

HATRICKS GALORE!

Wednesday Wonders Race 14 Summer Series 2016-17

(11 Jan 2017)

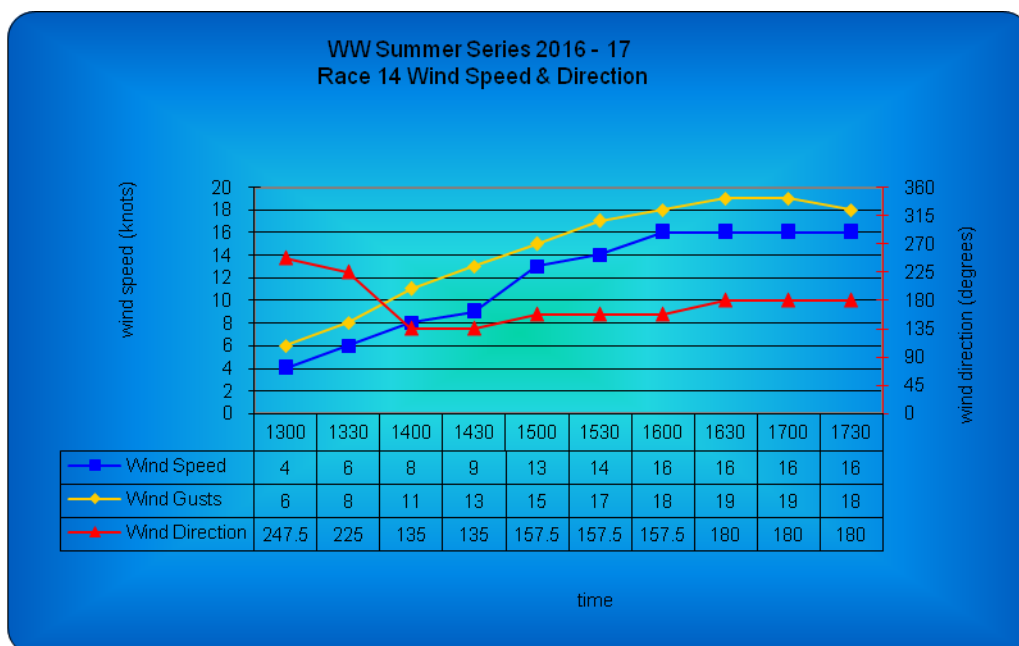


With 51 yachts in the aggregate and 25 scheduled races in the series it is impossible for every yacht to win a race. PRIMO (Steve Copley) is making the chance of a win even less likely by making this a hatrick of wins. Each of her 3 successive wins has been won by an increasing margin with the latest being by 1 minute 29 seconds. In 2nd place was BON VIVANT (Russell Keays) who now has a hatrick of podium finishes – 1 win and two 2nd places. In 3rd place was UPBEAT (Peter Dunne) who recorded her first podium finish for the series. There was a 3rd hatrick in this race when ESPRIT (Garry Anderson) won Start of the Day for the 3rd time. On each occasion she has had a perfect start and must be a serious challenger for the Misty Blue Trophy.

Thirty-six yachts contested this race; including a visitor ANDANTE I (Keith Woodruff) around the six leg 9.8 nautical mile courses 12. This course should be becoming more familiar since it is the 5th time it has been selected this series. However, the breeze averaged less and contained more of an easterly component than on any previous occasion. Consequently the average elapsed time was slower and the average finish time slower than previously. It was NUTCRAKER II (Rob Davis & Andy Baker) who sailed the course in the fastest time of 1:27:36 – almost twice as fast as the slowest elapsed time of 2:50:31.

The result of this race did not change the positions of the aggregate top three: PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse); LEBROK (Theo Korbel) and DEJ VU (Peter Dransfield). However, BON VIVANT leapt into the aggregate top ten from 18th into 4th place.

Observations at Fawkner Beacon indicated the breeze increased as the race progressed from 6 to 19 knots averaging about 12 knots. (This is about 4 knots less than the series average of 16 knots). There were also significant shifts in direction from south south west round to southeast before moving to the south.





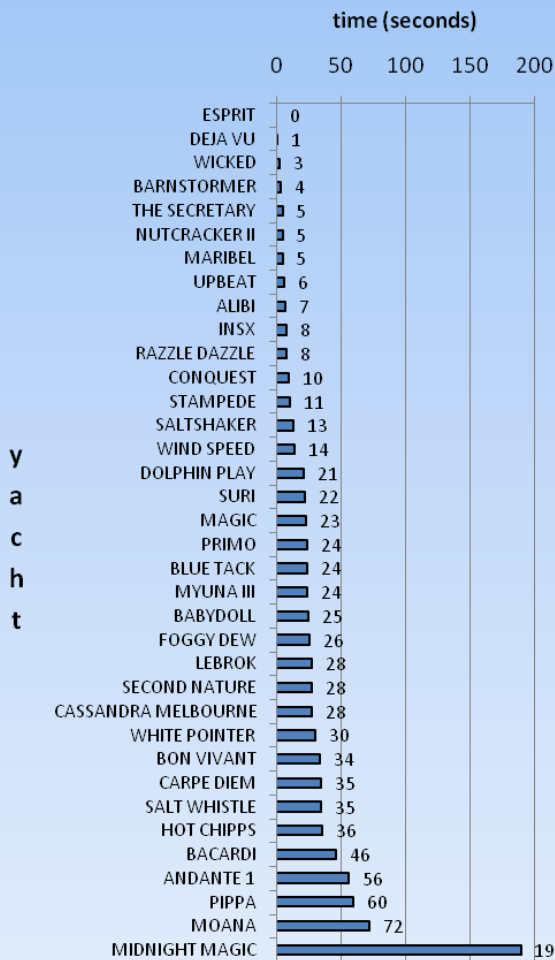
For her 3rd successive win PRIMO started the race from 18th place 24 seconds late for her 33 minute handicap. She was in 3rd place and 3 minutes 22 seconds behind the leader on completion of the first 4 legs of the race. PRIMO started the race 6 seconds ahead of the Oceanis 43 WHITE POINTER (Tom Raft) but at the first rounding of number 4 the lead had extended to become 8 minutes 16 seconds. PRIMO sailed the final three legs of the race in 35 minutes 50 seconds crossing the finish line at 15:48:19 just 1 minute 29 seconds ahead of her closest rival. This was the 10th race completed by PRIMO and her three wins have helped her from 34th place in the aggregate after race 12 to 16th place on completion of this race.

BON VIVANT has started 9 races, failed to finish on two occasions but has recorded 5 top ten finishes, including 3 podium finishes, from the remaining 7 races. After race 13 she was 18th in the aggregate with a total of 73 points but moved into 4th place on 41 points after crossing the finish line in 2nd place. BON VIVANT started from 9th place 34 seconds late for her 24 minute handicap. She sailed the first four legs of the race in 1:14:51 rounding number 4 in 2nd place only 18 seconds behind the leader. BON VIVANT sailed the entire course in 1:55:48 – 7 minutes 14 seconds faster than SALT WHISTLE who started off the same handicap – to cross the finish line at 15:49:48.



When she crossed the finish line at 15:50:25 UPBEAT became the second Beneteau 367 to record a podium finish, her first in 8 races. She started from 20th place 6 seconds late for a 34 minute handicap. UPBEAT was 33 minutes 45 seconds behind the race leader at the start of the race but this gap had narrowed to 3 minutes 39 seconds on completion of the first 4 legs. During the final 3 legs of the race UPBEAT moved from 4th into 3rd position and crossed the finish line at 15:50:25. She had sailed the entire course in 1:46:25 which was 1 minute 6 seconds slower than PRIMO and 3 minutes 30 seconds slower than the other Beneteau 367, LEBROK. This 3rd place by UPBEAT saw her move from 31st in the aggregate into 28th place.

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 14 Start of the Day

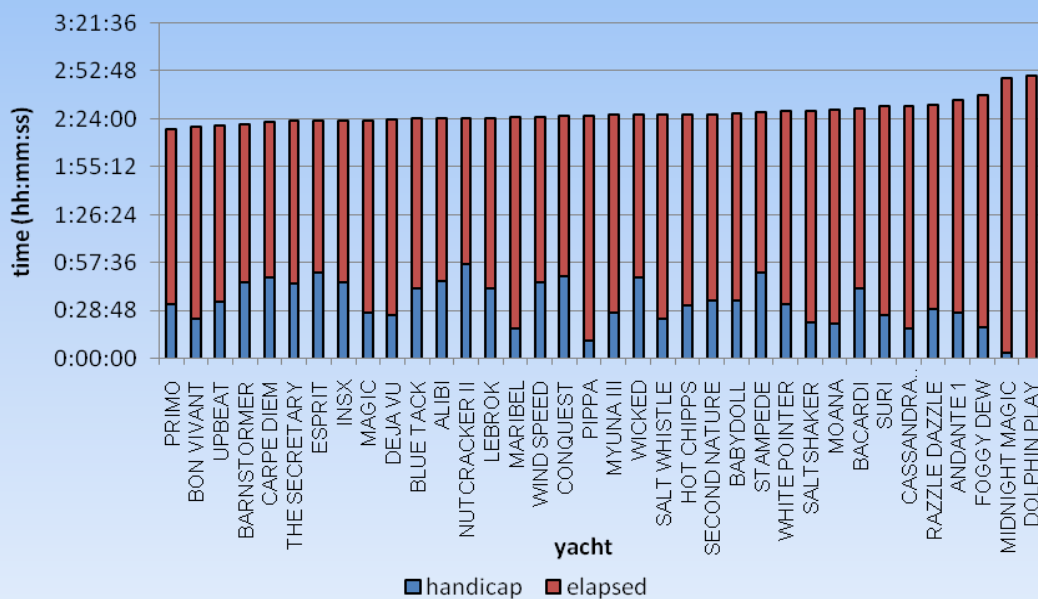


This was the 6th time this series that a perfect start won Start of the day. Three of the wins have been by ESPRIT with BRANNEW (Clive Sondheim), INSX (Rob Sill) and LEBROK making up the six. Twelve yachts had starts within 10 seconds or less of their handicaps with 3 yachts starting a minute or more late for theirs. The median start time was 23 seconds; almost double the series average median of 12 seconds. With 1-second start DÉJÀ VU was awarded the "Hull Scrub".

*Peter has had
Jacquie Hope on
board DÉJÀ VU
As crew the last few
races, but she
departs for NZ to
help her dad
celebrate his (nearly
100th) birthday. MW*



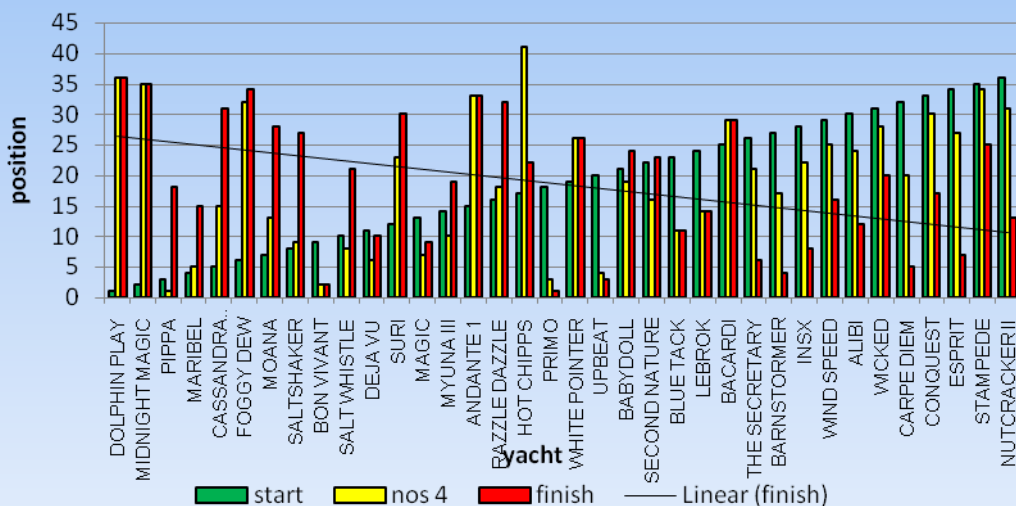
WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 14 Result



Exactly two thirds of the fleet finished within 10 minutes of the winner. Only 1 second separated INSX and MAGIC (Phil Spry Bailey) in the contest for 8th place. The same margin separated MYUNA III from WICKED (Mike Welsh) who finished 19th and 20th respectively. At 15:55 and at 15:57 four yachts crossed the line within those minutes. MW

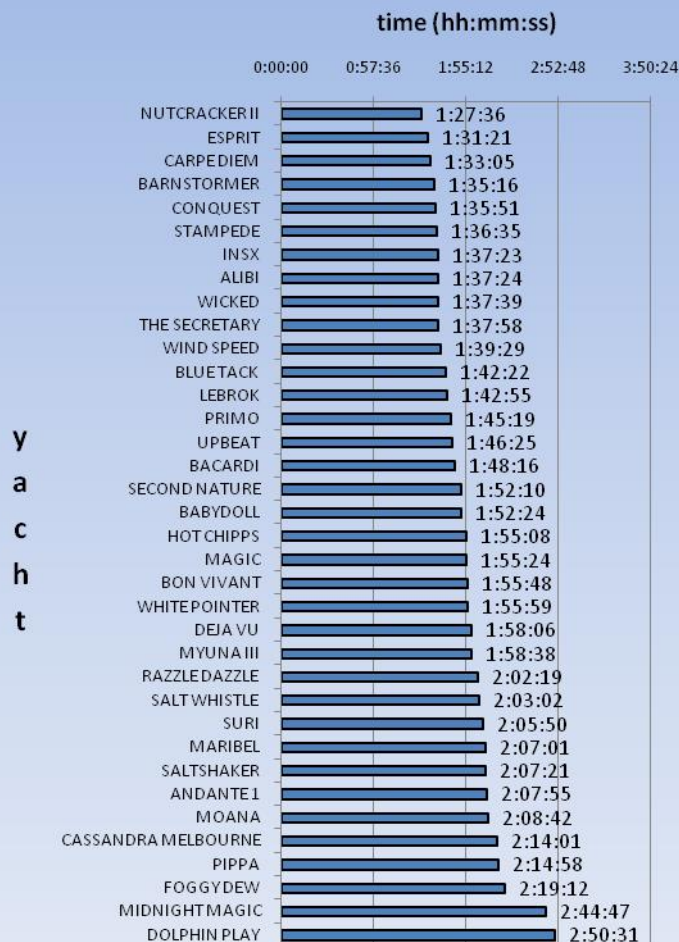
As indicated by the black trend line this race was a good one for the late starters. Seven of them were among the first twelve yachts to cross the finish line. Only 2 of the 12 early starters finished among the early finishers.

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 14 Position at Start, Nos 4 & Finish



The early yachts had to wait about 10 mins for the breeze to kick in. The red yacht averaged only 3.1knts for the first 10 mins compared to an average of 5knt for the full course time. MW

WW Summer Series 2016-17 Race 14 Elapsed Time



With an average elapsed time of 1:54:34 this race was longer than the series average. NUTCRACKER II was the only yacht to sail the course in under 90 minutes with a time of 1:27:36. At the other end of the scale there were 12 yachts in the TWO-HOUR CLUB.



Witnessed by MARK WINDWARD



Warning this yacht is racing with WW's - it is not a lost Brighton yacht. So welcome to Keith Woodruff sailing ANDANTE 1. Keith was pleased that he was not the last yacht to finish, and in fact had 3 boats behind him. Mark hopes this is the first of many appearances of ANDANTE 1

Last week a very large fish about 7 feet long with two fins passed between Pippa and Midnight Magic near number 3. The later reporting of a shark at Edithvale, Mark thinks confirms this sighting was definitely a shark!

Given this sighting, Wendy Wonder might be a better option for a live MOB. Mark is not sure but it seems there are fewer legs dangling over the side of some of the larger yachts this race.

It looks like however that one of the Barnstormer crew would like some fish for tea and has taken up fishing, but the rest of the crew are not talking to him.



Two 'Non Legs' yachts....maybe shark warnings should be called Legs Warnings.



This yacht being closer to the water has assigned a crewmember as a shark watcher

As the old saying goes...The better the handicapping the closer the encounters with other yachts.



It seems that someone has told the Skipper of Pippa that if you make a big splash it will scare the sharks away.

With Conquest finishing just 7 seconds ahead of Pippa in this race, Pippa is suggesting that it should not be the bow that is counted as the finishing point but the stern that is recorded as it crosses the line, giving small boats a better chance of crossing the line first. She was first around 4 but obtained the Midway Award for finishing in the middle of the fleet.



It was noticed that even though it was not St Patrick's day the Irish yachts were all sticking together finishing with just Bob (who I don't think is Irish) in between Midnight Magic, Foggy Dew and Dolphin Play.



From last week: In answer to the question: Can you pick the difference in this yacht from last season?

Only a few sailors correctly noted the difference in Magic. The difference is she now has electric winches. Phil said it is something he should have done a long while ago.

If any sailors cut the ends off their sailing gloves to have bare fingertips, Phil may like them so his crew do not wear out their fingers.



Mark often hears tales of yachts that are difficult to verify so would like to add a section to these reports of WOULD YOU BELIEVE? Mark would welcome just two or three lines for salty stories either verbally, or email would be great.

The first tale I believe is true and concerned a close group of similar Class yachts that were very evenly matched so on light days weight became a critical factor. One skipper on light days would drop off his anchor onto a buoy and collect it some time after the race. The members of the rest of the fleet became a bit annoyed about this so the next light day one yacht collected the anchor. When presentation was about to take place he announced to everyone that he had found this anchor. The owner could not claim it particularly as he had done well in that race, so one yacht finished up with an extra anchor.

Thanks to Bruce Parry (White Pointer) for the photos. There is now a collection of every yacht from this season in the boating department computer...(More details about how to access them next week.) Thanks to Windward Buoy for his report and some more photos, as well as the stats he supplies to Andy Capper every race. Looking forward to next race and the return of Ian Kaufman who we hope has recovered and be back sailing Willarie.

To email MARK WINDWARD Click on [HI MARK](#)
Mark would welcome your salty tales.