

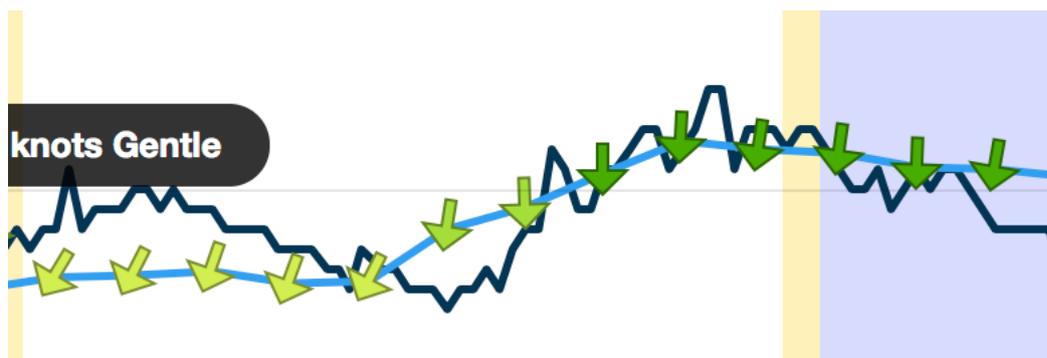
A Race won by a yacht Escaping from a perceived Threat

Wednesday Wonders Race 15 Winter Series 2017

(12 July 2017)

The winner of Race 15 was **STAMPEDE**. By definition, was a yacht which was uncontrolled and concentrated on sailing fast as an act of mass impulse in which the group collectively was attempting to escape a perceived threat.

The winter chill was kind and the wind was fairly true to the predictions. As indicated in the graph from Willy Weather:



12/05:00pm	-	-	-	-	-	N	24	26	13	14
12/04:30pm	-	-	-	-	-	N	28	33	15	18
12/04:00pm	-	-	-	-	-	N	22	26	12	14
12/03:30pm	-	-	-	-	-	N	24	26	13	14
12/03:00pm	-	-	-	-	-	N	20	26	11	14
12/02:30pm	-	-	-	-	-	N	20	24	11	13
12/02:00pm	-	-	-	-	-	N	15	17	8	9
12/01:30pm	-	-	-	-	-	NE	11	11	6	6
12/01:00pm	-	-	-	-	-	NNE	7	11	4	6
12/12:30pm	-	-	-	-	-	N	9	13	5	7

You will notice from the Fawkner Bcn. records above, that the wind did increase during the afternoon. At the start of the race the wind was blowing at 6 knts for the early starters; and the later starters enjoyed a stronger breeze of 11 to 12 knts.

The task for Stampede to win was to pass 36 yachts and catch the two Tritons who, at Stampede's starting time, were 4.2nm ahead, but in a lighter breeze only averaging 3.4 knts on the downwind leg from 7 to 5. As the wind increased they averaged 5.00knts on the second downwind leg from 3 to 1.

At the first time round No 4 STAMPEDE was 9th, 9mins behind Pippa who was first round and in front by 2.5mins. 14 yachts passed No 4 in the 10 mins after Pippa. In the first ten minutes after Stampede finished 29 yachts had crossed the line. The whole fleet of 38 yachts finished 15mins after STAMPEDE.

Stampede has an average of finishing 15th with a big variation in her results.

It puzzles some sailors as to why Stampede sometimes furls her jib. Is it to reduce the drag? Is it because it is too noisy when it flaps? Is it because the sail maker told them it would wear out the sail, or does the crew need a rest after sailing at high speed?

Stampede is currently 27th in the series but has two scores in the high 20's to drop.

She was second fastest around the course with a time of 1:43:11 starting off 45 mins.

Second place getter was skippered by one of Wednesday Wonder's veterans, Les Brown in WINDSPEED, only 21seconds behind. WINDSPEED gained 8 mins from the first time round No 4. WINDSPEED is currently 7th overall in the series with some very consistent sailing.

Third place was BON VIVANT (Russell Keays). This moved her into second place overall, 4.5 points behind CASSANDRA who is still in the lead despite hospital visits for a bit of plumbing work. BON VIVANT has had 5 results in the top ten, and the worst to count an eleventh and twelfth.

Fourth place by just 10 seconds was CONQUEST. Their start time of 24seconds late lost them a podium finish. She was fourth fastest around the course 1:49:43 starting off 40mins. ESPRIT off 41, was second fastest by 2 seconds 1:49:41. The fastest by 6.34 mins was NUTCRACKER off 55mins who finished 8th.

Pippa did get a mention for finishing 3 secs in front of Barnstormer last week. Maybe it would have been wise not to mention this as she finished 12th, 2 secs in front of Pippa this race.

Steve Copley on PRIMO won the start of the day with an owl's eyes start. The SECRETARY starting 2 seconds late must have felt hard done by, so too might have VINDALOO and BLUE TACK just 2 seconds late, but being smaller more manoverable craft should be able to start well.

It was difficult not to notice the sign (below) pinned under the handicaps. Mark was not sure what it meant. Handicaps for smaller yachts had not changed. I thought the Wiggles had sold their yacht. Is the handicapper playing games with us? Is this a part of a subversive plot to increase the handicap of the Wiggle's yacht (Featherstone) now called Phoenix? Mark raised this matter with Brendon who denied all allegations and laughed at any suggestions of impropriety. He even suggested Mark had misread the sign. What do you think this sign meant? Is this a Trumped-up inspired move?



What is Wiggle or Wriggle room?

Mark's computer says: '*capacity or scope for negotiation or operation, especially in order to modify a previous statement or decision.*

Mark's dictionary definition of *wriggle* seems to be subtly different from *wiggle*. *Wriggling* implies an intention to move somewhere, whereas *wiggling* does not.

Questions about race 15 Mark has been suffering from a head cold and needs a bit of help to sort out his notes, not an easy task with watery eyes. Some of the quotes below were excuses for not performing well.

Mark has a list of yachts and quotes, but needs to match the quote to the yacht concerned. Watermark, Willarie, Phoenix, The Secretary, Myuna 111, Vi dar loo, Barnstormer, Pippa, Salt Whistle and maybe some have been missed.

“We were late to start because we had a slug in the Mainsail. We had trouble removing it.” (Mark is not sure why yachts do not carry insect repellent for this job).

“We did not realize that you possibly could be be protested against for unsportsman like behaviour for cutting across yachts that have already started to race. We wondered why someone was calling out to us 30 mins before we started the race.”

“We were definitely not over the line early.”

The Secretary’s owner, George, is keeping a close track of his yacht ...but one message has got a bit distorted. He is sailing with his wife in the Norfolk Broads not chasing the broads in Norfolk.

“I made a tactical error in going along the foreshore on the first leg.”

“We were not aware that there was a queue to enter the marina. Sorry if we jammed up other yachts behind us and slowed the progress down.”

“Well we did loose concentration a few times as the skipper keeps on ringing us with instructions. We are not sure if this qualifies as outside assistance.”

“I did not tack, as I did not want to approach the finish line on a port tack.”

“We were late to start because we wanted to get a good line to get around Number 7.”

“Our satisfaction in racing in Wednesday Wonders is derived from finishing in front of yachts that are similar to us, and whom we have been sparing with in some cases for many years. The handicaps don’t trouble us too much as long as they do not separate us apart from this group too much.”

“We aim just to pass the red yacht, then we think we have done very well.”

Videos for this week CLUBMARINE website

<https://www.clubmarine.com.au/internet/clubmarine.nsf/docs/Club+Marine+TV>

See tips for starting and other short 2 or 3 min clips on sailing.

The Secretary’s owner, George, is keeping a close track of his yacht ...but one message has got a bit distorted.

He is sailing with his wife in the Norfolk Broads: not chasing the broads in Norfolk

Keep a look out for **Café Racer** which maybe sailing next Wednesday. Alan Clapham, the skipper, has been preparing for WW by being in the tower during the last race.

Thanks to Brendon, Margaret, and Geoff for their assistance in preparing this epistle.

MARK WINDWARD [click mark-windward@live.com.au](mailto:mark-windward@live.com.au)

Do you know this lighthouse? Send the Naswer to [MARK](#)

