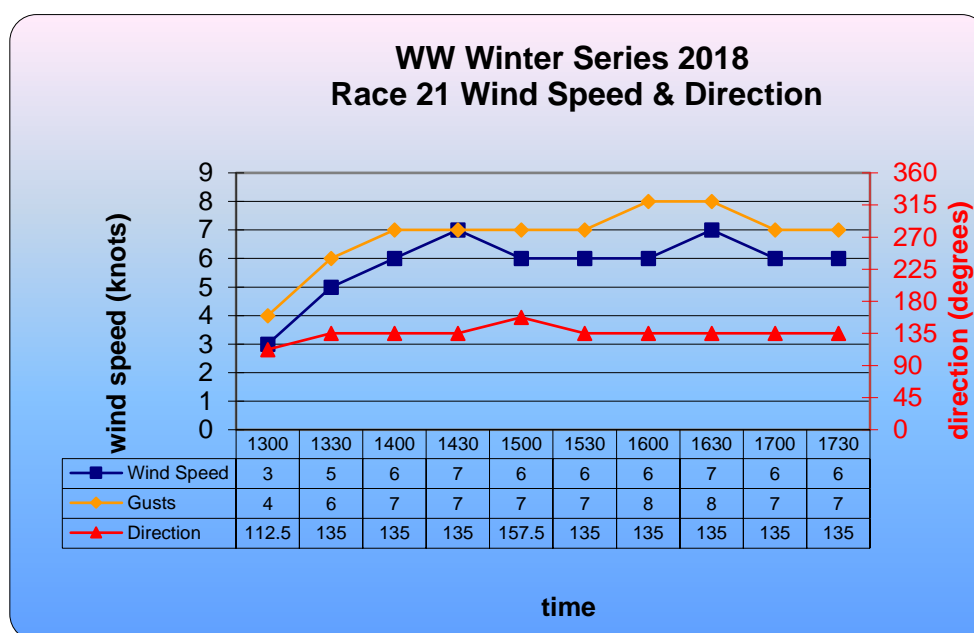


A Good Result for the Over 40's Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2018 Race 21

(22 Aug 2018)



A thirty minute postponement of the start allowed south easterly breeze to increase slightly which was enough to carry the entire 33 yacht fleet around a shortened course 12. Observations at Fawkner Beacon showed a breeze that averaged about 6 knots for the afternoon.



Eight of the first ten yachts to cross the finish line had handicaps of 40 minutes or more. They were all among the last yachts to start but swept past the rest of the fleet to establish a commanding lead. First across the finish line was BLUE TACK (Andy Lynch) to make this her first win of the series. In second place was WIND SPEED (Les Browne) who collected her 2nd podium finish of the series. Third was SECOND NATURE (Paul Mentiplay) who, with a less than 40 minute handicap, recorded her first podium finish of the series. These three yachts had their best results of the series as did BABYDOLL (Brendan Kruger) who finished 4th.

With a 2 second start UPBEAT (Peter Dunne) won Start of the Day for the 3rd time this series. Her previous wins in races 8 and 9 were both perfect starts. WICKED (Mike Welch) confirmed her status as one of the fastest yachts in the fleet when she sailed the course in the fastest elapsed time for the 4th time this series.

The aggregate is starting to become more congested as the end of the series gets closer. Only 10 points separate the top ten yachts. After finishing 6th, BRANNEW (Clive Sondheim) moves into top spot half a point ahead of WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) who in turn is 1.5 points ahead of WHITE NOISE (Daniel Edwards).



BLUE TACK has now recorded 4 top ten finishes in her 15 completed races. She started this race from 25th place with the third best start time of the race – 4 seconds. She started one place and 2 minutes 34 seconds ahead of WHITE NOISE and went on to sail the course 47 seconds faster. After sailing the shortened course in 1:30:19 BLUE TACK was first across the finish line at 16:12:19. Throughout the race she had increased her lead over WHITE NOISE finishing 4 places and 2

minutes 47 seconds ahead. After the first race of the series BLUE TACK was 40th in the aggregate but after a couple of early setbacks has been moving up. This win has helped her from 20th to 14th.

The Sydney 36 WIND SPEED is one of the more consistent performers in the series and has accumulated 4 top ten positions. All of these in lighter breezes – 12 knots or less. She started this race from 28th place 51 seconds late for her 45 minute handicap. (This was the worst start in the race.) The start did not impede her progress through the race as WIND SPEED sailed the course in the 4th fastest time of the day and crossed the finish line in 2nd place at 16:14:41 – 2 minutes 22 seconds behind BLUE TACK. WIND SPEED had the same handicap as BACARDI (Martin Power); started 37 seconds later but crossed the finish line 1 minute 5 seconds ahead. WIND SPEED has completed 15 races and is currently 9th in the aggregate.

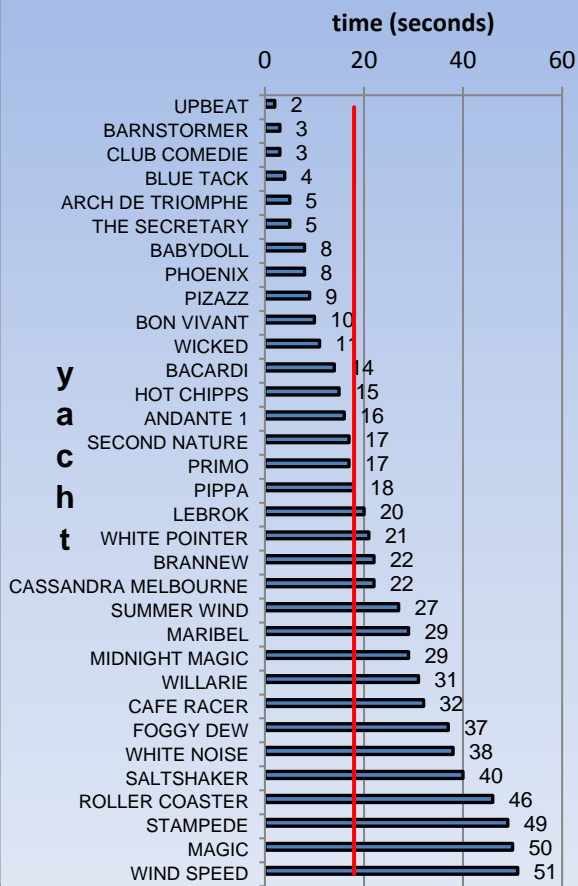


This was the 8th race in the series for SECOND NATURE and the 3rd time she had started from a 32 minute handicap. She started from 16th place 17 seconds late for her handicap. She sailed the course in 1:42:48 and overtook all the yachts that started ahead of her and was able to hold off all challengers except BLUE TACK and WIND SPEED. SECOND NATURE started the race



1 minute 51 seconds ahead of BABYDOLL but by the finish this lead had dwindled to 3 seconds. SECOND NATURE crossed the finish line at 16:14:48 a mere 7 seconds behind WIND SPEED and 3 ahead of BABYDOLL. All the eight races sailed by SECOND NATURE count towards her aggregate points score. She has a total of 103 points and is 23rd in the aggregate.

WW Winter Series 2018 Race 21 Start of the Day



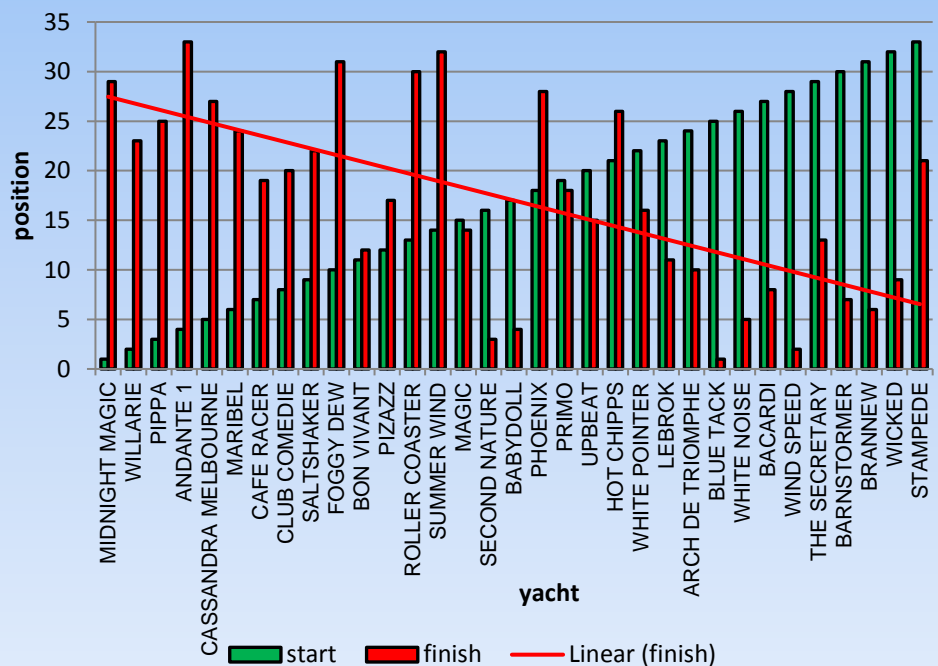
All 33 yachts started the race within 51 seconds or less of their handicaps. The median start time was 18 seconds (red line). By winning Start of the Day three times this series UPBEAT has to be a serious contender for the MISTY BLUE TROPHY.



With 46 minutes 20 seconds separating yachts at the start and 44 minutes 31 seconds separating them at the finish this was not a “text book” pursuit race. None of the first 14 yachts to start were able to improve upon their start positions. Even so there were some close finishes.

BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) beat BACARDI by 1 second with CAFE RACER (Alan Clapham) beating CLUB COMEDIE (Darren Eger) by the same margin.

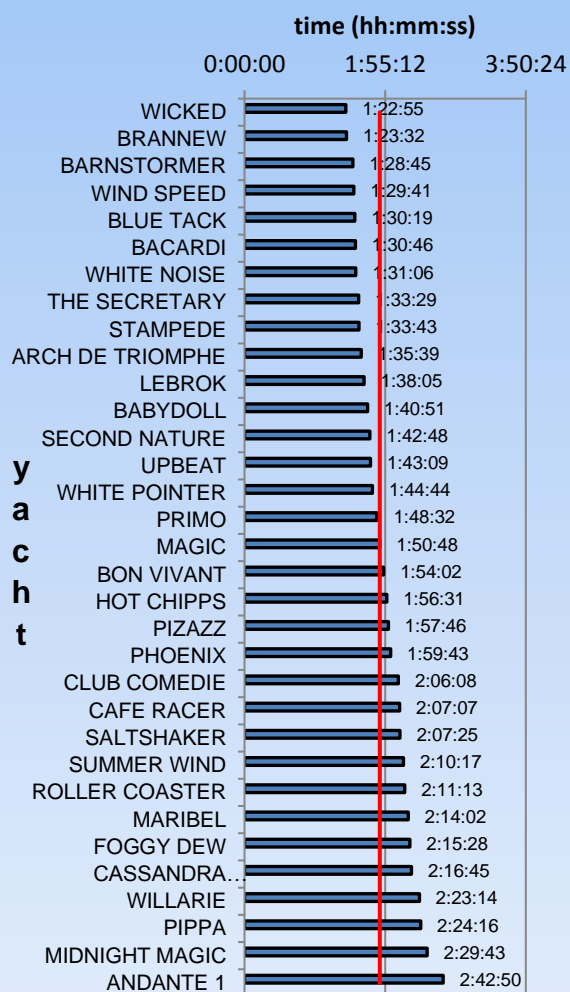
WW Winter Series 2018 Race 21 Position at Start & Finish



The median elapsed time for the race was 1:50:48 with a range of almost 80 minutes. The fastest elapsed time was recorded by WICKED who was 37 seconds faster than her closest rival BRANNEW. At the other end of the scale ANDANTE I had a marathon sail of 2:42:50 but finished the race with 3 minutes 10 seconds to spare.



WW Winter Series 2018 Race 21 Elapsed Time



The “electronic postponement flag” (left) has a better “horizontal hold” than its traditional equivalent.



HOT CHIPPS not quite as hot as she has been. She finished 26th.



The postponement provided the opportunity to ponder what may happen.



Something

disturbed the airborne fishing fleet.

Do hand signals have a part to play in sailing?



The fleet was well spread out at the finish but there was minor congestion during the race



It was a good race for some over 40's.
BARNSTORMER 7th White NOISE 5th & BRANNEW 6th.



Photos by

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Windward
Buoy