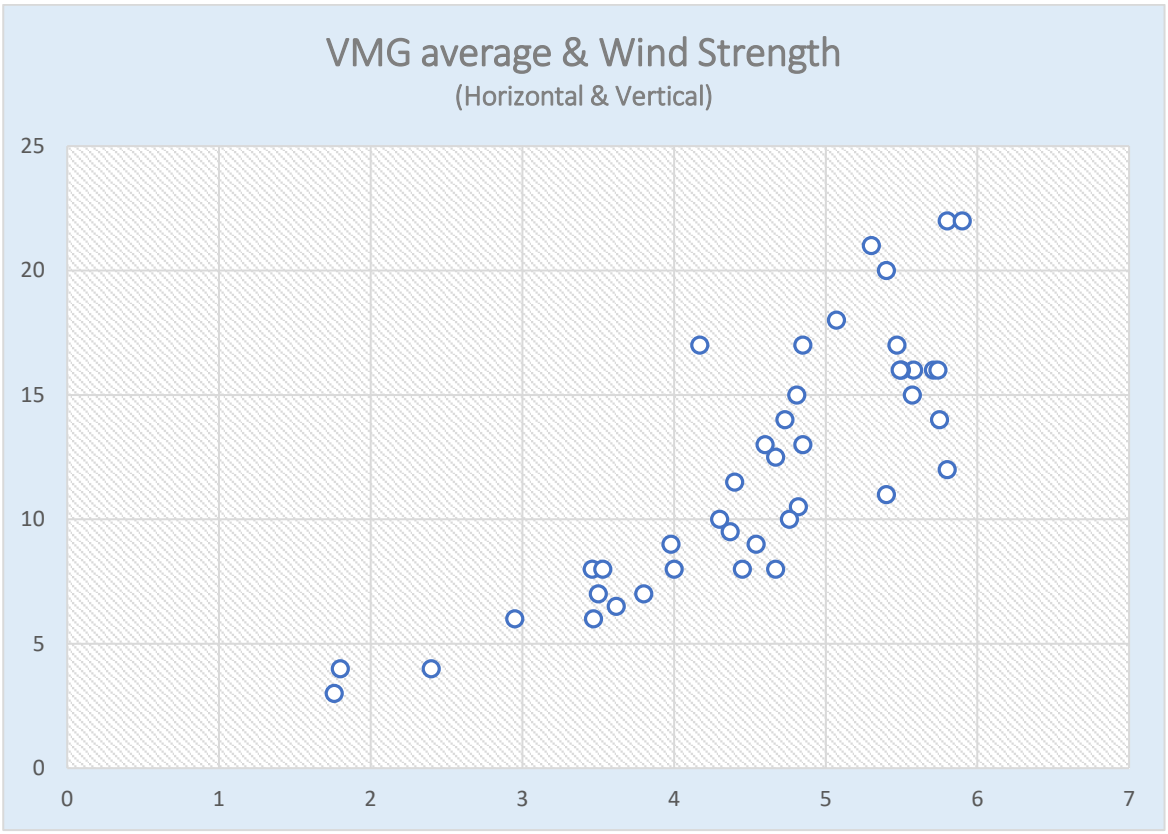
**<u>Elapsed Times</u>**

**Hot Chipps** showed a clean pair of heels today, comfortably the fastest boat in her last to first performance. She was very quick in the light stuff and also pacey in the heavy stuff, clearly shaking off her previous indifferent form earlier in the series. **Debonnaire** was second fastest with 107 minutes, but as she said, was blown away by Hot Chipps on the first leg. **Winsome** was predictably solid with 114 minutes and good showings from **First Light and First Passion** both with 2 hours (120 minutes).

**Isa Lei (Andrew Chapman)** was best value for money.




The average speed (VMG) was 4.73 knots in 14 knots of average breeze at Fawkner Beacon. This is quite slow but explainable by the very early light winds, which were probably even lighter inshore than at Fawkner Beacon. This would also explain why going up the coast on the first beat didn't pay off (lighter winds??) but was OK the second time when the wind had strengthened to 15 knots.



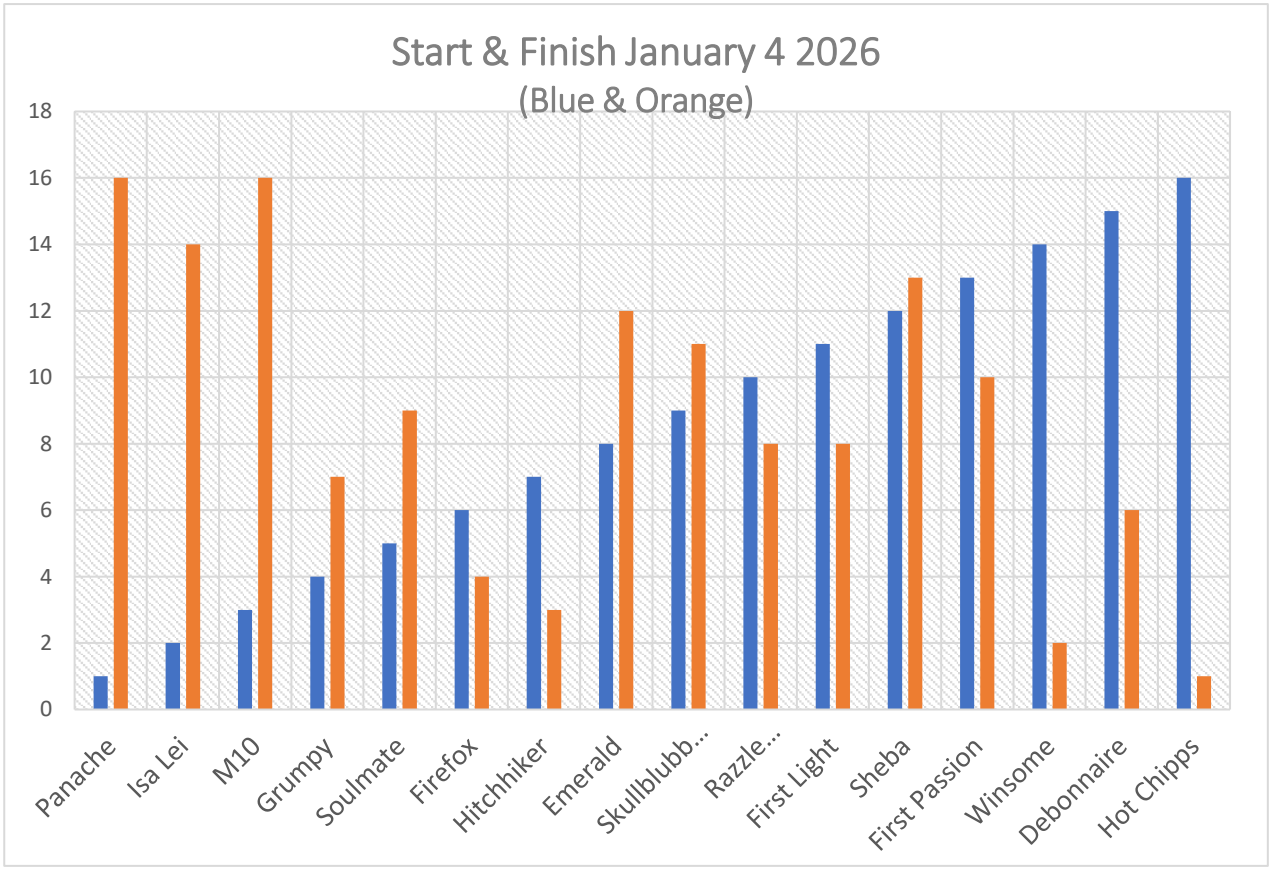

An array of average wind (vertical) versus average VMG
Might reverse the axes next time.

**Winsome**: second today, snatched the series leadership in **La Mer's (Michael Ebeling**) absence. Second in start of the day, equal leader series start of the day.

**First Light**: Fifth today and third in the Series. Also third in series start of the day.

## START AND FINISH POSITIONS

We had another ENP with **Hitchhiker**, her hard fought third becoming a 10th I believe (as of writing this we had no results). **Hot Chipps** picked up 15 places with her last to first finish, with **Winsome** (13 places), **Debonnaire** (9 places) also doing well. The winds definitely favoured the late starting boats as it was very light until about 10.30 AM, so the handicap starts would have counted for very little.




## SERIES LEAD

### Noorden Real Estate Sunday Sailors

**Hosted By Sandringham Yacht Club**

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Updated: 6/01/2026 3:29:30 PM

*Series Results [PurHC] up to Race 7 (Drops = 1)*

| Place | Ties | Sail Num | Boat Name | Skipper | Sers Score | Race 7 | Race 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | SM190 | WINSOME | Simon Hemingway | 19.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| 2 | | SM6002 | LA MER | Michael Ebeling | 20.0 | [38.0C] | 1.0 |
| 3 | | YC447 | FIRST LIGHT | Mike Coulter | 22.0 | 5.0 | 4.0 |
| 4 | | SM2627 | RAZZLE DAZZLE | Grahame Jones | 26.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| 5 | | SM440 | SKULLDUGGERY | Garry McCarten | 27.0 | 11.0 | 6.0 |
| 6 | | SM385 | FIREFOX | Kim Beveridge/ Anthony Clyne | 30.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| 7 | | SM42 | HITCHHIKER | David & Penny Goodman | 36.0 | 8.0N | [38.0C] |
| 8 | | SM46 | HOT CHIPPS | John Chipp | 41.5 | 1.0 | 9.5 |
| 9 | | SM351 | FIRST PASSION | Simon Lipman | 56.0 | 10.0 | 7.0 |
| 10 | | G3851 | GRUMPY | Andrew Stopp | 73.0 | 7.0 | [38.0C] |

With 6 races complete (plus one abandonment for light winds) we have a new leader. Three points separate the top 3 but **Winsome** leads by 1 point from the previous leader **La Mer** – who missed this race. **First Light** is handily placed in third. The consistent **Razzle Dazzle** and the doughty **Skullduggery** are next.

In a topsy turvy season **Winsome** is the 5th series leader. So it is all action at the top of the table. The AFL would be jealous.

Fleet action approaching number 7. **Emerald (Tony Tanner), First Light, Skulls with Hot Chipps** out of shot to the right. Taken from a very nervous **Winsome**.

**<u>Handicaps</u>**

Normally the province of that " Sage of the East" **<u>Leeward Larry</u>** but I will assume the mantle of "handicap police" or "the person that looks over **Stuart's** shoulder". **Stuart** has been reducing handicaps this series – with boats staring earlier. The average reduction has been 4.4 minutes, quite sizeable. The luckiest recipients of this largesse have been **Antares (Stewart & Pearce), Firefox, Lawless (Boyd Coulson), Soulmate, Razzle Dazzle and Hot Chipps**. I am sure these crews would argue that it is only redress for previously "unbalanced handicaps" – whether due to previous triumphs not repeated, bad luck and mishaps this series or .. dare I say it, some sort of relationship with the handicapper. But hush sweep that one under the rug.

Boats that have caught the ire of SMJ include **Amicus (Warwick Stenford)** (plus 8) and **First Passion** (plus 3).

| Handicaps | Start | Race 7 | 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 | 10 | **-8** |
| Hitchhiker | 18 | 12 | -6 |
| Emerald | 20 | 16 | -4 |
| Alliance | 21 | 18 | -3 |
| Razzle dazzle | 27 | 19 | -8 |
| Skullduggery | 23 | 19 | -4 |
| Raku | 24 | 19 | -5 |
| Sheba | 22 | 20 | -2 |
| First Light | 26 | 22 | -4 |
| First Passion | 20 | 23 | plus 3 |
| La Mer | 26 | 24 | -2 |
| Winsome | 29 | 25 | -4 |
| Debonnaire | 35 | 33 | -2 |
| Hot Chipps | 44 | 36 | **-8** |

**Very Important Information (Formerly known as "Gossip")**

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

- As the fleet was trying to finish in the strengthening conditions a partly heard radio call (some did not hear it) occurred, asking an- as yet unidentified yacht - to keep clear of the boats trying to finish. **Winsome** was accused of being the culprit but innocence was established. **Winsome** was then accused of being the caller but it was also established that they had already finished. Another contender asserted they had sailed around the back of all yachts . There has been no progress on who the caller was but **Hercule Poirot** has been engaged on the case after **Sherlock Holmes** declined. All boats are reminded to only use the radio when needed and otherwise keep the airwaves free.
- **Skullduggery** had an exciting race. First she put her spinnaker up on the reach from 1 to 2 with some hairy moments before getting it right. In the end it was worth it as they caught several boats by No 7. After they rounded 7 **Hot Chipps** (in the background below) was trying to pass **Skullduggery** to windward (it was close hauled or close reach). In the ensuing luffing battle the **Skulls** alleged that **Hot Chipps** were too close as the windward and overtaking boat and the **Skulls** protested and flew their protest flag. The boats were certainly very close. Afterwards crew from **Hot Chipps** said there was no contact between the boats and the **Skulls** said they would not carry through the protest – " It's only Sunday Sailors"

As an aside while we are talking protestable incidents, I am sure that there were no gennikers (or assymetric kites) with a pole attached to them, the Sydney Hobart has taught us that one. Also no boat hooks used as small temporary poles.

- **Razzle Dazzle** unsheathed a new code zero today which would have been very good on a couple of the reaching legs. She still had a lot of trouble with **Soulmate** on one of the legs as she was baulked in all her manoeuvres (I have only had **Graham Jones** side of the story).
- **Hitchhiker** continues to be the source of much news. ENP cost seven places but no-one could be found to take responsibility**. Penny Goodman** was certainly throwing someone under the bus!! Then after rounding no 5 leading the fleet, she decided to sail off towards Williamstown, and when she gybed back again found that **Hot Chipps** (which was inevitable anyway) and **Winsome** has slipped through to leeward.
- **Firefox** claimed to have had a dingdong battle with **Winsome** down the run from 5 to 3. After failing to outsurf **Winsome** on the waves, she went across to take her wind. Not playing for sheep stations here **Anthony Clyne**.
- **Isa Lei** struggled in the light stuff and then when the wind came they were swamped by the under handicapped larger boats. Well done the **Chapmans**..
- **Emerald**… well the excuses kept coming from **Tony Tanner**. 500 kg of extra gear on board, really dirty (boat) bottom, crew withdrawing at the last minute, sandbagging the handicap. At least they all enjoyed sharing one sausage lunch between them (or so it seemed).
- **First Light** only had 4 crew so by the second half of the race they were a bit tired**.** Certainly **Esprit (Garry Anderson)-** with the same hull but larger rig- likes 10 people on the rail when it gets strong, so I can sympathise. They also went inside the reef which didn't work.
- **La Mer** didn't sail today and so surrendered her series lead, but will get it back I am sure when the next race drop comes. She must have been suffering a hangover from Cock of the Bay (where she placed in Spinnaker Division 2 and Cruz Division) and the subsequent Petersville regatta- a journalistic guess.

Many thanks to our tower people: Cathy Higgins Race Officer (there are no early over the lines for **Razzle Dazzle** when Cathy is on duty- a little joke), **Margaret Whitbread and Peter Graham**. **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***

**Hitchhiker** with her fancy sails. An ENP turned a 3rd into a 10th

**Razzle Dazzle** on another day. A great shot that our editor liked. We call it “Going Home”