

More Stern Chasing than Stern Catching Wednesday Wonders Summer Series 2014-15 Race 20

(25 Feb 2015)



Despite some very determined stern chasing the outcome of race 20 was dominated by yachts starting with lower handicaps. Those with higher handicaps and starting later just weren't able to catch them. Nine of the leading yachts to finish the race were amongst the first 12 yachts to start. No late starters were amongst the early finishers and 3 yachts that started mid fleet were amongst the early finishers with the remainder mid fleet starters finishing mid fleet or late. In what is probably a unique result the first 3 yachts to start race 20 were the same three around number four and across the finish in the same order they started. PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) had every skippers dream handicap of 0 with WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) off 3 minutes and MIDNIGHT MAGIC (Bernadette Moore) off 7 minutes. The 3 podium finishers actually crossed the start line 7 minutes 15 seconds apart and crossed the finish line 2 minutes 18 seconds apart.



Recording her first win of the series in 19 attempts was PIPPA. She had a good start being 7 seconds late for her 1330 start and sailed the first 4 legs of the 8 leg 9.1 nautical mile course 63 in 1:24:18 to round number for the first time in first place. PIPPA sailed the last 4 legs of the race in 44 minutes 25 seconds to cross the finish line at 15:38:50. Skipper Jeffrey writes, "Very close race with WILLARIE who caught up nearly 3 mins on the second leg. PIPPA rounded number 6 just ahead. WILLARIE was breathing down our throat all the way to 4. Gained a little on the rounding. We pulled ahead 1 minute from 2 to number 1, and held good speed to finish 1 minute in front." This was the 2nd podium finish for PIPPA this series and helps her into 29th place in the aggregate.

Finishing 59 seconds astern of PIPPA was the other Triton 24 WILLARIE. WILLARIE had two convincing wins over PIPPA in races 18 and 19 but the tables were reversed in the latest race. WILLARIE started from 2nd place being 17 seconds late for her 3 minute handicap. She hung on to 2nd place at the first rounding of number 4 and finished 2nd at 15:39:49 after sailing the course in 2:06:49. After completing 12 races this series this was the first podium finish for WILLARIE and puts her 35th in the aggregate.

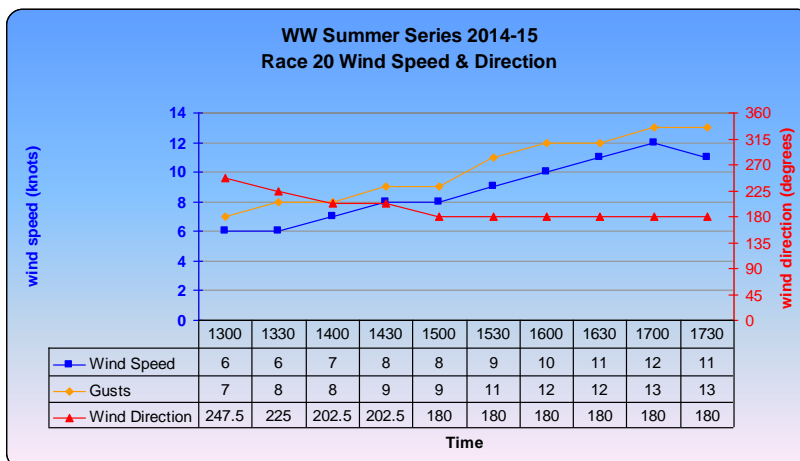


Finishing in 3rd place 1 minute 19 seconds behind WILLARIE was the Southcoast 31, MIDNIGHT MAGIC. MIDNIGHT MAGIC has completed 11 races and is one of 3 yachts to have 2 wins to their name in the series. She started from 3rd place 22 seconds late for a 7 minute handicap. After sailing for 1:20:08 MIDNIGHT MAGIC rounded number 4 still in 3rd place and went on to finish the race at 15:41:08. She had sailed the course in 2:04:08 - her fastest sail for the series so far. This 3rd place has helped to improve her aggregate position and she is placed 40th.



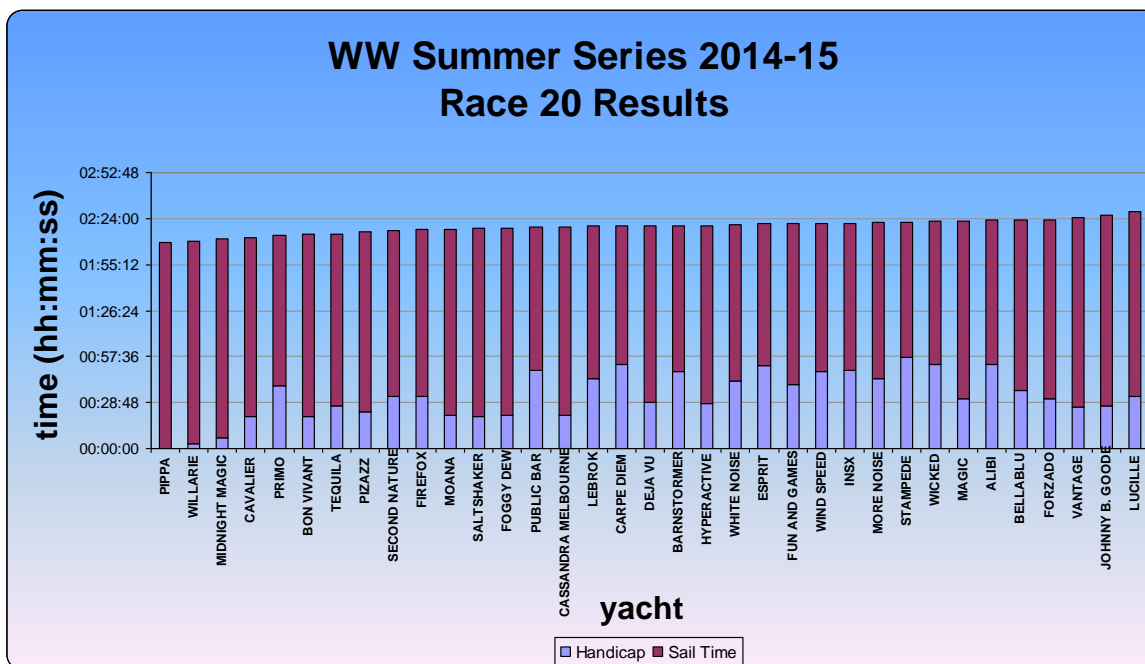
It was yet another great day for a sail with relatively calm water and light breezes. The forecast 10-15 knot south easterlies for the afternoon did not eventuate until evening. Instead the afternoon saw a breeze that averaged 9 knots and moved from around the south west to settle in the south at about 1500.

Note: the consistent wind strength assisted the early starters to take full advantage of their handicaps. MW

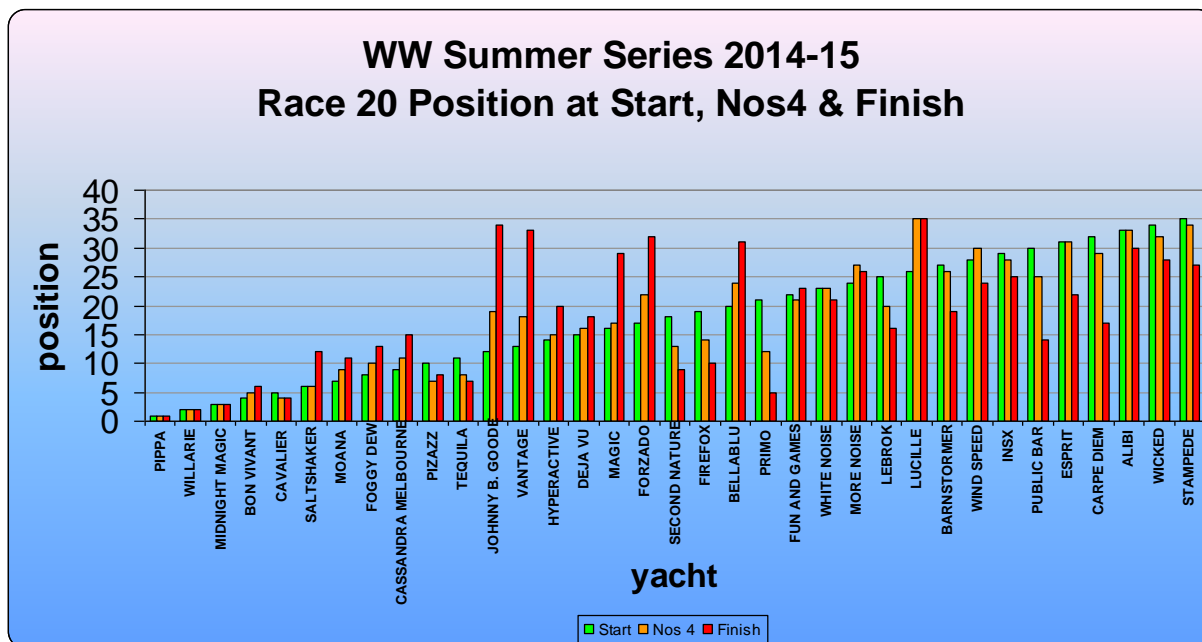


It was the Beneteau 477, ESPRIT (Gary Anderson) that won Start of the Day only 1 second late for her 52 minute handicap. BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) was her closest rival with a start time of 4 seconds with PRIMO (Steve Copley) third on 5 seconds. The median start time was 16 seconds, a time recorded by 5 yachts. Twenty five yachts started within 20 seconds or less of their respective starts with only two yachts starting over a minute late.

There was 57 minutes separating the 35 yacht fleet at the start of the race. By the first rounding of number 4 the gap had reduced to 23 minutes 55 seconds and the fleet closed in further to be 19 minutes 50 seconds apart at the finish.

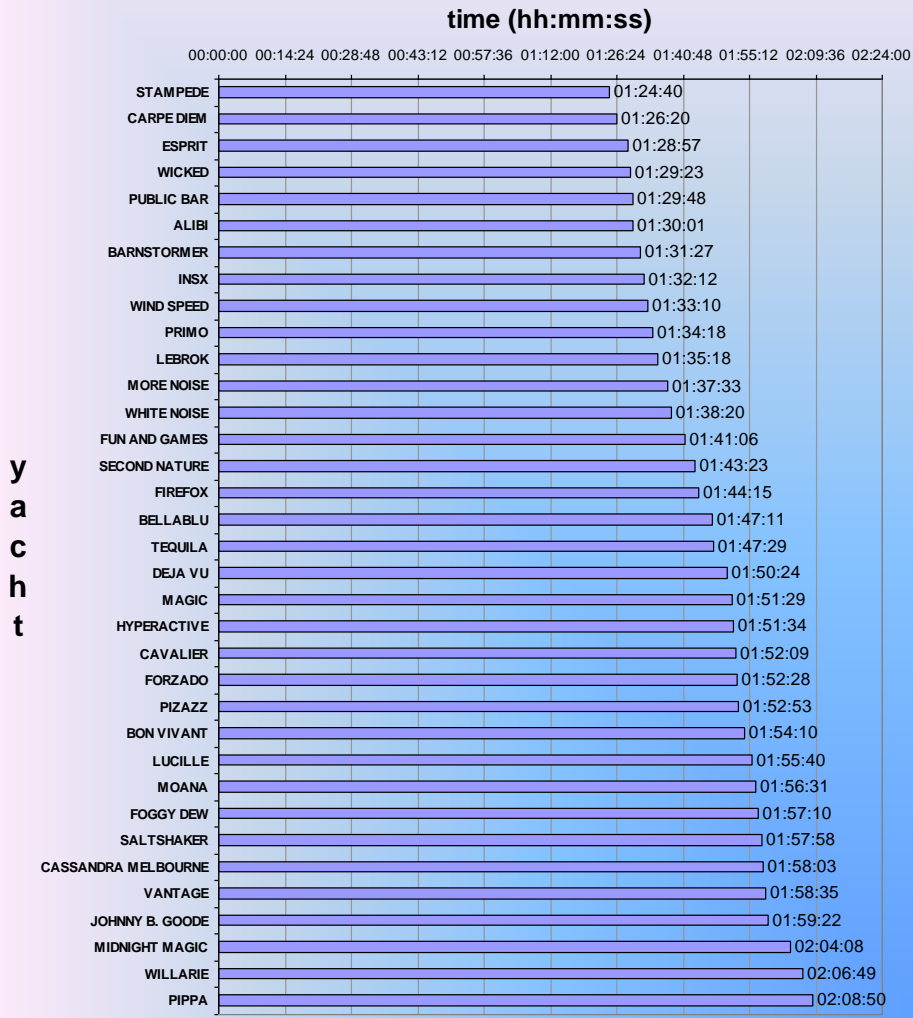


As mentioned earlier, there were few yachts that made significant changes to their start positions. PRIMO made the biggest improvement – up 16 and CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) - 15 places on their start position whilst JOHNNY B. GOODE (John Chipp) and VANTAGE (Darren Hunter) both lost 15 positions.

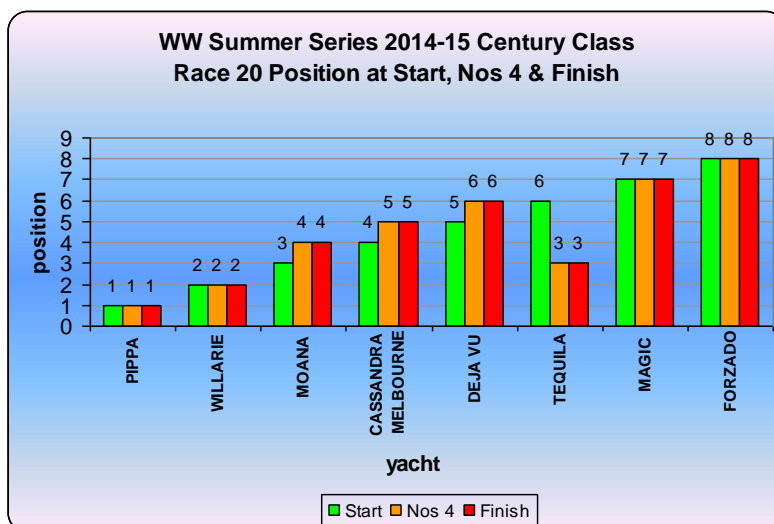


The average time taken to sail course 63 was 1:45:48. STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala) recorded the fastest time of 1:24:40 with CARPE DIEM second fastest. Ironically it was the 3 podium finishers PIPPA, WILLARIE and MIDNIGHT MAGIC that had sailing time of over 2 hours.

WW Summer Series 2014-15 Race 20 Sail Time



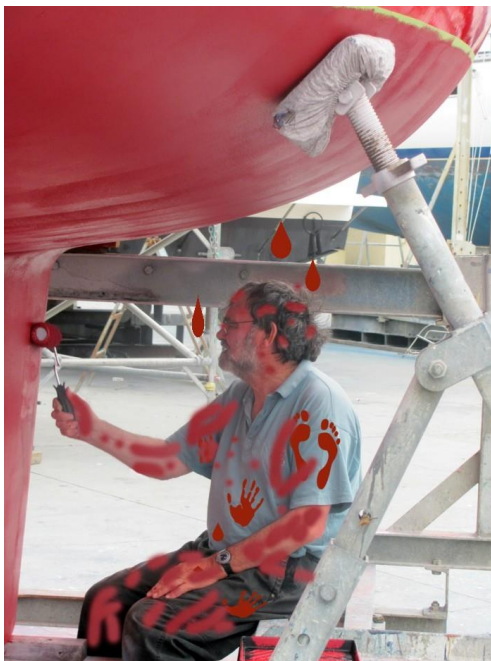
Race 20 was the 5th race in the 6 race Century Class Series. Only TEQUILA (Alan Collins) was able to make significant improvement on her start position lifting from 6th to finish 3rd. PIPPA and WILLARIE finished 1st and 2nd respectively. The result of race 5 has increased the competition in the series making the next and last race the series decider. Any one of 7 yachts has the chance to win the series.



With PIPPA winning both race 20 and race 5 in the Century Class it is appropriate that Skipper Jeffrey should have a last word. He said, "After working on the hull it is extra pleasing to get a reward."

Skipper Jeffrey and wife Gai are both very accomplished handymen and prior to this race anti fouled PIPPA themselves. Red anti foul is so easy to apply, it goes on just about anything.

Windward
Sway



Mark's Video guide for the week

The Volvo Ocean Race is still underway, even if it is not stopping in Melbourne. The video reports are about 20mins and give a broad coverage of the competitors etc. There is good action footage in the last 7 mins of this **VOLVO Video Episode 20** [CLICK](#).

The Volvo yachts are just arriving in Auckland

Finish times in Auckland: 28th February 2015

The Spanish yacht wins the NZ leg by a margin that even a WW handicapper would have been pleased with!

MAPFRE: 08:31:20 UTC

Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing: 08:35:45 UTC

Dongfeng Race Team: 08:39:22 UTC

At the 'other end' of the WW fleet. Just in case the handicapper, Mark, is reading this far into this report, I would like to comment on the consistent struggle between **Sm4** and **Sm6**. As they start at the end of the fleet they should not be forgotten. It has been observed they always like to keep very close to each other in WW races. They were nearly together at the start - **Wicked** off 53mins, who was 43 seconds late and **Stampede** off 57mins, was just 8 seconds late. At the first time past No 4 **Alibi** had separated the two yachts, and as a result she was punished and passed by both yachts at the finish, with **Wicked** finishing ahead of **Stampede**.

This story has a moral. Don't underestimate the importance of a good start.

If **Wicked** had had a perfect start she would have finished dead level with **Stampede** instead of 43 seconds behind.

Question from RACE 19: What is the name of this ship? The first of it's kind. This vessel was built in America in 1864. It had an iron hull weighed 6.8 tons was about 40 feet long. It was used by one of the American armies. It was salvaged in 2000 and the crew were buried with full military honours. It did have one successful attack.

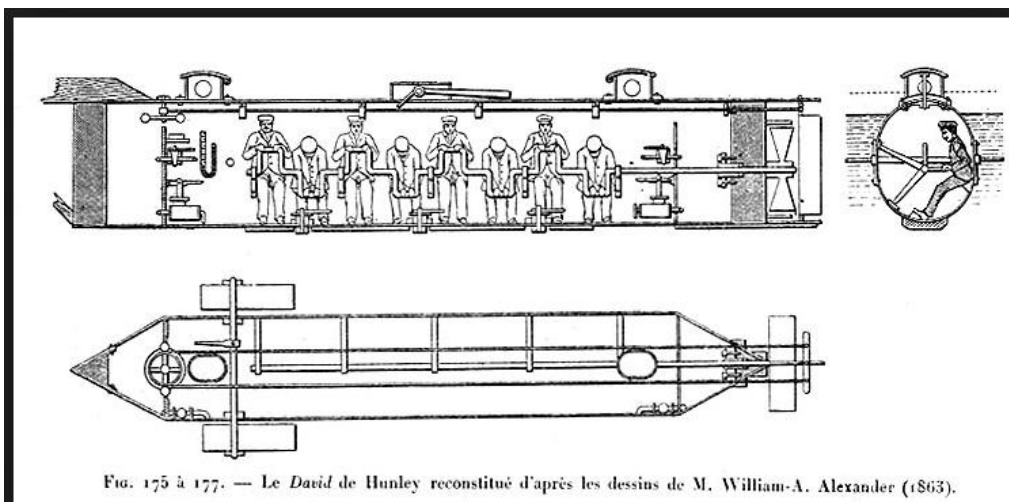
PS-Bailey correctly replies: *The vessel you refer to, is the Confederate States of America submarine, the "H.L.Huntley", the first submarine to sink a warship **USS Housatonic** which was blockading Charleston's harbour. It had a crew of 8, 7 men to crank the propeller and one to steer. Recent research indicated that the **Huntley** was only 20ft from the **Housatonic** when it fired its torpedo that sank the warship and the explosion may have knocked out the crew of the **Huntley** with the result it also sank. As you state Mark after the **Huntley** was raised the crew were all buried in 2000 with full Confederate Military honours.*

The "**H.L.Huntley**" was not the first sub that Huntley built. In 1862 he had to scuttle **Pioneer**, and a second craft, **the American Diver** that was too slow and cumbersome sank in a storm. Huntley, with James McClintock and Baxter Watson then started on a third. They called it a "fish torpedo boat". Displacement: 7.5 tons Length: 39.5 feet (12.04 m) Beam: 3.83 feet (1.17 m) Propulsion: hand-cranked propeller. Speed: 4 knts (7.41 km/h) (surface) Complement: 1 officer, 7 enlisted Armament: 1 spar torpedo. The spar torpedo was in fact a cask of 41 kg of gunpowder stuck on the end of a wooden spar. The barb at one end was meant to stick into a ship's hull and there was enough rope to allow the sub to move far enough away before detonation achieved with a mechanical trigger. This was later developed using an iron pipe instead.

There were ballast tanks and extra weights underneath which could be released for a quick surface. In July 1863 he successfully demonstrated it by sinking a coal barge. It was taken over by the Confederate Army.

The first test under new management was a disaster as the captain, Confederate Navy Lieutenant John A. Payne accidentally flooded her. He and 2 crew survived. The boat was recovered. In 1863 during another test, the boat failed to surface. Everyone died including Huntley. Again the boat was recovered.

On Feb 17th 1864, the sub attacked the **USS Housatonic**. By now she was named the **H L Huntley**. She was commanded by Lieutenant George E. Dixon. The **Housatonic**, a 1240 ton steam-powered sloop-of-war with 12 large cannons, was stationed at the entrance to Charleston, South Carolina harbour. The spar torpedo exploded sending **Housatonic** to the bottom. Unfortunately the sub followed her. 5 crew on **Housatonic** died but all of the sub's crew perished. It's now reasoned she was too close when the explosion occurred.



To view a photo of the raised vessel [CLICK](#) for other Photos [CLICK](#)

Question for Race 20: What ship is this?

Australian built one of the last of its kind that was sail rigged. Built for a commercial trade. She was still able to chug along "quite nicely" on Sydney harbour in 2012.

Length 15.64m Breadth 4.39m Draught 1.73m Displacement 35.6 tons.

Construction: Carvel, jarrah planking, karri frames, white gum decks, oregon spars.

Sail: Auxiliary gaff ketch Engine 6-cylinder Volvo Penta marine diesel 78 kW

Answers to *MARK WINDWARD* [CLICK](#)

Wednesday Wonderful Reminders

Presentation Night Friday 10 April 2015. Bookings are now available and close on Wednesday April 1st. You would be a fool to miss out!

Race 23 Wednesday 18th March **Jaffa Cup**

Will Midnight Magic be able to retain the cup?

Last Century Class and last **Summer Race** 25th March 2015

First Winter Race April the first. Make a note in your diary now.

Thanks to Windward Buoy and others. Thanks for the feedback from a number of people about the last report. It is very welcome, even if it is just to prove to us that someone is reading this.

MARK WINDWARD [CLICK](#)

"Nough-tic-al" Definitions - thanks to Colin

Cannelloni: A narrow boat for one.

Circumnavigate: To politely ask the captain to do his job.

Doldrums: Barbie's percussion set.