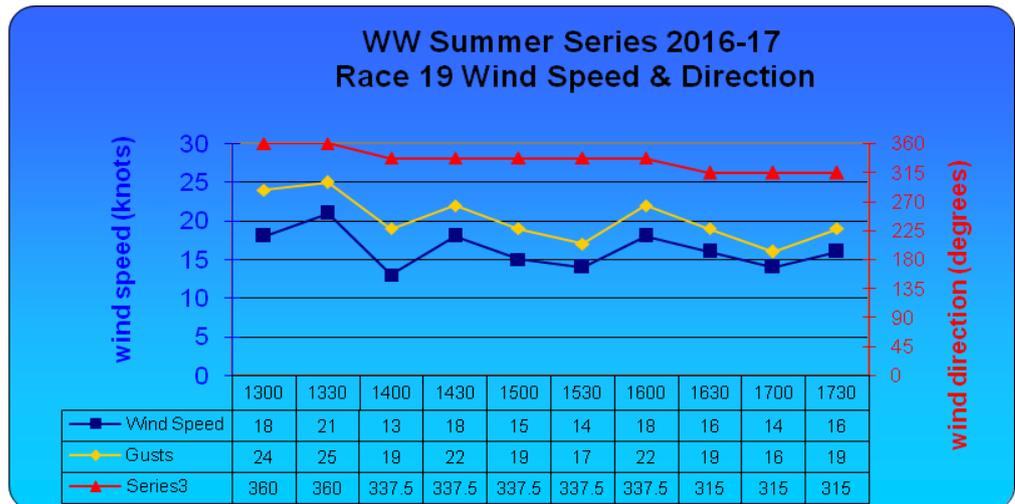


Fewer Competitors but More Competition Wednesday Wonders Race 19 Summer Series 2016-17 (15 Feb 2017)



Shortly before midday a local soothsayer was heard to predict the weather for the afternoon as “a northerly and beautiful”. Observations from Fawkner Beacon confirmed that the breeze was a northerly and it averaged about 16 knots for the afternoon. Visibility was particularly good and there was an ample supply of sunshine. The course for this race was course 25 – the same course as the previous week. There were 28 competitors for the race compared to 41 the previous week.

However, there was a closer finish to this race with only 17 minutes 48 seconds separated the first from last yacht at the finish line and with slightly more breeze the median elapsed time was about 10 minutes less than the previous week.



BARNSTORMER won Start of the Day with a perfect start – the 7th in 17 races. She has won the start on a previous occasion. For the second week in succession FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) was 1st across the finish line with a margin of 5 minutes 10 seconds. FOGGY DEW is the 7th yacht to have multiple wins this series. In 2nd place and recording her first podium finish of the series was BABYDOLL (Brendan Kruger). In a reversal of fortunes MOANA (Stan Rankin) finished in 3rd place after finishing 3rd from the back of the fleet in race 18.

The Beneteau 477 ESPRIT (Garry Anderson) recorded the fastest elapsed time of 1:22:32. This is the fastest time around this course and beats her time of 1:32:25 recorded in race 18.

This race brought changes to the series aggregate with DÉJÀ VU (Peter Dransfield) now in the lead. She is the 4th yacht to occupy top spot this series.

Peter was delighted to accept the leader's flag from his 'Old time rival' Theo. Theo thought the flag was getting far too noisy. MW

Other significant moves in the top ten were MOANA who moved from 6th to 3rd; FOGGY DEW who moved from 10th to 4th; CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE from 12th to 6th; and PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) who slipped out of the top ten for the first time in 12 weeks.

For FOGGY DEW this race was almost a repeat of the previous week. She retained the same handicap but on this occasion made a better start to the race; sailed the course in a shorter time; and had a larger winning margin.

After starting 17 seconds late for her 16 minute handicap from 4th place FOGGY DEW was ahead of the fleet after completion of the first 3 legs. She had sailed the first 3 legs of the course in 1:11:40 and established a 2 minute 47 second lead over the rest of the fleet. It took FOGGY DEW 36 minutes 36 seconds to sail the remaining 3 legs of the course crossing the finish line at 15:34:32. During the last 3 legs of the race she increased her lead to finish 5 minutes 10 seconds ahead of the rest of the fleet.

At the completion of race 17 FOGGY DEW was 21st in the aggregate. She was in 10th place following race 18 and is now in 4th place 8 points behind the leader.

BABYDOLL is currently 21st in the aggregate – one of three yachts with a total of 103 points. She is one of three yachts that have completed 12 races and has recorded 3 top ten finishes including a 2nd place in this race. BABYDOLL started the series with a 38-minute handicap but it fell to 35 minutes following race 10 and has remained there since then. She started this race from 17th place 26 seconds late for her handicap. BABYDOLL sailed the first 3 legs of the course in 1:02:55 rounding number 4 for the first time in 11th place. She sailed the entire course in 1:34:42, the 11th fastest elapsed time of the race and crossed the finish line at 15:39:42. By comparison, BABYDOLL finished 13th in race 18 after sailing the same course in 1:48:49.



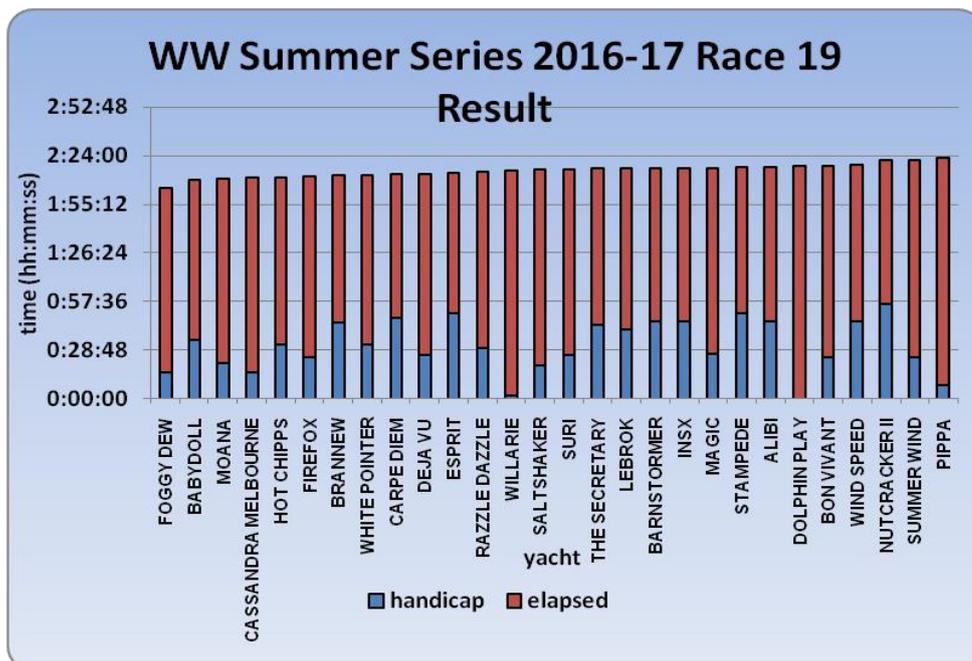
With 2 wins, a second and now a third place MOANA has the most podium finishes so far this series. After completing 15 races she is currently 3rd in the aggregate 6 points behind the leader. Moana started this race 33 seconds late for her 21 minute handicap from 7th place. By the first rounding of number 4 MOANA had moved into 5th place 6 minutes 11 seconds behind the leader. During the last 3 legs of the course she moved into 3rd place to finish 17 seconds behind BABYDOLL. MOANA had sailed the entire course in 1:48:59 crossing the finish line at 15:39:59. By comparison, MOANA started 33 seconds after SALTSHAKER (Ken Gayler) but was able to sail the course 6 minutes 39 seconds faster and finish 5 minutes 39 seconds and 11 places in front.

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 19 Start of the Day

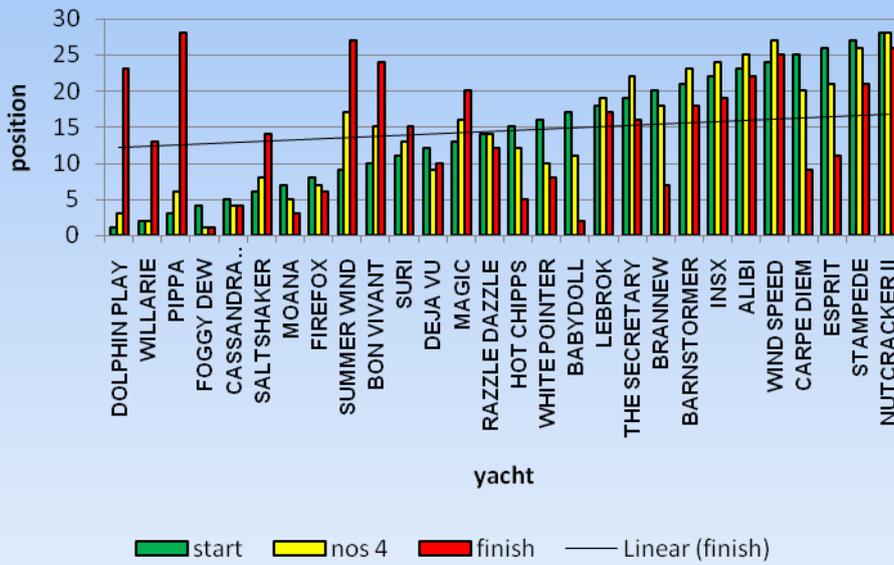


This was the 4th race in this series requiring a northerly start. The median start time for the 4 northerly starts is 29 seconds compared to 12 seconds for southerly starts. Why is this so? Twenty-six seconds was the median start time for this race. Only 3 yachts started within 10 seconds or less of their handicap. BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) won Start of the day with WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) with the second best start followed by INSX (Rob Sill). Two yachts started 60 seconds or more outside their handicap with another starting 2 seconds too early and receiving a 5-minute penalty.

A group of seven yachts (25% of the fleet) all finished within a minute of each other in positions 15 to 21. The fleet started 55 minutes 32 seconds apart. On completion of the first 3 legs the gap had reduced to 20 minutes 28 seconds and they finished 17 minutes 48 seconds apart. A yacht crossed the finish line every 38 seconds compared to the series average of 44 seconds.



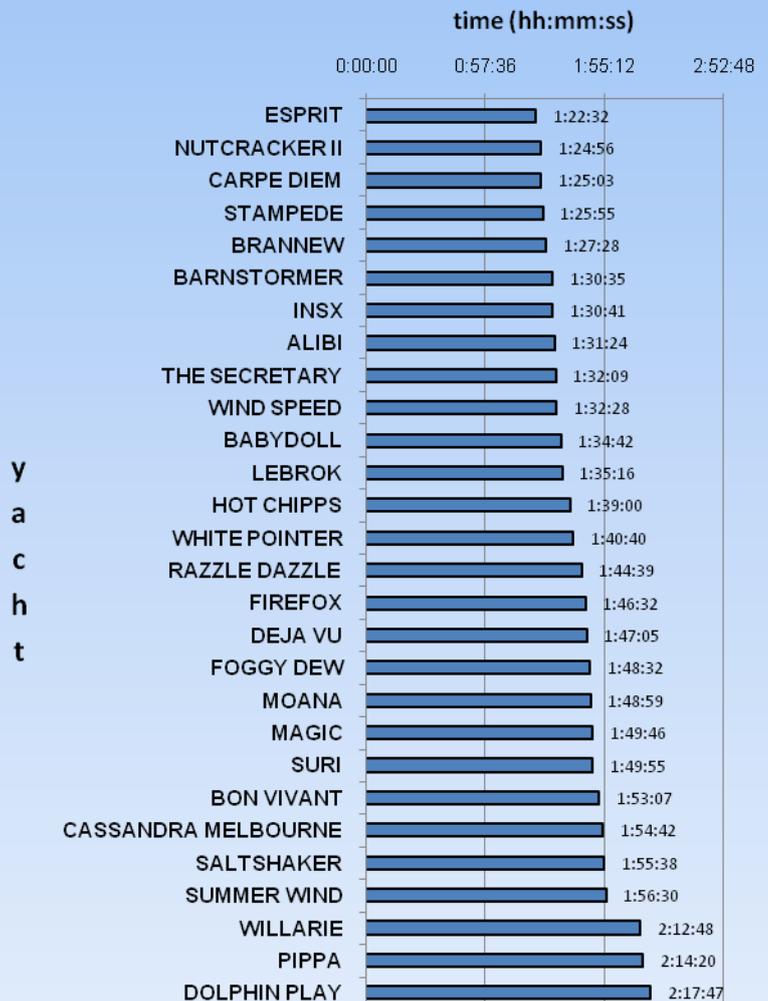
WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 19 Position at Start, Nos 4 & Finish



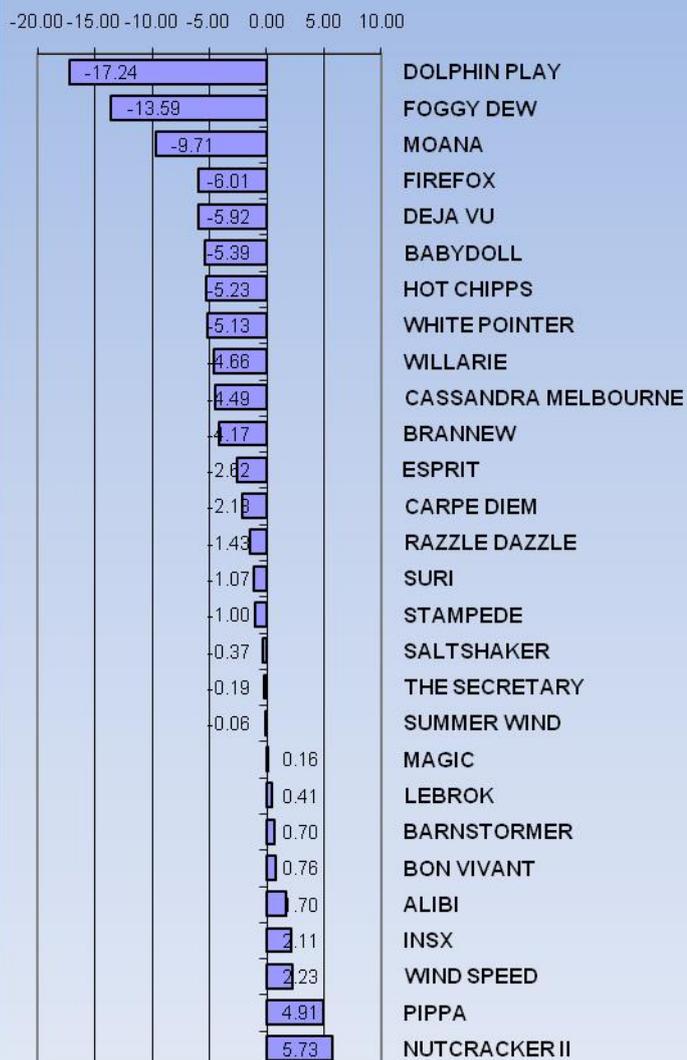
Although some of the early starters finished towards the back of the fleet, four of them finished within the first third. Three mid fleet starters were also among the early finishers with BRANNEW (Clive Sondheim) and CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) the only two late starters to finish among the early finishers.

For the 3rd time this series ESPRIT recorded the fastest elapsed time in a race. She is one of 2 yachts to have completed all 17 races and this was her fastest elapsed time in the series. The median elapsed time was 1:42:39 compared to 1:50:19 for race 18. It was a trio of Tritons that formed the Two Hour Club with an average elapsed time of 2:14:58.

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 19 Elapsed Time



WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 19 Yacht Performance Indicator



The chart to the left indicates the performance of each yacht in race 19 compared to its own performance throughout the current series. It does not indicate that a yacht performed better than the one beneath it or worse than the one above. If the yacht has a negative value (the bar extends to port) then the yacht has performed better in this race than throughout the series so far. If the bar has a positive value (extends to starboard) then the yacht has not matched its own performance throughout the series. It was DOLPHIN PLAY that excelled itself in this race sailing over 17 minutes faster than its record suggests.



Windward Buoy

MARK WINDWARD's Words for Wednesday Wonders

DATES TO NOTE:

The next race, RACE 20, February 22nd, being the last in the month will be the second last race this season to be counted into the Century Class Series.

There are just 5 races after this Wednesday to complete the WW summer series on March 29 Race 25.

Wednesday Wonders Presentation Night for Summer season will be Friday 21st April.

Booking forms for be available 8th March

The Two-Hour Club was an exclusive event for Triton yachts for race 19, the three Triton 24's all finishing in over two hours. Dolphin Play is continuing to gain higher finishing positions.

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 19 TWO HOUR CLUB						
YACHT	ELAPSED TIME	FINISH TIME	HANDICAP	Position At		
				START	NOS 4	FINISH
WILLARIE	2:12:48	15:44:48	0:02:00	2	2	13
PIPPA	2:14:20	15:52:20	0:08:00	3	6	28
DOLPHIN PLAY	2:17:47	15:47:47	0:00:00	1	3	23

Confessions of a sailor.

Did any one else get a feeling that Brendon (who I do not know if he is a Roman Catholic or not) in accepting his second place prize for Race 19, was a little bit like someone going to a priest for confession? He did confess that he had written a letter about the current handicap system.

To improve the understanding of the current handicapping, if you did not read race 10 report, you might like to read the following explanation and the website in AFLOAT to become better informed. This may avoid your prize presentation becoming like a confession.

A repeat for those who do not understand about the current handicap system being used, or did not read the information given by Mark Windward in this Seasons Race 10 report [CLICK](#)

The article in AFLOAT explains clearly the need for changing the 3, 2, 1mins add on for mixed large fleets. (See tag below).

Wednesday Wonders handicaps are currently being calculated as follows:

(a) after each race, each competing boat's elapsed time is compared with the median elapsed time for the race;

(b) the resulting variance is equated to a handicap that would have resulted in that boat (and every other boat) having the fleet's median elapsed time; and finally

(c) the variances so calculated for all races for that boat are averaged to arrive at an average handicap in an attempt to smooth out variability in wind strength, sea conditions, etc.

This method of calculating the handicaps rewards those boats that sail above their average performance, which is presumably what each boat is attempting to achieve in the same way a golfer is attempting to better their handicap.

The only major deficiency the current Andy Capper sees is that boats that sail consistently are less likely to sail better than their average performance (since the dispersion of their results is going to be small).

He notes as an example Esprit and Alibi, both which have not yet achieved a 1,2 or 3 but which are undoubtedly sailed consistently.

N.B Fact Check: Of the 30 top placed yachts in the series to date 23 yachts have had a podium finish, 10 different yachts have been 1st place winners and 12 yachts have been multiple first place winners

By coincidence Avalon Sailing Club are using the same system as is being used for WW. The handicapper at Avalon was also unhappy about the "give the old 1 2 3 method". To read how this system operates read an article in [AFLOAT December 2016 Page 44](http://magazine.afloat.com.au/default.aspx?iid=148554&startpage=page0000044#folio=44)
<http://magazine.afloat.com.au/default.aspx?iid=148554&startpage=page0000044#folio=44>

Whose Bottom is this?

The answer to last weeks question. Mark was expecting a clear improvement in Razzle Dazzle's performance since she started racing this season, but I think the before photo may have been taken when she arrived at SYC and before she started racing.



Top Ten Pick

The prize has been selected; the winner has yet to be determined.

Will you be able to predict the Summer Series result for the top ten places? Have a go; you might be the closest entry.

Simply list your predictions Who will be in the final top ten positions for the Summer Series and email to [Mark Windward](mailto:Mark.Windward)

Prizes will be awarded for the closest and neatest correct entry.

This competition closes before the start of Race 21, 1st March

Thanks to the Buoy and others for their contributions to this report. Mark would welcome your input and feedback [MARK WINDWARD](mailto:MARK.WINDWARD)

*I'd like to be a sailor - a sailor bold and bluff,
Calling out, 'Ship ahoy!' in manly tones and gruff.
I'd learn to box the compass, and to reef and tack and luff;
I'd sniff and sniff the briny breeze and never get enough.
Perhaps I'd chew tobacco, or an old black pipe I'd puff,
But I wouldn't be a sailor if the sea was very rough.*

Written By an Australian Poet

Do you Know Who? Send your answer to [MARK WINDWARD](mailto:MARK.WINDWARD)