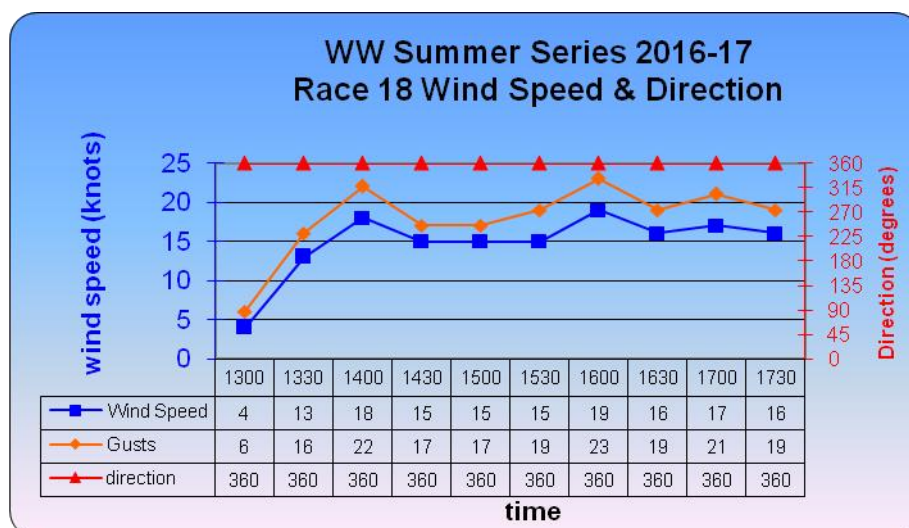


Plenty of Sunshine, Breeze, Yachts & Heat
Wednesday Wonders Summer Series 2016-17 Race 18
 (8 Feb 2017)



For the second successive week 41 yachts left the marina to contest a Wednesday Wonder Race. Race 18 was around the 6 legs, 9.8 nautical mile Course 25. It has a northerly start and is sailed in an anti clockwise direction. It is the first time this series this course has been selected. Some of the early starters may have been puzzled by the lower than forecast breeze around the race start time. However, the wait for a stronger breeze was short lived with Fawkner Beacon recording 13 knots at 1330 that quickly strengthened to 18 knots by 1400. The breeze averaged 15 knots from the north for the afternoon.



The breeze did not appear to help the start, with the highest median start time and highest Start of the Day this series. LEBROK (Theo Korbel) and DÉJÀ VU (Peter Dransfield) both with a time of 6 seconds tied for Start of the Day – double the previous worst Start of the Day. The race produced a new winner in FOGGY DEW (Grahame Jones). ULUWATU (Mal Billings & Peter Geary) received their first podium finish of the series when they crossed the finish line in 2nd place. MARIBEL (Graham Fraser) crossed the finish line in 3rd place for the second time this series.

CONQUEST (Paul Jacka) sailed the course in 1:31:12 the fastest elapsed time of the race. She is usually among the faster yachts in each race but this is the first time she has been the fastest. She was 19 minutes 7 seconds faster than the median elapsed time.

The top seven yachts in the aggregate are in the same positions for another week. LEBROK is the aggregate leader for the 2nd successive week. WHITE POINTER (Tom Raft) finished the race in 10th place and she went from 16th to 8th place in the aggregate. FOGGY DEW was the other yacht that entered the aggregate top ten moving from 21st to 10th place.



FOGGY DEW is one of three yachts to have completed all 16 races in the series. She started the series with a 21-minute handicap that has been reduced step-by-step to 16 minutes.

Her average finish position is 21st, which includes 5 top ten finishes. FOGGY DEW started the race from 5th place 66 seconds late for her 16 minute handicap. By completion of the first 3 legs of the course she led the fleet by 43 seconds. She sailed the final 3 legs of the course in 39 minutes 44 seconds and crossed the finish line at 15:45:30 with a lead of 1 minute 24 seconds. CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE also received a 16-minute handicap, but FOGGY DEW was able to sail the course 3 minutes 19 seconds faster. FOGGY DEW is now 10th in the aggregate 18 points behind the leader.

The average finish position for ULUWATU in 13 races has been 21st which includes 2 top ten finishes. Her handicap has fallen from 43 to 37 minutes.

ULUWATU started this race from 25th place 31 seconds late for her 37 minute handicap. She sailed the first 3 legs of the course (65% of the total course rhumb line length) in 1:04:59 and rounded number 4 for the first time at 15:12:30 in 6th place. She was still gaining on the race leader when she crossed the finish in 2nd place at 15:46:54. ULUWATU sailed the course in 1:39:54 - the 5th best of elapsed time of the race. She is currently 36th in the aggregate with a total of 127 points.

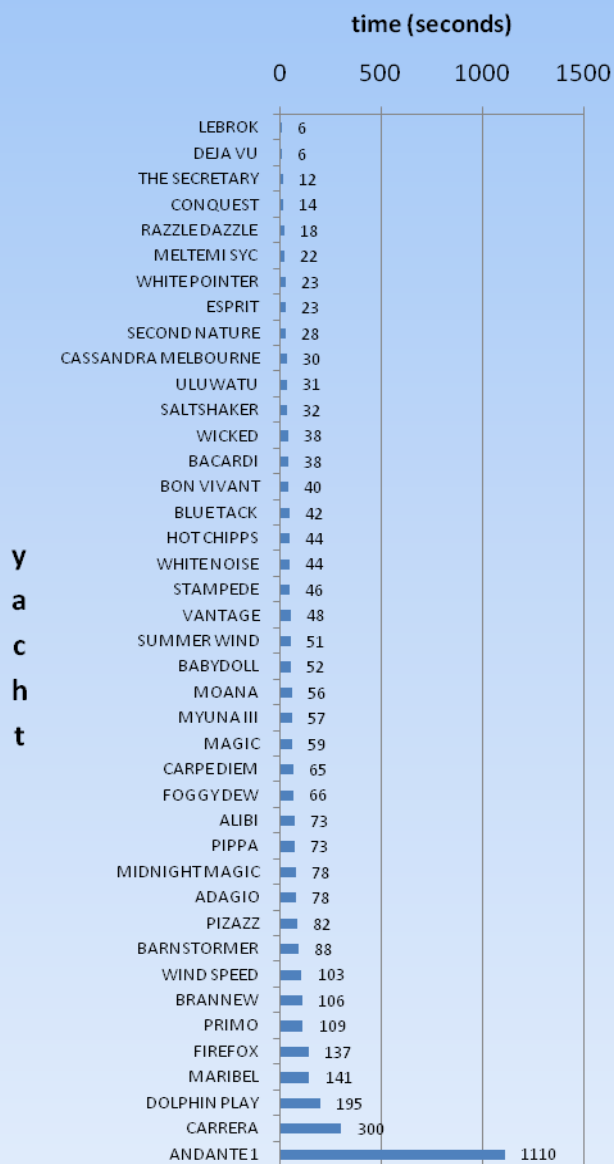


The Jeanneau 35 MARIBEL has now completed 9 races in what is her first WW summer series. She now has 2 podium finishes, a 3rd in race 10 and a 3rd in this race. Like the other two podium finishers in this race MARIBEL has seen her handicap reduced as the series progressed.

She started the series with a 23-minute handicap, which had reduced to 17 minutes for this race. MARIBEL started from 6th place 2 minutes 21 seconds late for her handicap. She sailed the first 3 legs of the course in 1:17:08 and rounded number 4 for the first time in 2nd place.

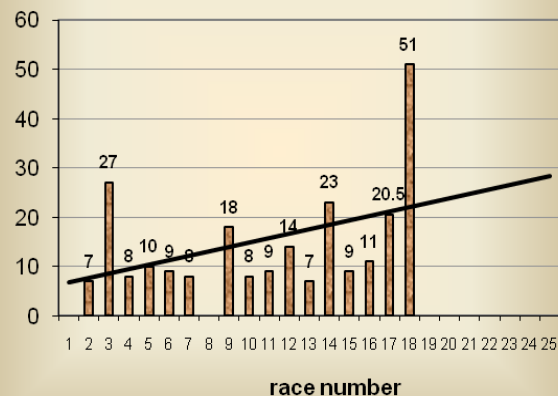
Only ULUWATU was able to overtake her in the last 3 legs of the race and she crossed the finish line at 15:47:41 after sailing the course in 2:00:41. MARIBEL is 38th in the aggregate.

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 18 Start of the Day



Only the two winners of Start of the Day recorded starts within 10 seconds or less of their handicaps whilst 16 yachts recorded start times in excess of 60 seconds. Just one yacht CARRERA, started too soon and was penalised 5 minutes, this resulted in her dropping from 18 to 35 finishing position, whilst another yacht started 18 minutes 30 seconds late – a record for the series. The median start time of 51 seconds was by far the highest of the series. Thirteen out of the 41 starters made this race their worst start of the series. The joint winners of Start of the Day DEJA VU and LEBROK have made better starts in previous races without winning the start.

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Start of the Day - Median Value



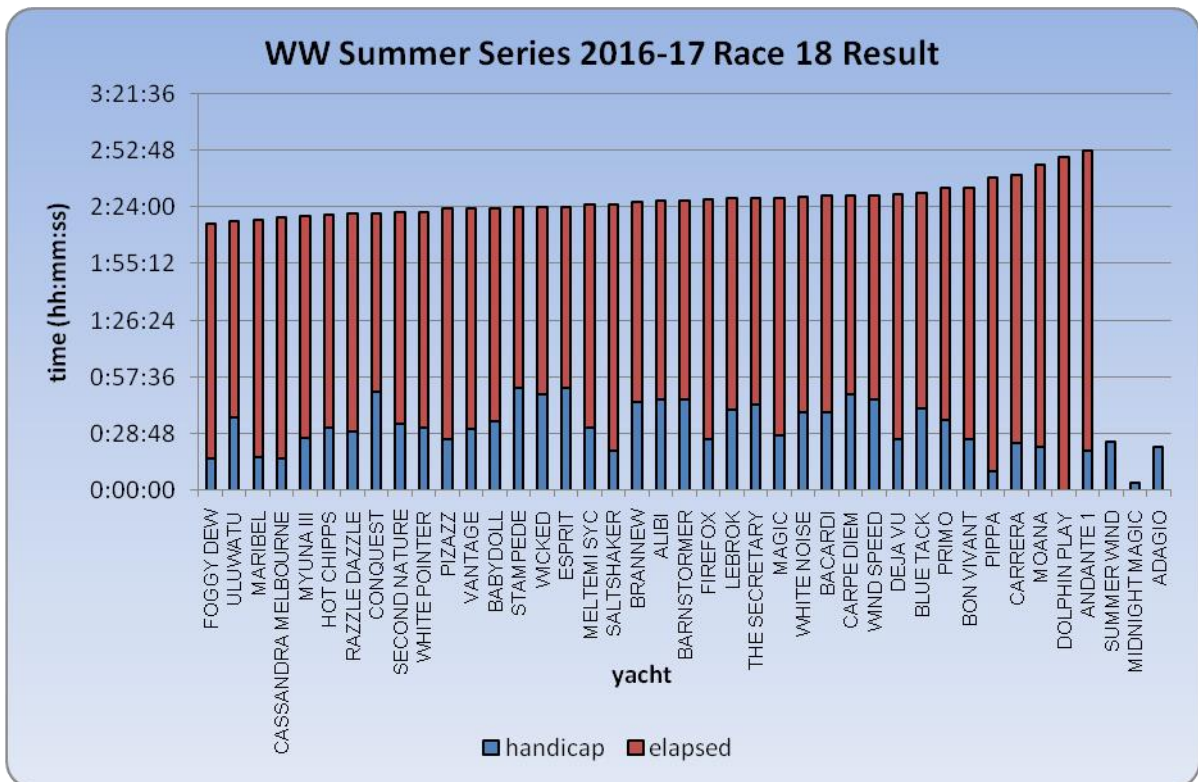
Of the 41 starters in the race, 39 finished. It was the early and mid fleet starters that fared best with only 2 of the late starters being among the early finishers. The fleet started the race 49 minutes and 31 seconds apart.

After the completion of the first 3 legs and on rounding number 4 for the first time the gap had reduced to 28 minutes and 13 seconds.

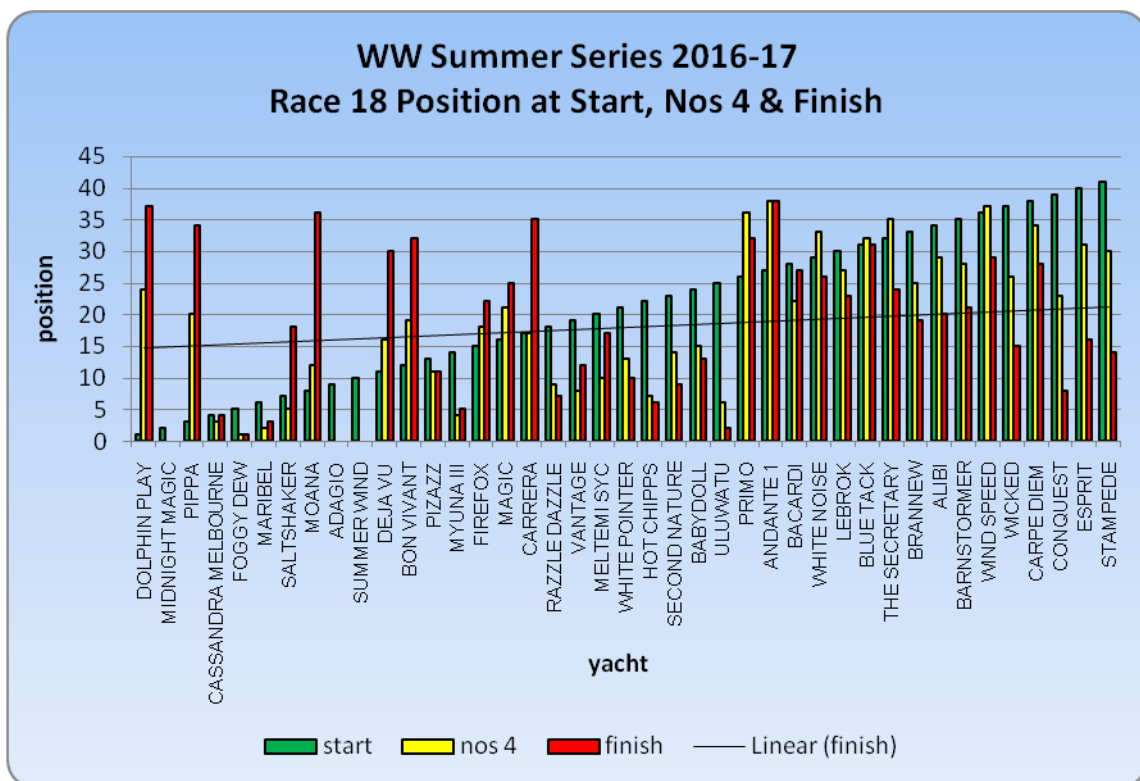
During the final 3 legs of the race the gap between first and last increased to 37 minutes 18 seconds. 17 yachts finished within 10 minutes of the winner.

There was a tie for 32nd place when PRIMO (Steve Copley) and BON VIVANT (Russell Keays) both crossed the finish line at 16:04:14.

The next closest finish was between THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) and MAGIC (Phil Spry Bailey) who crossed the line within 2 seconds of each other.

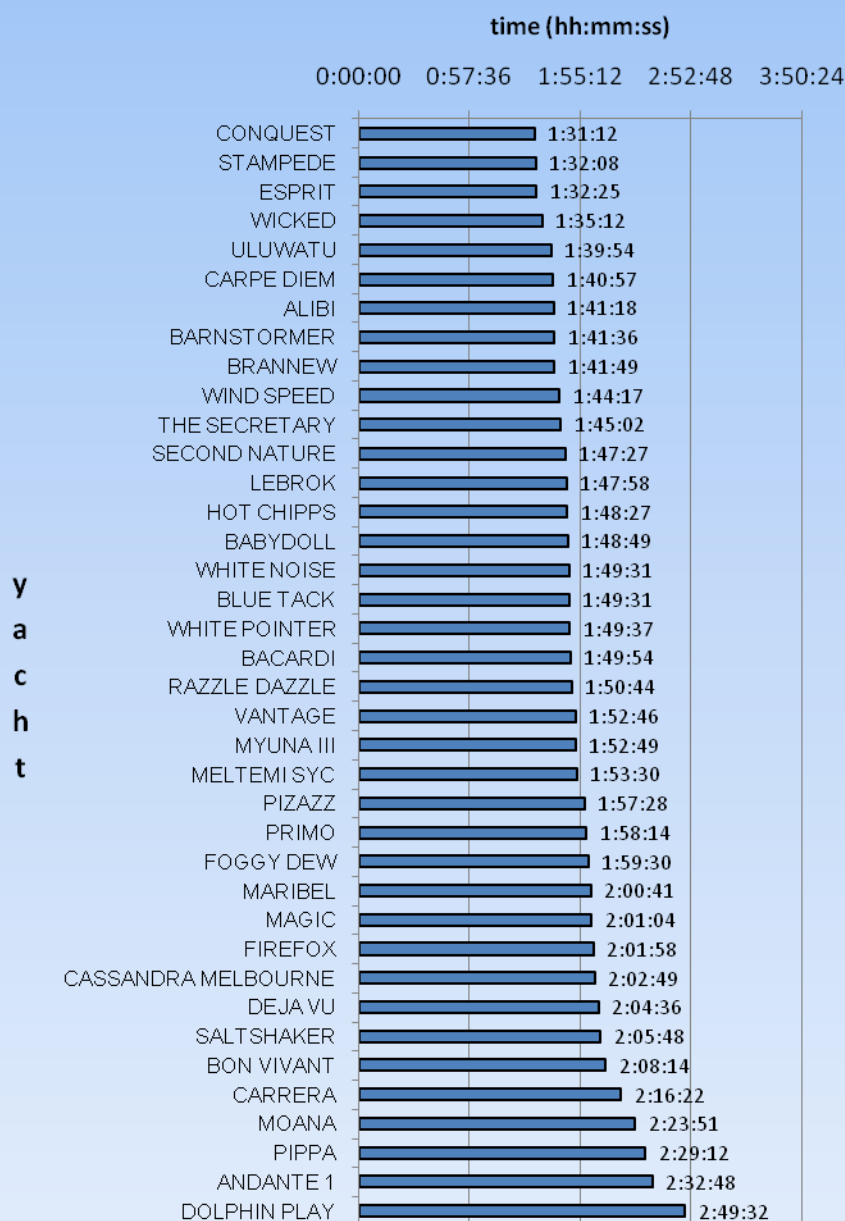


It proved difficult for the late starters to finish among the early finishers. CONQUEST was the best starting from 39th place and finishing 5th.



The median elapsed time for the race was 1:50:19 compared with 1:52:13 for the series. Conquest recorded the fastest elapsed time followed closely by STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala) and ESPRIT (Garry Anderson). WHITE NOISE (Daniel Edwards) and BLUE TACK (Andy Lynch) both sailed the course in 1:49:31.

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 18 Elapsed Time



Windward
Buoy

MARK WINDWARD Words & Pictures

CENTURY CLASS - A Reminder

Two Century Class races are left in this season, so just two chances to win a mug.

Race 20 February 22 (If this race is ABN the next race will count)

RACE 25 March 29 - the last race (if this race is ABN the previous race completed will count)

No entries in the 3-hour class in this race but 12 in the two-hour class.

A few yachts only just missed the 2 hour class, but very close to the time were the winner, Foggy Dew 1:59:30 and Primo1:58:14.

WW SUMMER SERIES 2016-17 TWO HOUR CLUB						
YACHT	ELAPSED TIME	FINISH TIME	HANDICAP	POSITION AT		
				START	NOS 4	FINISH
MARIBEL	2:00:41	15:47:41	0:17:00	6	2	3
MAGIC	2:01:04	15:59:04	0:28:00	16	21	25
FIREFOX	2:01:58	15:57:58	0:26:00	15	18	22
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	2:02:49	15:48:49	0:16:00	4	3	4
DEJA VU	2:04:36	16:00:36	0:26:00	11	16	30
SALTSHAKER	2:05:48	15:55:48	0:20:00	7	5	18
BON VIVANT	2:08:14	16:04:14	0:26:00	12	19	32
CARRERA	2:16:22	16:10:22	0:24:00	17	17	35
PIPPA	2:29:12	16:09:12	0:10:00	3	20	34
ANDANTE 1	2:32:48	16:22:48	0:20:00	27	38	38
DOLPHIN PLAY	2:49:32	16:19:32	0:00:00	1	24	37
Moana	2:23:51	16:15:51	0:22:00	8	12	36

Oops the wind is stronger than I thought!

A number of yachts came out to start and disappeared back into protected waters. It was assumed that they were changing their sails and selecting a smaller sail area.

Was this part of the reason for late starts, or was it just the very gusty and variable wind in the start area? The winner, Foggy Dew, sailed with a reef in her main.

Checking the Wind

A number of skippers and the tower check the BOM Met eye

<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/>

With a northerly it is worth looking at Tullamarine Airport

<http://www.bom.gov.au/places/vic/tullamarine/observations/melbourne-airport/>

Port Wilson on <http://www.baywx.com.au> and of course Fawkner Bcn

Mark also likes to use Willy Weather

<http://wind.willyweather.com.au/vic/melbourne/sandringham.html>

Any other preferred sites please send to [MARK Windward](#)

Mark Windward's Concerned Sailor Award

A special mention for the consideration given by the winning yacht who hesitated from their celebrations to take care of a heat affected skipper who appeared to be struggling to get up the stairs. A simple solution of lining numerous glasses of water in front of the affected skipper proved a good cure.

Some yacht is –like a rudderless child

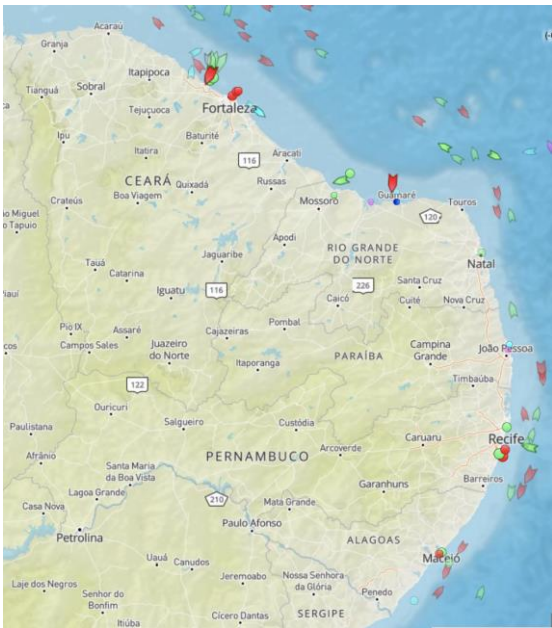
We are not quite sure who lost a rudder but Mark hopes it is a rapid repair job without too much expense. {This replaces an earlier report.}

Volvo Ocean Race here in December 2017

The Volvo Ocean Race fleet will be welcome visitors to Melbourne this Christmas with the 2017-18 Race coming to Australia for the eighth time. The stop-over is scheduled to have the sailors arriving in Melbourne around Christmas Day.

The stop-over fits between Cape Town and Hong Kong, and the leg from Cape Town to Melbourne makes up the third leg of the Race. The crews are expected to be in Melbourne for a week and be based in and around Victoria Harbour in the Docklands precinct, before heading off on Leg 4 to Hong Kong.

Hugh Pilsworth and Blue Flyer



According to my Marine Traffic, Blue Flyer is at Port CABEDELLO 7/2/2017 close to Joao Pessoa

To follow Hugh's travels visit <http://blueflyer4905.blogspot.com.au>

Last update to blog 5th February.

Meanwhile Jacquie Hope in SHANTI arrived at Bundaberg Saturday 11th February

Top Ten Pick

Who will the Summer Series winner be? Will you be able to predict the result?

Simply list your prediction who will be in the final top ten positions for the Summer Series and email to Mark Windward Prizes will be awarded for the closest and neatest correct entry. This competition closes before the start of Race 21, 1st March



Is this a photo of the summer series winner?



Does the Andy Crapper know how dirty your bottom is?

Whose dirty Bottom is this?

Does the handicapper know what this yacht looks like?

Has the cleaning of this hull made a difference to this yacht's performance? Was the handicapper told?

Stay tuned until next race report for the answer.



Does your yacht have a shark watcher on board?



Does this yacht have a Bar, Public or private on board?



Can you tell which these shadowy yachts are?

What is going on? Are they sharing afternoon tea or just passing by? Please help Mark explain this photo!

Until next race, when I might stay on shore, as it seems it would be a safer place to be rather than trying to round number 3 again.

Thanks to Mr WINDWARD jnr, the tower management, Grahame Jones and a reduced Pappa-Art-Sea for making this epistle possible.

A sailing ship is no democracy; you don't caucus a crew as to where you'll go anymore than you inquire when they'd like to shorten sail.

Sterling Hayden