

Weather Course Homework Challenge

Melbourne to Blairgowrie Winter Series Race

Saturday 20 June 2026 – Start 8:30am (Royal Brighton Yacht Club)

Your Mission

You are the navigator and weather forecaster for this Saturday's race from Royal Brighton Yacht Club to Blairgowrie.

Race Start: 8:30am, Saturday 20 June 2026

Start Area: Vicinity of Royal Brighton Yacht Club

Task 1 – Weather Analysis

Using both Windy and PredictWind:

- Import the GPX course file provided.
- Review the forecast for wind strength, wind direction, gusts, rain and cloud cover, temperature, sea state and wave conditions.
- Compare the different forecast models available.
- Decide what weather you expect for the race, the most likely wind pattern, whether conditions are likely to change during the passage, and which parts of the course may be fast or challenging.

Task 2 – Crew Briefing

Prepare a weather briefing for your crew including:

- Expected conditions during the race
- Likely wind shifts and strengths
- Sail selections you would consider
- Safety considerations
- What clothing the crew should wear
- Food and drink recommendations
- Anything else the crew should bring

Task 3 – Present Your Findings

Preferred Option – Video Briefing

Create a short 2–5 minute video as if you are the skipper briefing your crew before race day. Upload your video to the course WhatsApp group.

Alternative Option – Written Briefing

If you cannot create a video, prepare a written weather and crew briefing and bring it to class on Thursday.

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Bonus Challenge

Compare the forecasts from Windy and PredictWind:

- Where do they agree?
- Where do they differ?
- Which forecast do you trust most and why?

Remember

A good navigator does not just forecast the weather—they help the crew understand what to expect and how to prepare for a safe, comfortable and successful race.