

Race 20 Lou Abrahams Memorial Race Wednesday Wonders March 5 summer 2014

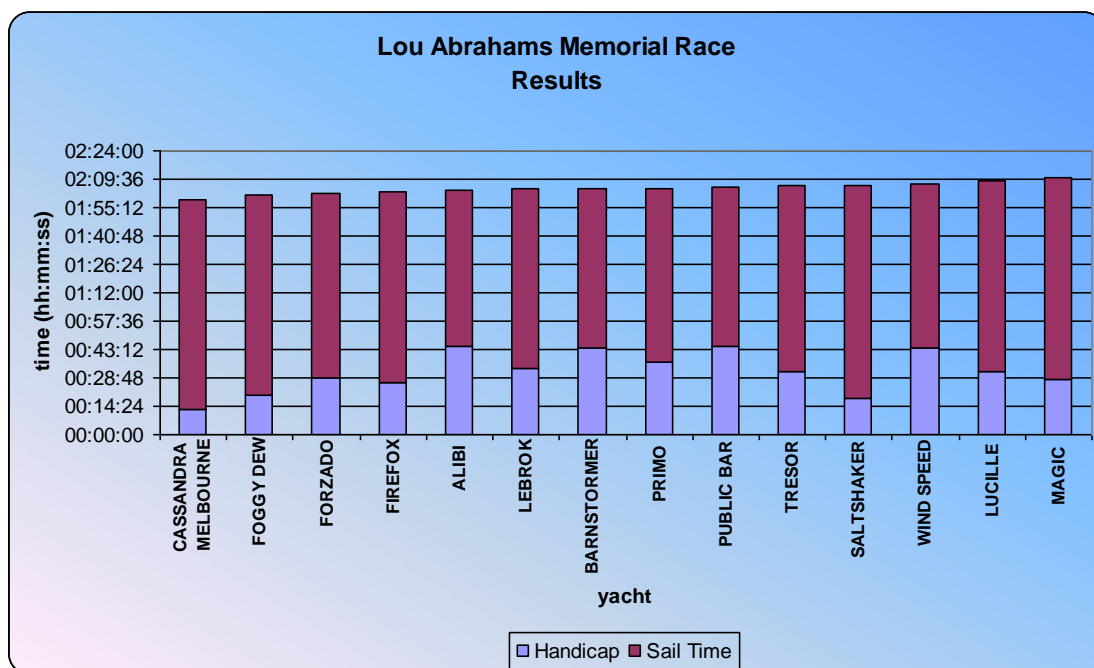


It is believed that Lou's last race at SYC was as a "visitor" in race 12 of the Wednesday Wonders 2013 Winter Series held 26 June 2013. Lou, at the helm of CHALLENGE, had a convincing win that day after starting from 26th position he beat 29 regular Wonders by a margin of 4 minutes 37 seconds. The fleet included another Sydney 38 with the same handicap which CHALLENGE beat by 7 minutes 45 seconds. It was therefore, very fitting that a Memorial Race for Lou took place on a Wednesday afternoon. Lou Abrahams had an extraordinary sailing record that dates back to 1964. Amongst many other national and international successes in 2007 he completed 44 Sydney to Hobart races – 41 as skipper of his own yacht. Anyone wanting to equal Lou's sailing record needs to try sailing at an early age, enjoy it, and go on to compete for the majority of their life.

The Memorial Race was contested by a fleet of 14 yachts that sailed course 13 modified by the inclusion of an additional mark that brought yachts closer inshore after the start. The 8 leg 8.5 nautical mile course was sailed in a steady breeze with observations at Fawkner Beacon indicating an average 18 knot southerly. There was a significant swell to the sea, which came over the deck on more than one occasion.

Following on from a win in race 19 the winner of the Memorial Race was the Mottle 33 CASSANDRA OF MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves). CASSANDRA was the first yacht to start off a handicap of 13 minutes. She was never really challenged for the entire race and after sailing for 1:46:35 she crossed the finish line at 15:29:35 to finish 2 minutes 14 seconds ahead of FOGGY DEW (Jo O’Grady). This was the widest margin of the race.

Starting from 3rd place with a handicap of 20 minutes was the Bavaria 32 FOGGY DEW (Jo O’Grady). FOGGY DEW crossed the finish line in 2nd place at 15:31:49 after sailing the course in 1:41:49. Third place went to the Farr 1020 FORZADO (Bruce Dobbie). As is often the case FORZADO was sailed double handed with Bruce and Jacqui Newby handling the conditions extremely well. FORZADO started off a handicap of 29 minutes and sailed the course in the 7th fastest time of 1:33:25 to cross the finish line in 3rd place at 15:32:25.



Lou Abrahams was a great supporter of Sandringham Yacht Club. Anyone taking a tour of the club will see his name on the Off The Beach Centre, on a rescue boat and items of memorabilia in the clubhouse. His enjoyment of sailing inspired many others to gain pleasure from sailing.



A full reprint of interviews with Lou Abrahams can be found

by clicking below taken from Sail–World.com

Vale Lou Abrahams - A profile of the Doyen, (Pt I.)
and Part Two

Mark's Mumbles:

Overheard in the Bar - the following question:

Port or Starboard rule!

If I am coming downwind on starboard having just rounded No 5 and you are coming upwind to the mark on Port, who has right of way? Can you answer this question?

Test yourself on line.

What happens when 3 boats start together? Test your understanding of the rules at this site. [CLICK](#)

Race 19 Question: What was the name of the first steamship to arrive in Australia?

It is acknowledged that the first working steamer was a paddle wheeler called *The Sophia Jane*. It arrived in Sydney on the 14th May 1831 under sail. This ship commenced work in the coastal trade from Sydney to Newcastle on 19th June 1831. She was 153 tons, one engine of 50 horsepower.

(Source: *Shipping arrivals and departures Sydney 1826 to 1840*, Ian Hawkins Nicholson).

While the *Sophia Jane* was having her paddles fitted in readiness for her maiden voyage another steamer made its first voyage - the 'Surprise' set off for Parramatta amid a volley of smoke and steam on 1st June, thereby becoming the first steam powered vessel in Australia.

More information on Hunter Valley Steamers [Click](#)

An eloquent description of *Sophia Jane's* first run was reported in the *Australian June 1831*.

The Sophia Jane was said to be of very beautiful build and a good sea boat. She was commanded by Lieutenant Edward Biddulph R.N. who was also part owner. The whole of her deck was 126 feet; her breadth 20 feet and could travel eight miles an hour in smooth water. She was originally constructed for the

almost exclusive accommodation of passengers and her principal employment had been in conveying passengers between England and France. No expense had been spared in fitting her out and the apartments were said to be of the finest description. There were three separate cabins (one for gentlemen, one for ladies and one for steerage). Sixteen beds could be made up in the gentlemen's room, 11 in the ladies and 20 in steerage. In emergency extra beds could be prepared making a total accommodation of 54. Her value was estimated to be £7,500 and she arrived from England with an experienced engineer and a duplicate set of all the necessary apparatus. She was considered very fast and could make the 60 miles between Newcastle and Sydney in less than 8 hours.

Race 20 Question

Can you tell Mark anything about this photo?

Prizes for informed information and also for the most original response.

The Age 1970-80?



Sometimes photographers, such as Chris Furey, happen to be in the right place, but for some sailors, at the wrong time!



I have had clearly explained to me what a Tumblehome race is, but I am not sure about a Tumblesweed. I think it may be a Scandinavian gymnast.

For any comments or stories, or your top ten predictions for the WW summer series, or your answers, please send them to [MARK WINDWARD](#)
Be great to hear from you.