

## **WEDNESDAY WONDERS RACE 12, 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

### **MID SEASON HANDICAP REVIEW**

In response to feedback from a number of competitors, the weather experienced to date and a performance review, the handicap for every entry for Race12 has been altered.

1. Bernadette feels that starting "Midnight Magic" in the negative disadvantages her and has requested she has the same warning as other competitors. For this reason, 3 minutes has been added to all competitors handicaps starting times before the usual performance adjustments have been applied. Hopefully, this should give both Bernie and Geoff more time to strategize their starts and determine the course of the day.
2. Weather considerations have also been taken into account. The wind has no doubt favoured yachts that perform better in windier conditions. For example, it has been obvious that "Moana", a Bluewater 400 who finished 17<sup>th</sup> in the Winter Series has been favoured by the conditions experienced thus far this summer. Handicaps are based on average results and conditions. In order to prevent a blow out in the results, I have adjusted a number of stronger wind dependent performers. This also includes the Beneteau Oceanis 34's and the Bavaria 32 which also revel in windier conditions. Windward Buoy has reported that the average wind has been higher this summer and the handicaps of these boats has been increased as a result.
3. Equally as obvious is the performance decline in a number of competitors in particular the Beneteau First 36.7 which seem to suffer in a seaway as does the Triton 24's. Both of these classes do much better in lighter wind strengths.
4. Should the conditions lighten off in the New Year, it may be necessary to reverse these adjustments.

I am aware that not every one is happy with their handicap but I am confident that I can justify most allocations with analysis of elapsed time, history and computer analysis. Whilst winners need to sail well, the weather has had more influence on the results this summer and the handicaps have been adjusted to reflect that influence this week. In conclusion, I do listen to feedback and I hope that everyone accepts the changes and Bernie, in particular as a long term Wednesday Wonder, will no longer feel her participation is not appreciated.

In conclusion, a reminder that Handicaps are performance based and to improve your handicap, participation is required. I hope this information provides you with a satisfactory explanation as to your handicap adjustment this week.

Rowan Simpson  
Wind Sniffer