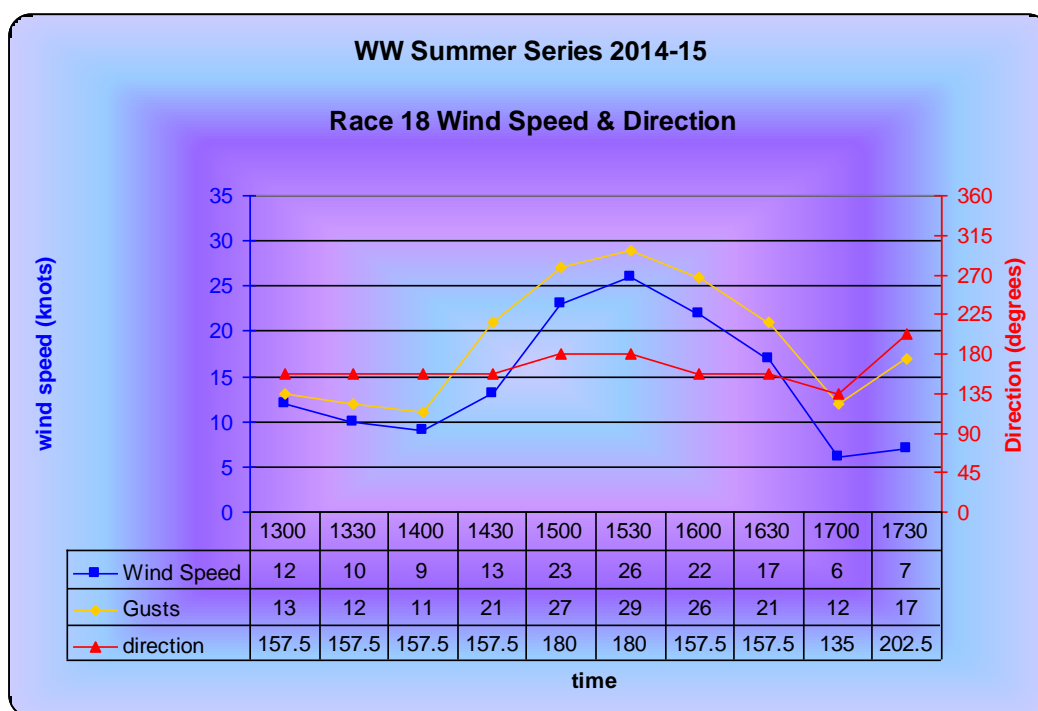


WW Summer Series 2014-15 Race 18 Windy Wednesday Wonder

(11 Feb 2015)

The peace and serenity of sailing on a hazy summer's afternoon came to an abrupt end when the breeze increased from under 10 to over 25 knots. This happened when the fleet had rounded or was about to round number 7 for the first time. What had been quite an orderly procession was sent into disarray as yachts had to adjust to the new conditions. Many yachts had to reduce sail area either by reefing mainsails or changing or furling headsails. It was probably this change in the breeze that not only prompted the retirement of 6 of the 32 starters but also the shortening of the course.

The 9 leg (3x3 legs) triangular course 66 was used for the first time this series if not for the first time ever. Shortening the course reduced it to a 6 leg course with 5 yachts not completing the first 3 legs and a 6th yacht not completing the 2nd of the 3 legs. Under the conditions on Wednesday, the course became a series of windward (from 7 to 4 to 1) and return legs (from 1 to 7). After starting in relaxing and comfortable but choppy conditions the race ended in demanding and heavier circumstances as the sea found its way over the toe rail. Three yachts amongst the early starters – WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman), PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) and CAVALIER (David Lynch) sailed the first half of the course in an average of 1:14:22 they sailed the 2nd half, (more breeze) of the course in 1:01:47 – 12 minutes 35 seconds quicker.





The Sydney 36, ALIBI (Denis Hambleton) won race 18 - her first win of the series in 17 attempts. This win was enough to take ALIBI to the top of the aggregate table, a position held by LEBROK (Theo Korbel) for 13 of the last 18 weeks. ALIBI started the race from 27th place, 8 seconds late for her 48 minute handicap. By the first rounding of number 4 (half way stage) she was in 13th place and was first across the line at 15:40:28. ALIBI sailed the entire course in 1:22:28 the 5th fastest time of the day. She was one of 17 yachts to pass WILLARIE who had held the lead from the start into the last leg of the race. ALIBI has recorded 7 top ten and 2 podium finishes this series.

Note: The new “easy to read sail numbers” MW

Also making a 2nd podium finish this series was PUBLIC BAR (Clive Sondheim). PUBLIC BAR was the 23rd yacht to start this race, 16 seconds late for a 45 minute start. At the half way stage she had moved into 13 position and after sailing for 1:26:40 she crossed the finish line at 15:41:40 in 2nd place 1 minute 12 seconds behind ALIBI. PUBLIC BAR has sailed 16 races and is currently 19th in the aggregate.

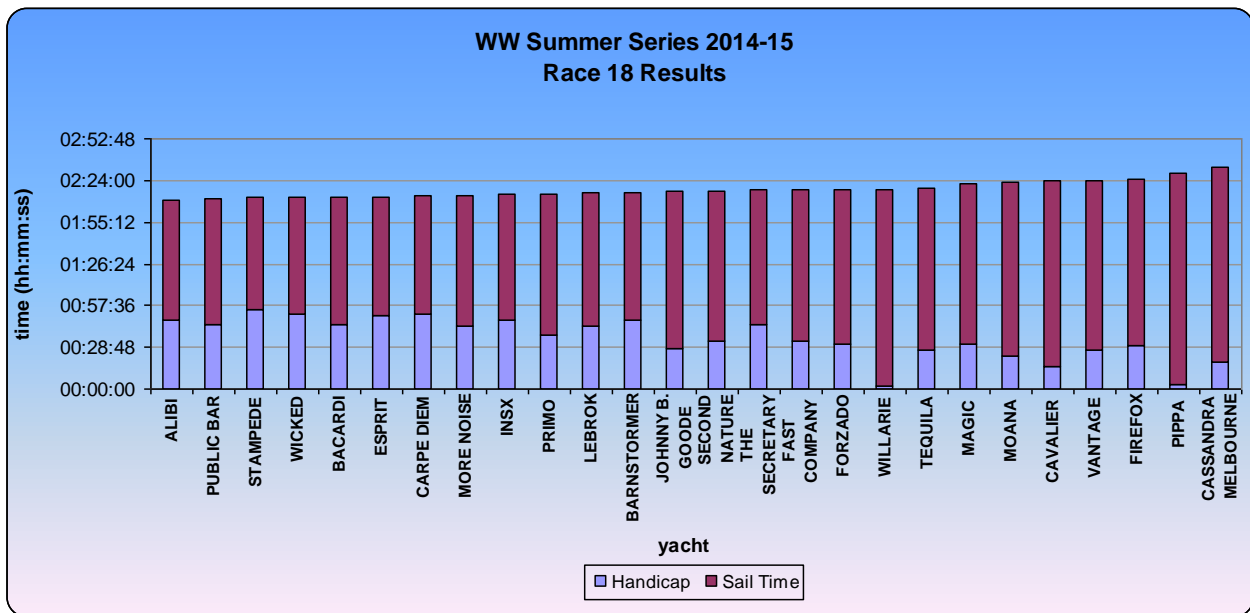
Note: The “borrowed jib?” with no sail numbers” MW



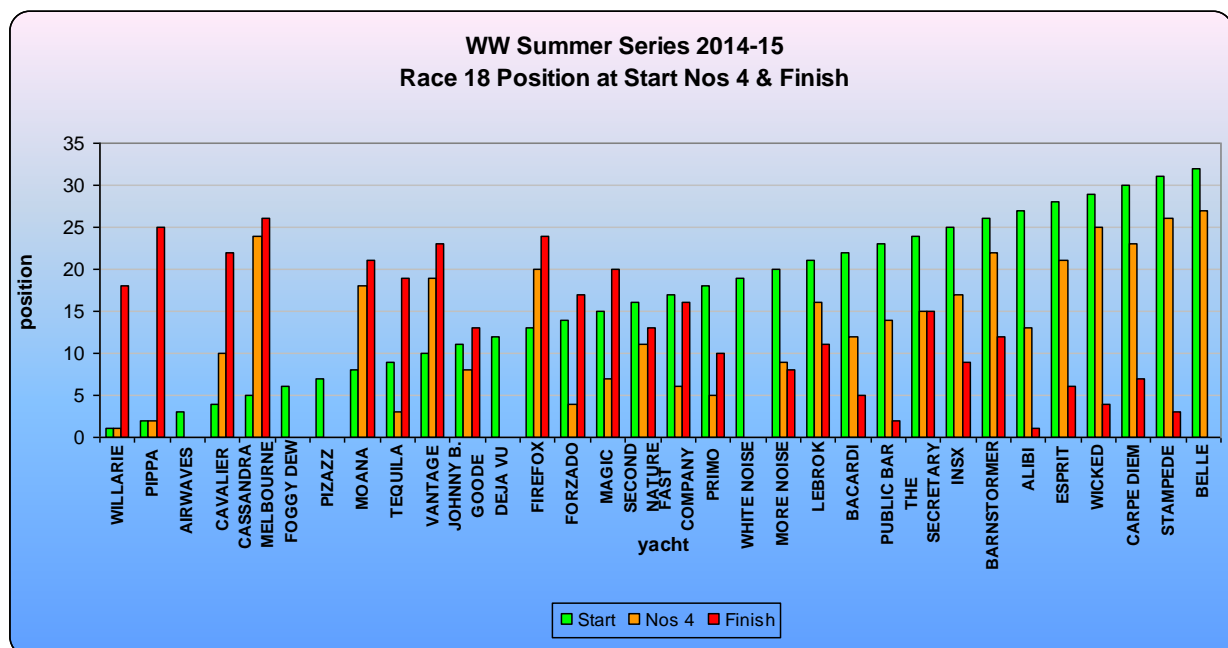
STAMPEDE (Christopher Gandela) was next to the last yacht to start the race, 9 seconds late for her 55 minute handicap. She sailed the first half of the course in 37 minutes and was 26th at the first rounding of number 4. It took longer for STAMPEDE to sail the second half of the course which she did in 39 minutes 23 seconds. She crossed the finish line at 15:42:32 to record her 3rd podium and 7th top ten finish of the series. STAMPED has sailed 14 races and is 10th in the handicap.

Note: The cost of some bigger yacht means they can only afford very small sail numbers often on just one sail. MW

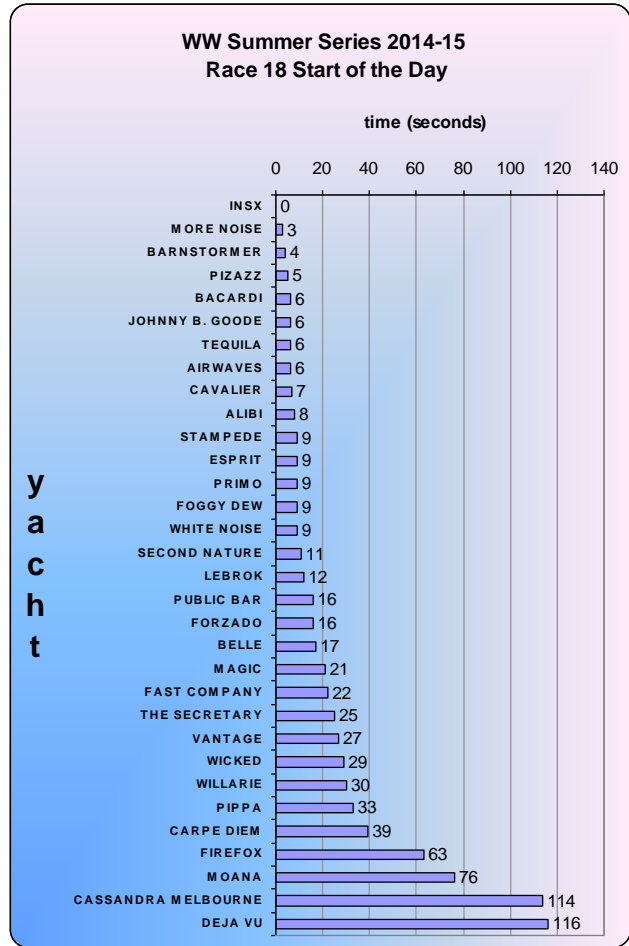
With late starters dominating the finish only one yacht amongst the first 10 yachts to finish had a handicap of less than 40 minutes. The fleet started the race 60 minutes apart. This difference was 17 minute 46 seconds at the half way stage but had increased by 5 minutes to 22 minutes 46 seconds by the end of the race. There was a tie for 13th place with both JOHNNY B. GOODE (John Chipp) and SECOND NATURE (Paul Mentiplay) both crossing the line at 15:46:53. |



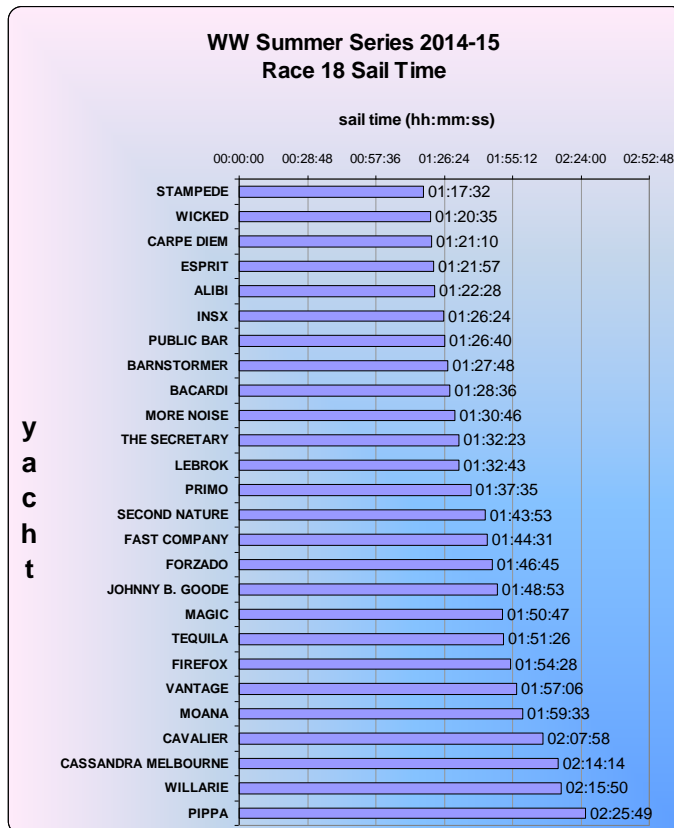
None of the eleven early starters were amongst the early finishers with 5 finishing mid fleet, 3 amongst the late finishers and 3 retiring. The early finishers comprised 8 late starters and 3 mid fleet starters.



Starting exactly on time was INSX (Rob Sills) who won Start of the Day and went on to finish in 9th place. Only 4 of the 32 strong fleet were more than a minute late for their start which had a median value of 11 seconds. |



On average it took 1:42:37 to sail shortened course 66. STAMPEDE recorded the fastest time of 1:17:32 and there was 1:07:57 separating the fastest from slowest sail.



Windward
Buoy

Mark Wonders in this race:

... Are some skippers taking the idea of sailing for retirees the wrong way? The aim is to finish the race, not retire. Yachts retired by the first leg included 3434, 32,189, 370, and the second leg 3535.

... Was the race deliberately designed so skippers could get the crew to practice changing sails? On one yacht the crew lost their enthusiasm for this activity and retired to the bar.

... Were a few crew trying to invent a new type of furler for jibs that could be employed while a yacht is at full speed?

... If it was the waves that actually took about 50% of the energy that was being gained from the sails on the small yachts.

... Will the handicappers take credit for designing a race where one of the smallest yachts could lead around every mark on the course, but drop to 18th on the finish line?

... Was the course chosen to establish precisely where Paddy's or Hospital Rock is? The course did have yachts passing close or even on it at low tide.

Mark and other skippers would welcome an accurate position of the rock. The old salts described it as level with the ends of the groin just in shore of Number 3. Now Number 3 has been moved, is this still correct?

Maybe SYC should ask Vic Parks to spend some of our rego' fees and install a mark there.

If the race had started at 14:00 (Using Fawkner Bcn Wind records)

The wind would have been 1 knot lighter at the start but from the same direction.

The finish time would have been 16:06 for the last yacht and the breeze dropped by 4knts and moved from South to SS East

Videos of the week

What do they do to keep the Spirit of Tasmania going fast? They take the ship out for a clean at Garden Island Sydney. A short sped up UTube clip [CLICK](#)

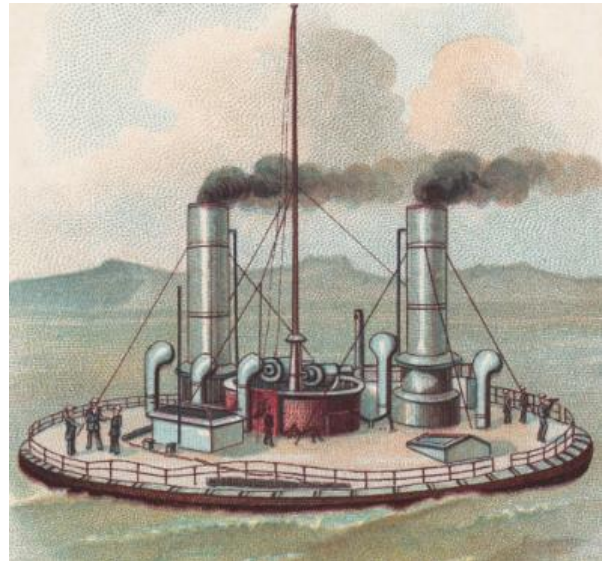
A rough crossing from North to South on a 6min U tube. It will not encourage you to use a car ferry! [CLICK](#)

Question Race 17 There have been no correct responses.

So here is a post card clue to help you.

Mark Windward invites you to send your

responses, replies, and the location of Hospital rock to [MARK Windward](#)



Vale ~ Val Pilsworth I have just learned that Val has passed away. She and Hugh are known to many many people around the club. We admired the strong fight she had to make the best she could of her illness. Our thoughts are with Hugh and his family in their big loss. We will all miss her warm welcoming smiles around the club.

Jeffrey