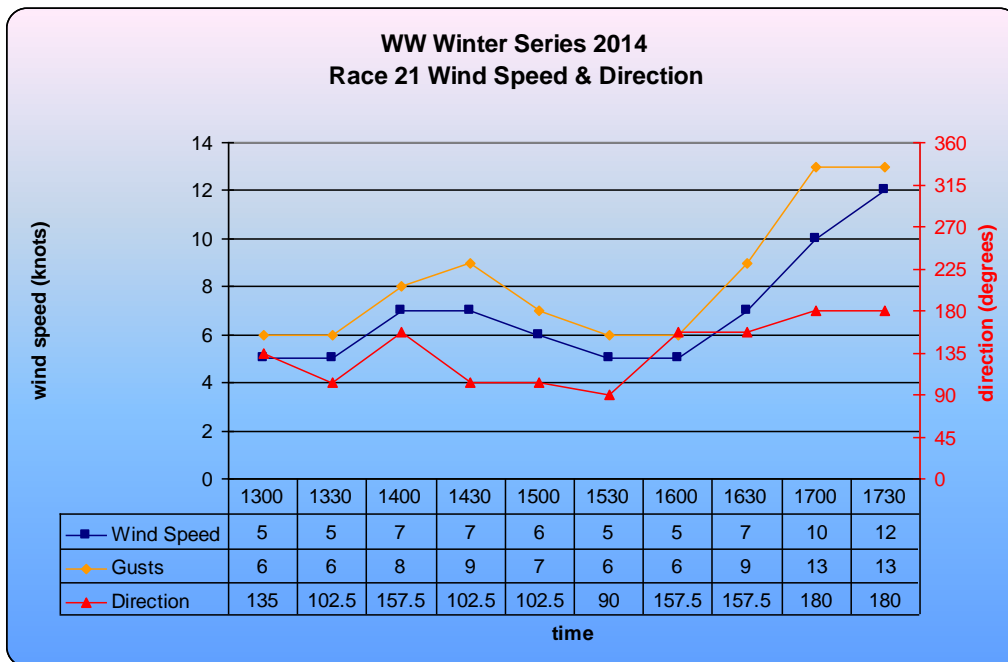


Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2014 Race 21 A Clear Winner after Mystery Start

Thirty six yachts finished the race but it was difficult to tell how many started after a mist descended on the course before the start restricting visibility. The tower couldn't be seen from the yachts nor could the yachts be seen from the tower. Yachts observed their own start times and relayed them to the tower whilst ships in the channel sounded foghorn warnings as they moved in or out of Melbourne. The marks of the six leg, 8.5 mile course 13 were not always easy to find but one of the larger fleets of the series all completed the course after the Farr 1020 TEQUILA (Alan Collins) was first across the line to win the race and give an extension to the finish time (as did 5 other yachts) for 33 yachts which would not otherwise have completed the race.

Fawkner Beacon observations showed a gentle breeze of between 5 to 7 knots from somewhere between east and south until around 1600 when it strengthened and became more settled in the south. It averaged around 7 knots for the race but was of the more variable of the series (standard deviation of 4.8 compared to the series average of 3.1).



The unusual conditions didn't stop the series trend of a new winner for each race, as **TEQUILA** became the 19th different winner in 19 races. She probably started from 11th position with a handicap of 24 minutes, sailed the course in 2:29:47 to cross the finish line at 16:23:47 three minutes twenty eight seconds ahead of **INSX** (Robert Sills) in 2nd place. TEQUILA has successfully completed 11 of the 19 races this series and this was her 3rd and best podium finish. It puts her 25th in the aggregate.

Race Record - Tequila									
RACE	DATE	POSN	ELAPSED	FINISH	HCAP	SOD	COURSE	DISTANCE	WIND SPEED
2	16/04/2014	3	02:01:52	15:56:52	00:25:00	16	65	8.6	8
3	23/04/2014	11	02:31:44	16:26:44	00:25:00	18	63	6	4
4	30/04/2014	16	02:00:27	15:54:27	00:24:00	5	14	9.8	15
5	7/05/2014	2	02:11:30	16:05:30	00:24:00	1	62	9.5	9
6	14/05/2014	33	02:04:58	16:01:58	00:27:00	15	61	9.8	16
7	21/05/2014					30	6	4.6	5
8	28/05/2014	22	01:39:31	15:35:31	00:26:00	46	31	8.8	15
9	4/06/2014	24	02:02:34	15:57:34	00:25:00	11	6	8.4	9
10	11/06/2014	22	01:56:18	15:51:18	00:25:00	74	61	9.8	18
11	18/06/2014					40	63	9.4	5
13	2/07/2014	20	02:13:41	16:07:41	00:24:00	300	16	6.1	8
15	16/07/2014	16	01:49:01	15:43:01	00:24:00	40	61	9.8	20
21	27/08/2014	1	02:29:47	16:23:47	00:24:00		13	8.5	7

After a relatively quiet start to the series INSX campaign is picking up speed as she registered her 2nd podium and 3rd top ten finish in 3 consecutive outings. She started race 21 with a handicap of 42 minutes from about 28th place, sailed the course in 2:15:15 to cross the line in 2nd place at 16:27:15. This was a great result for INSX who lifted from 8th to be 2nd in the aggregate.

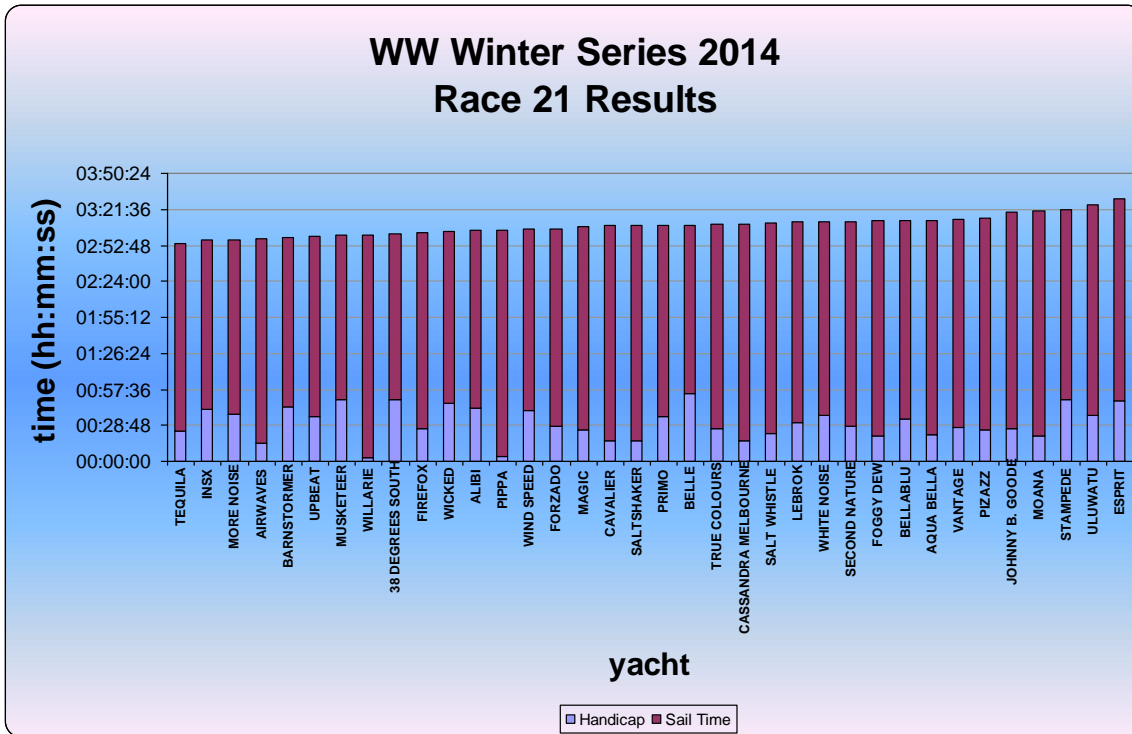
RACE RECORD - INSX									
RACE	DATE	POSN	ELAPSED	FINISH	HCAP	SOD	COURSE	DISTANCE	WIND SPEED
1	9/04/2014	14	01:28:57	15:41:57	00:43:00	5	6	8.4	8
2	16/04/2014	12	01:48:05	16:01:05	00:43:00	13	65	8.6	8
4	30/04/2014	13	01:42:48	15:53:48	00:41:00	6	14	9.8	15
6	14/05/2014	7	01:38:14	15:49:14	00:41:00	13	61	9.8	16
7	21/05/2014					37	6	4.6	5
8	28/05/2014	17	01:22:23	15:34:23	00:42:00	9	31	8.8	15
9	4/06/2014	6	01:38:11	15:50:11	00:42:00	9	6	8.4	9
10	11/06/2014	8	01:33:38	15:46:38	00:43:00	7	61	9.8	18
11	18/06/2014					7	63	9.4	5
12	25/06/2014	15	01:19:14	15:32:14	00:43:00	76	31	8.8	18
15	16/07/2014	12	01:29:48	15:41:48	00:42:00	8	61	9.8	20
16	23/07/2014	8	02:38:14	16:50:14	00:42:00				4
17	30/07/2014	14	01:18:58	15:30:58	00:42:00	19	62	9.5	21
18	6/08/2014	16	01:34:08	15:45:08	00:41:00	3	64	10.1	16
19	13/08/2014	1	01:42:47	15:51:47	00:39:00	4	14	9.8	7
20	20/08/2014	9	01:49:50	16:01:50	00:42:00	5	32	8.2	9
21	27/08/2014	2	02:15:15	16:27:15	00:42:00		13	8.5	7

There was some lively action on the water for a short time that finished in a protest between two yachts after the race. However even this did not give much to talk about as the protest was thrown out.

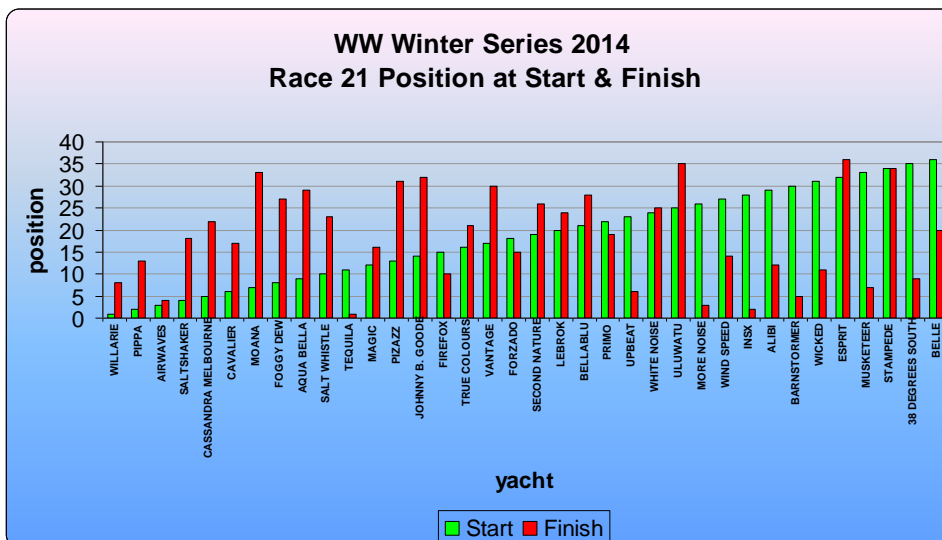
It was the Archambault MORE NOISE (Jason Close) enjoying her first series of Wednesday Wonders that crossed the finish line in 3rd place at 16:27:35. This was her second 3rd place in consecutive races after a 2 minute increase in handicap. MORE NOISE was about the 26th yacht to start the race with a 38 minute handicap and sail the course in 2:19:34 to complete her 7th race of the series. This improved her standing in the aggregate from 38th to 35th place.

RACE RECORD – MORE NOISE									
RACE	DATE	POSN	ELAPSED	FINISH	HCAP	SOD	COURSE	DISTANCE	WIND SPEED
7	21/05/2014					300	6	4.6	5
9	4/06/2014	20	01:44:53	15:54:53	00:40:00	36	6	8.4	9
10	11/06/2014	16	01:41:33	15:49:33	00:38:00	30	61	9.8	18
11	18/06/2014					3	63	9.4	5
13	2/07/2014	13	01:58:40	16:05:40	00:37:00	12	16	6.1	8
14	9/07/2014	11	01:26:05	15:33:05	00:37:00	10	13	8.5	14
18	6/08/2014	27	01:38:46	15:45:46	00:37:00	300	64	10.1	16
20	20/08/2014	3	01:52:55	15:58:55	00:36:00	9	32	8.2	9
21	27/08/2014	3	02:19:34	16:27:34	00:38:00		13	8.5	7

There was 51 minutes difference between the handicaps of the first and last yacht to finish the race. This difference had reduced to 36 minutes 2 seconds as the last yacht crossed the finish line.



Seven of the last 12 yachts to start the race were amongst the first 12 to finish. Half of the middle 12 starters were amongst the last 12 to finish whilst half of the early 12 starters' finished mid fleet.



TIME is on their side!

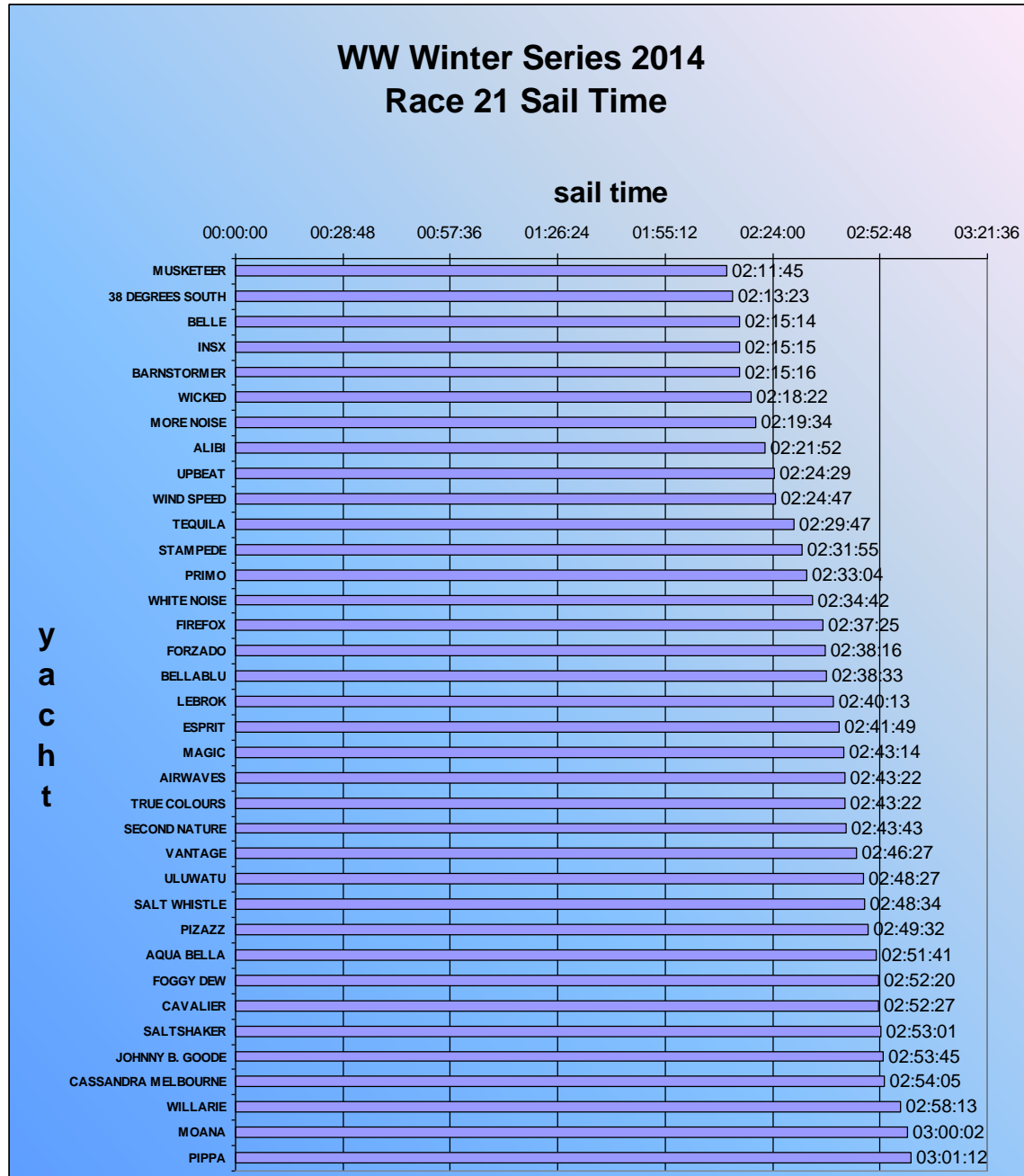
With no yacht sailing the course in less than 2 hours this became the second longest race of the series. The average sail time was 2:38:02. It was MUSKETEER (Paul Jacka) that recorded the shortest sail time of 2:11:45 a win by 2:38mins. She was followed by 38 DEGREES SOUTH (John Chatham & Kate Mitchell) with a time of 2:13:23. Then only seconds apart in the following order 2:15:14 BELLE, INSX, BARNSTORMER

Eleven yachts sailed under 2 hours 30 minutes whilst two "bargain hunters" were able to sail for more than 3 hours.

Time taken to all get past the finish line 37mins.

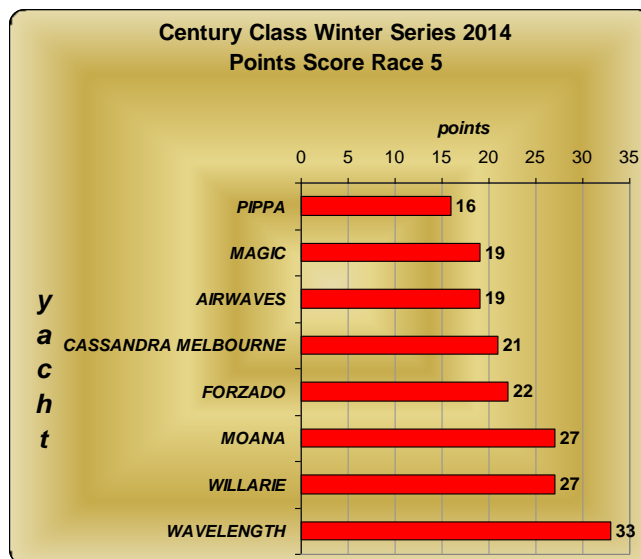
The fleet was spread out 52 mins at the start, as they passed Number 4 for the first time.

The first to starters SM 315 and SM 303 being separated by only 1 second. At 14:47:18 hours and the fleet took 41:25 mins to pass.



Being the last Wednesday in August meant that race 21 was the 5th race in the Century Class Series. It was AIRWAVES (Rob Fenton) that came out on top recording her first win of the series. She started 3rd overall (with some rumors that she was parked in the fog with her anchor). She was also 3rd going past 4 the first time and finished 4th. It does sound a bit of a coincidence! The two Tritons, WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) and PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) came in 2nd and 3rd places respectively. The result was enough to make PIPPA the clear leader in the aggregate with AIRWAVES tying for 2nd place. The last race in the series takes place on the last Wednesday in September with anyone of 5 contestants becoming the winner.

CENTURY CLASS WINTER 2014 SERIES RACE 5 RESULT		
YACHT	SKIPPER	Result
AIRWAVES	Rob Fenton	1
WILLARIE	Graeme Kaufman	2
PIPPA	Jeffrey Woolhouse	3
FORZADO	Bruce Dobie	4
MAGIC	Phil Spry Bailey	5
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	Bob Reeves	6
MOANA	Stan Rankin	7
WAVELENGTH	Brendan Kruger	8



*Windward
Bury*

THE HALF WAY AWARD

36 yachts sailed so the half way award goes to the boat that finished 18th **SM 1298 Saltshaker**. I think she started off 16 mins handicap in about 9th position (I think?) She was 10th the first time past No 4 @ 15:02:01 about 16mins behind first. At the end of the race she was just 5:12 away from first place, taking 2:53:01 to complete the course.

Sitting in third place overall on 77 points she would have liked to have done a bit better and this race has been dropped. She is only 3 points away from top spot.

Finish of the day goes to SM477 **Esprit** who just made it before the clock stopped by 11seconds finishing at 16:59:49

Conditions were excellent for yachts that like to reach. (Although I thought sailors who reached were not very good sailors).

Start of the day

Start of the day was a *drawn out* affair, and amazingly FOGGY DEW won. Several sailors had predicted a win for Foggy Dew before the start - how could she not get a prize.

Handicaps: One Opinion sent to Mark

“Every skipper and crew has an opinion about handicaps. Their opinions vary from week to week and are related to how their yacht went in the preceding race. In my opinion, I think that the handicap system for WW has changed over time particularly during the current series. Although there are traces of the 3 minute, 2 minute, 1 minute penalty for yachts coming 1,2, 3, it does not appear that this is the basis of the existing system. I also believe that the handicap system in pursuit racing is only valid if the course length is appropriate. I suggest that course lengths should increase with wind speed.

0-5 knots breeze 4-5 mile course
5-10 knots breeze 8-mile course
10-15 knot breeze 9-mile course
15 knots+ 10 mile course’

The only problem is to be able to forecast the correct wind speed!”

A serious handicap. When Cavalier’s skipper said his handicap had increased I did not realize he was talking about his bandaged hands.

His crew did get a little disorientated in the fog, but they did not run aground!

The FINAL Count down?

Why is it that the big yachts always leave it until the last races to perform well? Are their handicaps so tight they cannot afford to win earlier in the season? Or is it just to make the final forecast difficult. It seems no one is confident yet to put forward a suggestion to the final ten yachts for this season. Send your predictions to [MARK Windward](#)

The following “races to drop” may assist

SM424	Barnstormer	74	to drop	19
SM5985 I	NSX	76		11
SM1298	Saltshaker	77		14
SM1147	Cassandra	78		17
SM616	Magic	80		13
SM72	Cavalier	83		17
SM99	Primo	84		17

SM4407	Musketeer	85	19
SM573	Public Bar	85	19
SM88	Upbeat	92	19

Great Pictures of Sailing action for sale

Boat Books, who supported the SYC Trivia nights for many years, have a special to clear their 2014 Beken Sailing action Calendar. Why not buy it now and keep it for a present for someone for the year 2025, when it will be the correct dates again.

"Fast paced action of Classic and racing yachts to Ocean Greyhounds".

A request from the Tower

This race was a good reason for all boats to have their radios in good working order. As the fog rolled in it was extremely difficult to see yachts from the tower, sometimes visibility was zero.

The Sailing Instructions state:

All yachts when racing must have their radios on and in working order.

As the tower crew could not see all yachts in this race they requested that yachts radio the tower when either:

Leaving the marina or out on the water.

Or when crossing the start line.

There were several boats that were only sighted when they passed number 4 the first time. Before this the tower was unaware that they were on the water.

Two yachts radioed in on Chanel 16 and not the club operating Chanel 77. (As per sailing instructions).

Several boats made contact with other yachts but were unable to be heard by the tower.

All boats need to check their radios are operating correctly, particularly in poor conditions.

Olympic Sailors at SYC

The Australian Sailing Team and Australian Sailing Squad will be at SYC Melbourne, December 7-14, 2014. This will give Olympic classes and aspiring sailors the chance to challenge their heroes at our club.

Congratulations to **SM1020** Tequil-ah!. She was already looking good the first time past 4 in 4th place. Good to see Alan approaching the finish line with 4 minutes to spare. This gives Mr Collins a 1, 2 & 3 finish for this season.

SM5985 Insx has only a 1st and 2nd but no 3rd position this season. Not a good poker run? The crew has damaged the skipper's handicap by coming in second only just 19 seconds - a nose in front - ahead of **SM3131 More Nose**.

In his 7th race for the season, Jason, in Louder Noise is trying for a consistency award by finishing 3rd...his second 3rd in a row.

Mr Barnes in **SM424 BARNSTORMER**, is very concerned about his handicap changing and came across the line 5th. This is two 5ths in a row, enough to place him in the top position by 2 points. I think this is cutting it a bit fine! Brian is holding top position without having won once and incurring a 3min handicap penalty.

Wednesday Wonders Presentation night is Friday 10th October. Bookings close on Wednesday 1 October 2014. Please help by booking early.

Last weeks question for Race 20 - Who is F Montgomery?

He is an SYC member. He was involved in Race 20 and quite many others WW races?

Answer: Frank Montgomery assists in the Tower frequently on Wednesdays. In addition to Margaret and Di this week's recorder was Helen M.C. Millican.

Question One Race 21 ~ Can you name this yacht in Race 21



Question Two ~ Race 21 Just in case we get more fog

Your disabled sailboat has been taken undertow.

When a fog bank rolls in, what sound signals should you make?

This was a difficult report to write because I only saw other yachts for about 50% of the race!

Special mention and thanks to 38° crew John for his assistance.

Last night I had a nightmare. The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death!

Thanks for the contributions and photo for this report.

On behalf of WW sailors we welcome back Windward Buoy, though it was nice to think we had news of Wednesday Wonders from a foreign correspondent. Look out for Magic with full crew on board!

Any comments and responses are welcome

Please send to [MARK Windward](#)

Addendum A

A good GPS pays off.

Pippa's Course for RACE 21. We had *white out* both times approaching Number 1 and also passing the Anonyma reef. Thanks to Bob "the navigator" and our GPS we were safely guided to within a meter of the mark. The course did take us 3 hours, but we were just 11:25 minutes away from first place!

