

# Arising from the fire - The Phoenix Strikes again

## Wednesday Wonders Race 14 Winter Series 2017

5/7/2017

The BOM prediction was spot on for the wind strength and directions so no excuses for getting the wind strength incorrect or choosing the wrong sail.

Course 22 only required two tacks (not counting rounding marks) to complete, and no downwind legs. This made it difficult for some skippers to keep their crew focused. What assisted their concentration were some very close encounters with surrounding yachts.

There was just 13.36mins separating the fleet at the finish. This caused some complaints from skippers who felt hard done by. To quote: "It wasn't fair. I finished only 2mins after the yacht I was trying to beat, but the difference in our results were 12 places."

The only negative factor with the weather was when the wind dropped a little causing the swell to rock a few of the smaller yachts. It was even sunny, if not particularly warm.

Windward Buoy has left this cooler weather and is now in a warmer climate on Blue Flyer with Hugh Pilsworth with the temperature range of 26° to 30°. You may have noticed the change of format in this report due to his absence...particularly the charts and graphs.

4:30pm	-	WSW	10	13
4:00pm	-	SW	13	15
3:30pm	-	SW	12	15
3:00pm	-	SW	11	14
2:30pm	-	SW	12	14
2:00pm	-	SW	12	15
1:30pm	-	WSW	12	14
1:00pm	-	WSW	11	13

Start of the day (once again) was **Barnstormer** who was 3 seconds late. If she had had a perfect start she would have finished at the same time as Pippa and not 3 seconds behind. Only 2 yachts were over a minute late. One was possibly late due to the skipper being absent sailing in the Norfolk Broads. Robyn is currently looking after **The Secretary** and has adopted a more socialistic approach to helming using a rotation system.



## RESULTS

First over the line was **Phoenix** 3:45 min in front.

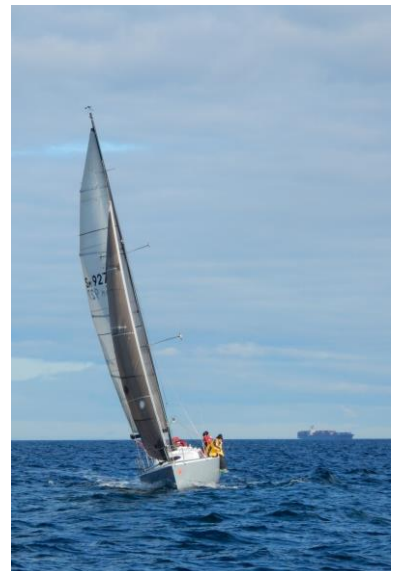
She started 14 seconds late for her handicap of 24 mins. For the first ten races this season her handicap has been about 31 mins.

The photo below is not up to date as she has a new set of sails for this season. She passed 8 yachts to secure first place.

The skipper, Alex, is currently overseas, and the crew would not deny that Alex has installed a Go Pro Camera on board to keep an eye on how his yacht was performing. They did have the assistance of the Sail Captain on board, not for the first time. I hope the handicapper was notified.

Maybe all skippers should have a rating based on their performance over a season with yachts' handicap times adjusted.

Another yacht to change skippers is Razzle Dazzle. Andrew and Vicky are enjoying telling friends that it is about 31° in France.



Second over the line was **White Pointer**. Starting 5<sup>th</sup> Tommy only had to pass two yachts to get this position. It is his best performance. The previous best was an 8<sup>th</sup> place. White Pointer's handicap has been out to 34minutes, but for this race it had jumped up from 14 to 18. She was 14 sec late at the start, and finished a minute ahead of Vantage.

Third across the line was **Vantage**. Darren had to pass 8 yachts to secure this place with a 1:26 gap behind to 4<sup>th</sup>. She had 3 min added to her handicap from Race 13, which was 22 when she did not race. This is Darren's second podium race and places her 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the series.



I made an error in searching for this photo and typed in 'Vintage', as this is a photo from 2013. Neither of these other yachts are sailing on Wednesdays now. Do you know their names?

## Passed the most yachts (The laxative award)

SM	YACHT	Start Position	Finishing Position	Boats Passed
701	MELTEMI SYC	16	4	11
477	ESPRIT	21	5	15
178	ALIBI	20	6	14
9988	BRANNEW	29	7	22
6	STAMPEDE	30	10	19
45	CONQUEST	28	11	16

**Meltemi SYC.** Meltemi does get a mention for fourth place, as it is her best result this season. Previous best was 8<sup>th</sup> in Race 3. She is gradually improving and getting her rig tuned in preparation for the Osaka Race. The current aim is to finish in the top ten this season. Ian has a way to go to reach this goal as he is currently 30<sup>th</sup> - but has a few 30<sup>th</sup> scores he can drop. Now that he is reducing his working time he can concentrate a little more on his sailing.

Meltemi was off a 28 min handicap for this race, a reduction from 32, which she has been on most of the season until race 10.

**Esprit.** Not only because it will increase the readership of this report, Esprit rates a mention for her best race this season, a 5<sup>th</sup> place. Gary's previous best was 7<sup>th</sup> in Race 9. Currently Esprit is 36<sup>th</sup> in the series with two scores of 30 to drop. She was just 5secs late for her 38 min handicap. Her handicap was up to 53 at the start of the season and dropped to 37 for Race 12.

At the half way mark she had gained just one place and in the second half passed 14 boats.



The question is especially for Esprit, or others: When was this photo taken?

## Updates

**Shanti** - Jacquie Hope has departed from Lizard Island in the Coral Sea.

Last report 10/7/2017 S 11°28.14.17 E 145°26.49.60

Read Blog Update 22/6/2017 <https://shantiatsea.blogspot.com.au>

**Blue Flyer** - Hugh Pilsworth & Windward Buoy

9/7/2017 - Panama Anchorage, Panama Canal

Read latest report <http://blueflyer4905.blogspot.com.au>

**Short Video Clip** on New Zealand regatta from Off Centre

Click or copy link [http://www.offcenterharbor.com/videos/new-zealands-mahuranghi-regatta-featuring-chaz-bailey-ngatira/?awt\\_l=Bg3l.&awt\\_m=3mG2uePfv0LlI9k](http://www.offcenterharbor.com/videos/new-zealands-mahuranghi-regatta-featuring-chaz-bailey-ngatira/?awt_l=Bg3l.&awt_m=3mG2uePfv0LlI9k).

There is a great sailing video in the upstairs of the Sandy Beach Boat Shed just beyond the SYC front gate. In the 'Humans Only' area upstairs is a collection of footage of various events from 1916 onwards, that runs for over an hour, as well as a fine collection of photos around the walls. It was put together to celebrate a 100 years of the Boat Shed. My favourite clip was the launching of a hire yacht from upstairs via a flying fox, splashing straight into the water....which at the time was up to the car park area.

View on line or paste <https://sandybeachhq.com.au> or [Click](#)

The collection was put together .... 'with the help of Graeme Disney who is well known to Bayside locals. Graeme actually grew up in & around "The Shed" – as the kiosk is affectionately known.'

**Thanks to the Recreational Boating** crew for a great breakfast last Sunday. Good fun, great food, lots of prizes, and very well organized. Well done and congratulations to Michael Kostos and the committee (plus Maddie).

This report is all Mark's own work. Any resemblance to actual persons or yachts or factual information is purely coincidental.

Maybe in between a new grandson arriving next week, the cars being repaired and new carpet being laid Mark might get time to write something for the next race.

Any assistance with photos, comments, information would be very welcome.

Maybe next Wednesday Pippa will be able to use her new 3Di No2 sail

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