

Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2014 Race 9 **BENETEAU'S TREASURE**

Race 9 was a big day for the Beneteau's who scooped the prize pool not only finishing 1, 2, 3 and 4 but also winning start of the day. A Beneteau 367 treble of UPBEAT (Peter Dunne), PRIMO (Steve Copley) and LEBROK (Theo Korbel) was narrowly avoided when the Beneteau 447 MUSKETEER (Paul Jacka) crossed the line in 3rd place. Nevertheless, the race result was enough to put PRIMO on top of the aggregate with LEBROK 2nd, MUSKETEER 5th and UPBEAT 10th. Moreover, it was PRIMO who won Start of the Day crossing the line 6 seconds late for her 36 minute handicap.



The winner of race 9 starting from 18th place, 32 seconds late for her handicap of 34 minutes was UPBEAT. She sailed the 8.4 nautical mile course 6 in the 9th fastest time of 1:42:03 crossing the finish line at 15:46:03 just 1 minute 22 seconds ahead of PRIMO. This was UPBEAT'S 5th race of the series and the win is her best result so far. UPBEAT must enjoy course 6 because she had her other podium finish with a 3rd place in the first race of the series around the same course.

PRIMO started and finished 1 place behind UPBEAT with the 2 minute difference in handicap proving critical at the finish line. With a handicap of 36 minutes, PRIMO crossed the start line at 14:06:06 compared to UPBEAT at 14:04:32, a difference of 1 minute 34 seconds. PRIMO was able to reduce the margin but only by 12 seconds when she crossed the finish line at 15:47:25. After a win in race 2 this was the 2nd podium finish for PRIMO and her 4th top ten finish for the series. She has sailed in 7 of the 8 races and after race 9 she is on top of the aggregate, a position occupied for the 4th time this series.



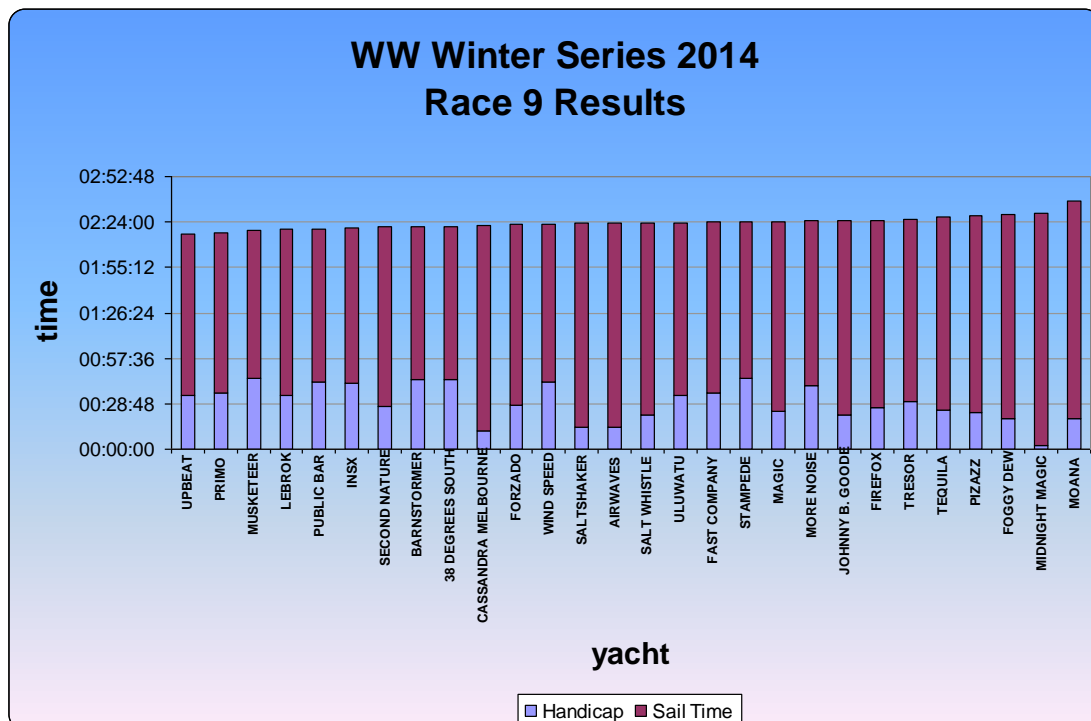


MUSKETEER sailed an excellent race to spoil the Beneteau 367 treble by starting next to the last and crossing the line in 3rd place. After starting from 27th position 19 seconds late for her 45 minute handicap she sailed the course in the shortest time of the day of 1:34:02. She had to pass 24 of the 28 yacht fleet to get to 3rd place and cross the finish line at



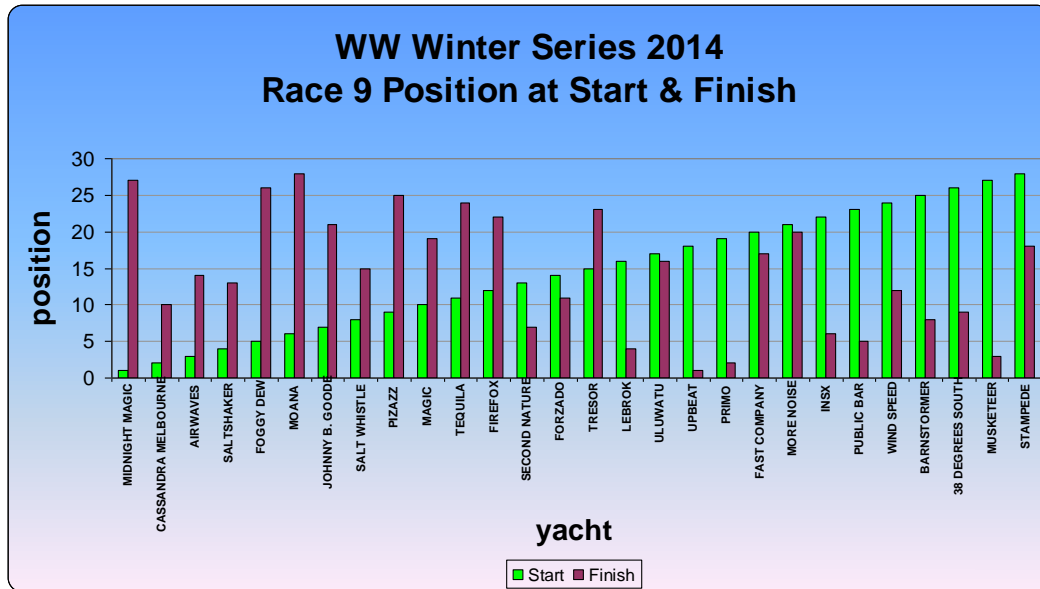
15:49:02 a mere 7 seconds ahead of LEBROK the last of the 367 triumvirate. This was MUSKETEER'S 5th race of the series and her 2nd podium finish which lifted her from 23rd to 5th place in the aggregate.

All in all this was a good race with all of the 28 yacht fleet starting and finishing the course in quick time. Only one yacht finished after 1600 hours and 27 yachts finished within 13 minutes of each other after starting 43 minutes apart. There were some close finishes with the Farr 1020 FORZADO (Bruce Dobbie and the two Jacqui's) finishing 1 second ahead of the Sydney 36 WINDSPEED (Les Browne) in 11th and 12th places respectively. Crossing the line in 20th place was the Archambault 31 MORE NOISE (Jason Close) 3 seconds ahead of the Oceanis 34 JOHNNY B. GOODE (John Chipp).

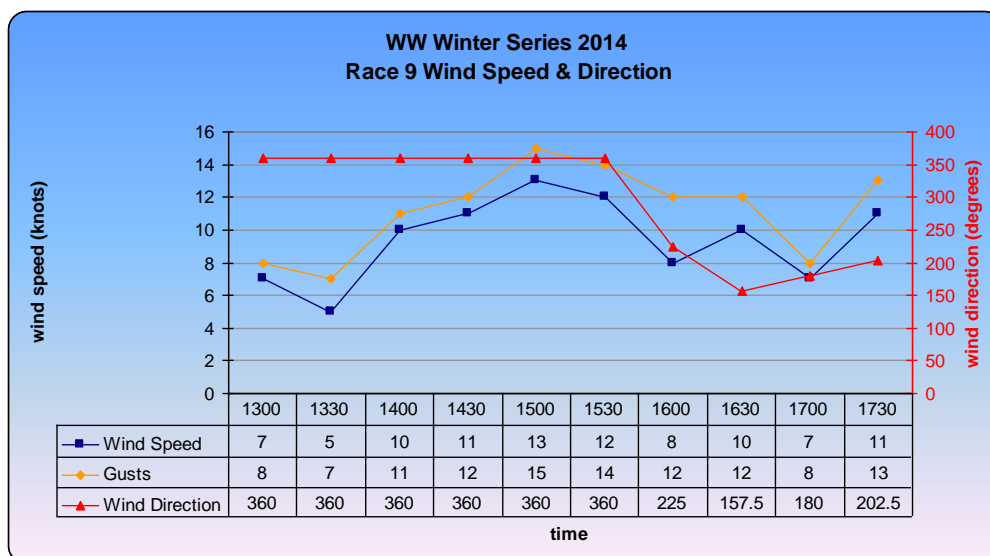


In general, it was the mid fleet and late starters that found their way amongst the early finishers. No early starters finished in the first third of the fleet which

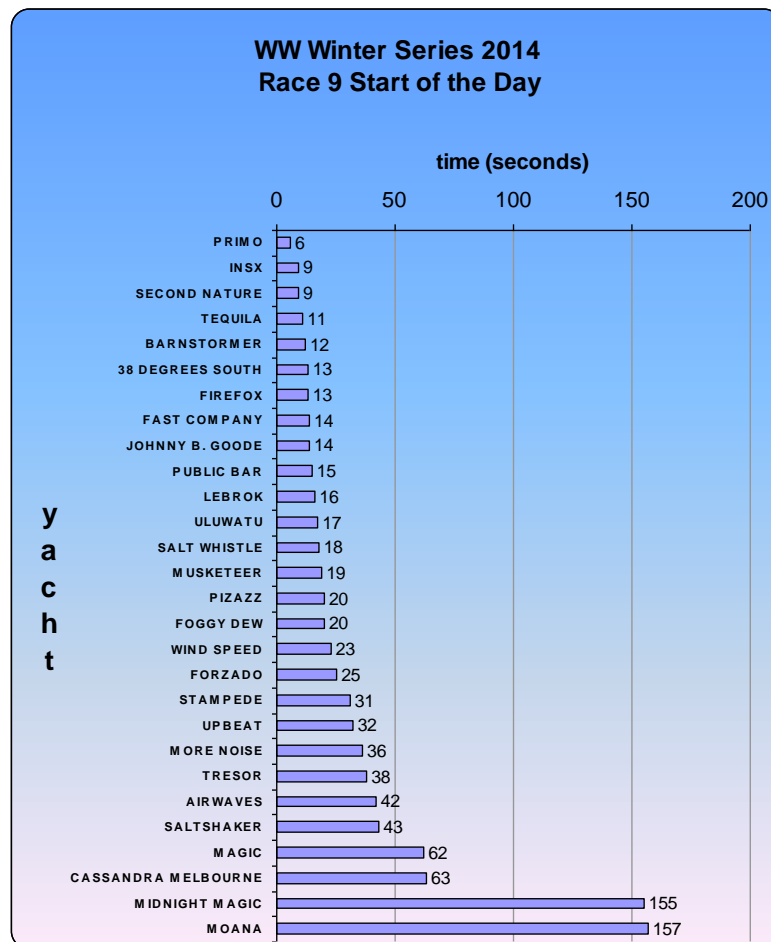
comprised 4 mid fleet and 5 late starters. On the other hand only 1 late starter was amongst the last third of the fleet to finish comprised 5 early and 3 mid fleet starters.



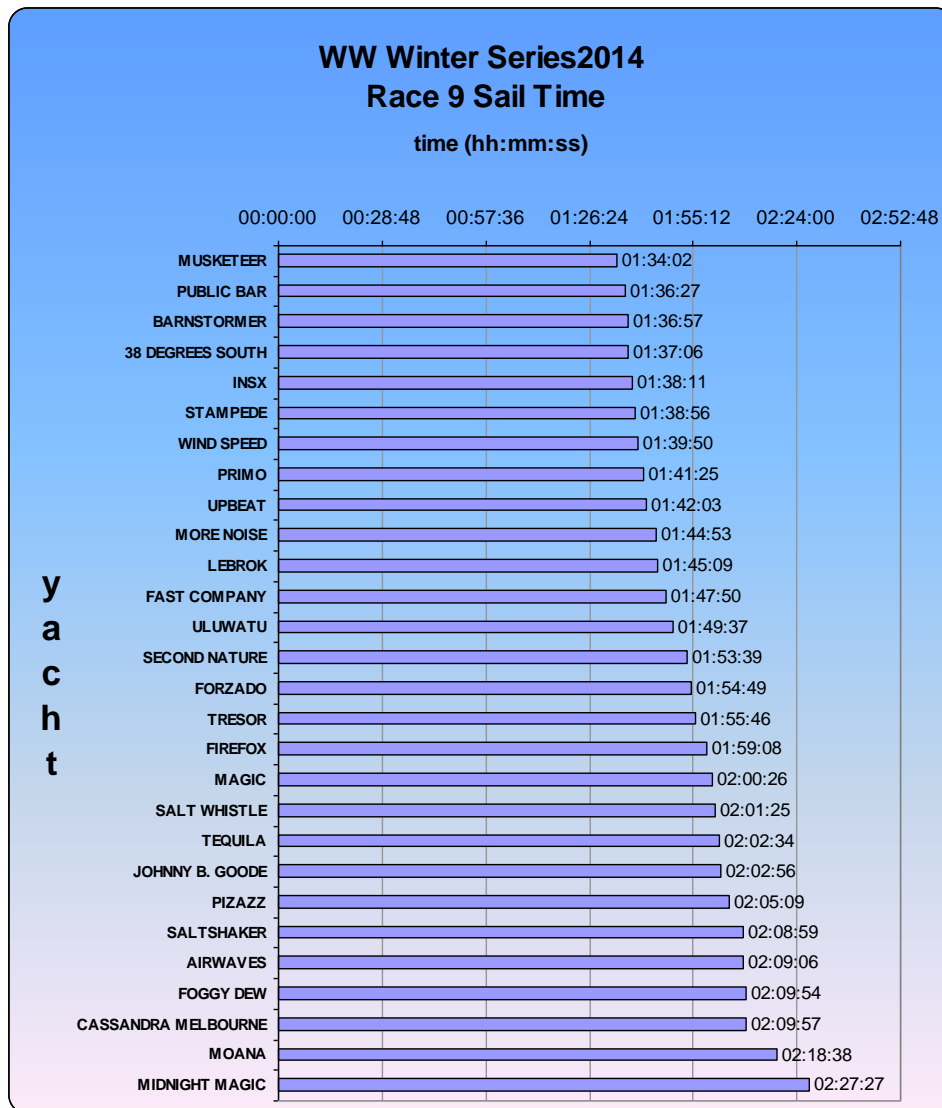
The success of the mid fleet and late starters was due in part to the northerly breeze that was around 5 knots at Fawkner Beacon at the start of the race but reached 13 knots by 1500. The breeze then eased somewhat and by 1600, with only one yacht left to complete the race, eased to around 8 knots from the west south west.



PRIMO won Start of the Day 6 seconds late for her 3 minute handicap. Her closest challengers were INSX (Rob Sills) and SECOND NATURE (Paul Mentiplay) both 9 seconds late for their 42 and 27 minute handicaps. Most of the early starters had to deal with some light and variable inshore breezes with the result that the first 10 starters had an average start time of 59.4 seconds. The average start time for the last 10 yachts was 17.8 seconds.

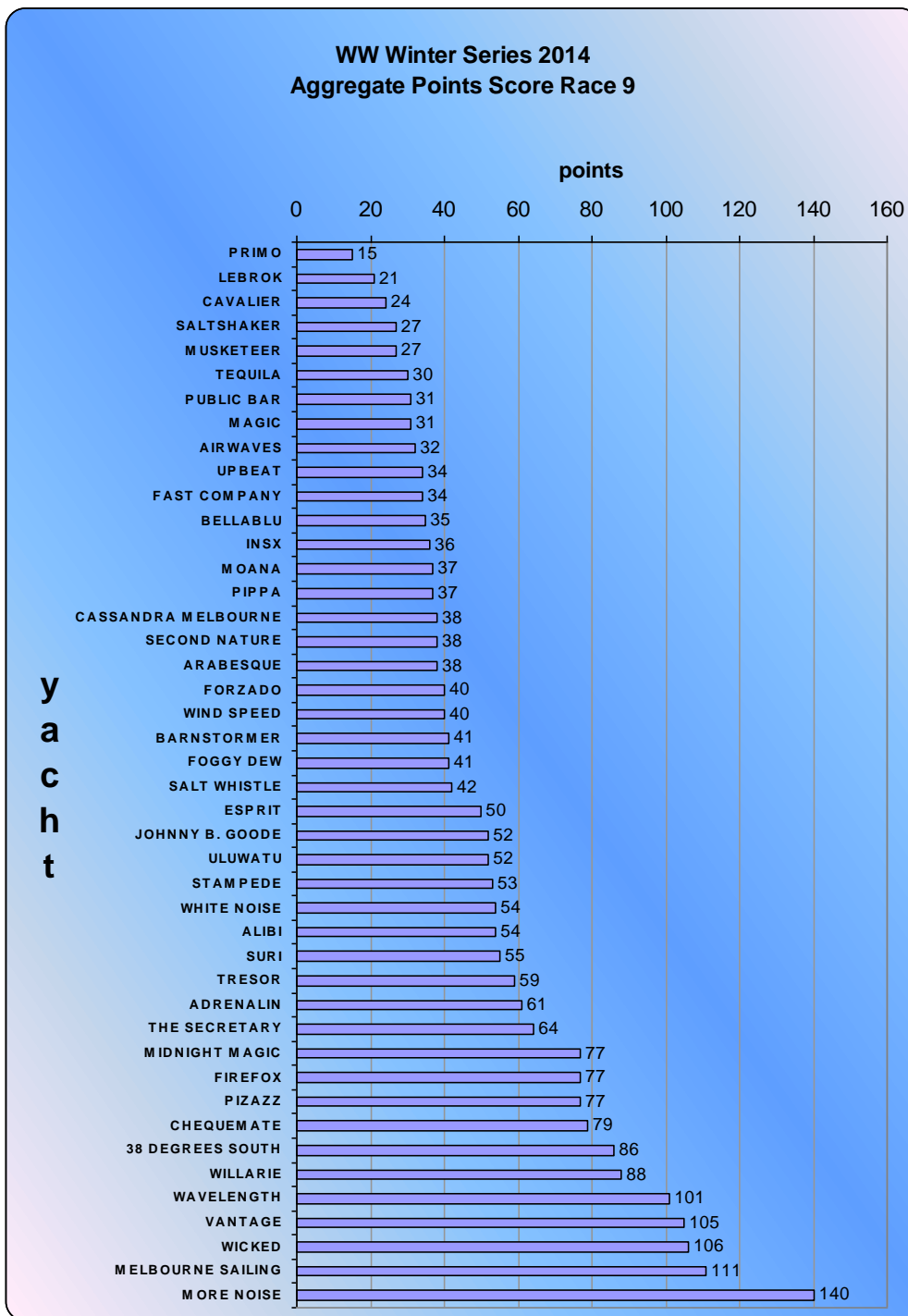


A little more than 53 minutes separated the longest from the shortest sail time compared with 43 minutes difference in handicap start times. The average sail time was 1:54:01 with SECOND NATURE (Paul Mentiplay) coming closest. The shortest sail time was MUSKETEER in 1:34:02 sailing 2 minutes 25 seconds faster than PUBLIC BAR (Clive Sondheim).



In the 5 races sailed by MUSKETEER she has recorded the shortest sail time in 2 races and the second fastest on one occasion. PUBLIC BAR has sailed all 8 races this series and she also recorded the shortest sail time in 2 races and the second fastest on one occasion.

With the completion of race 9 the first third of the 25 race winter series has been completed. There are 44 yachts competing in the aggregate and an average just over 32 yachts have sailed in the 8 completed races producing 8 different winners and 17 different podium finishers. The series has enjoyed very good sailing conditions with only one race abandoned due to the lack of breeze. The average wind speed for the 9 races this series is about 9.5 knots significantly less than the summer series which averaged almost 16 knots. Although the aggregate is taking shape there is still plenty of competition remaining with only 25 points separating the top 20 yachts. However since race 2 PRIMO has occupied 1st or 2nd position in the aggregate with CAVALIER (David Lynch) occupying top spot for three consecutive weeks.



*Windward
Buoy*

The [Mark Windward](#) Bequest

Although Mark will be a bit way ward for a while he was generous enough to bequeath "some stuff" for use in race reports during his absence. His email address will remain active and any comments etc. are most welcome and will be acted upon. In addition he left some diabolical quiz questions

and some topics for inclusion in weekly comments. Unfortunately the quiz and comments may not be presented in his incisive trade Mark style and wit but hopefully the spirit will continue until his return. Although Mark did announce his temporary absence in the race 8 report his disappearance may, to some, seem a little hasty.

The facts are:

1. Mark seen sailing on PIPPA in race 8 which she won by an astonishing margin.
2. Mark not seen for race 9 after PIPPA received a whopping 4 minute handicap penalty.
3. Mark has left the country.

Whether facts 1, 2 or 3 are in any way related is debatable but he will be back and the phantom scribbler may strike during his absence.

Race 8 Quiz - Answers

1. The merchant ship *Mary Celeste* was discovered in 1972 with no one on board?

True or False

Ans FALSE

She was discovered in the Atlantic Ocean in 1872. The fate of her crew is unknown.

2. According to Folk Tradition which of the following was doomed to sail forever

A The Mary Celeste

B Sappho

C The flying Dutchman

D None of the above

Ans. None of the above D

Tradition suggests The Flying Dutchman but not the Flying **Dustman** was doomed to sail the oceans forever

3. According to the story the entire crew of the Octavius was found dead, frozen and almost perfectly preserved

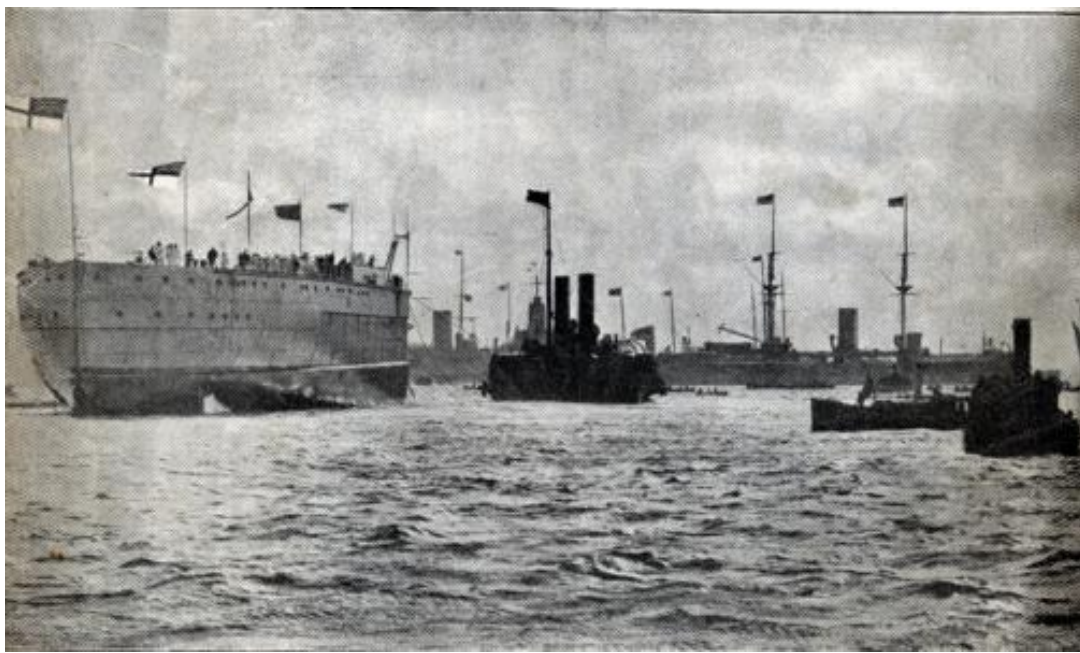
True or False

Ans. TRUE. The vessel was supposedly found west of Greenland

The great Peter Algie got all questions correct!

Quiz Race 9

The following picture question was bequeathed by Mark.



What is this ship (left in the above picture) launched by the King on 10 Feb 1906?

If you have been reading Mark Windward you should be able to guess what ship it is. The photo is taken from a sheet music score of a dramatic piece of music that was played by Mark's mother.

Answers to [Mark Windward](#).

Rumour has it that the very generous offer of this vessel as the replacement SYC Start Boat has been politely but firmly declined. No rowlocks!



THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) a long time supporter and participant in Wednesday Wonders has been conspicuous by her absence recently as she prepares for the rally to Vanuatu. She looks splendid now that the stick is back in place. This rally and race is scheduled to start on 29 June. With distance of about 1885 nautical miles the journey to Vanuatu is equivalent to over 200 WW races. There is still the opportunity for THE SECRETARY to take in a couple of "serious Wednesday races" before setting out on a rally to somewhere warmer.

WW Etiquette

At the start of race 9 two boats were seen motoring through the start line after the warning signal had sounded. One of the "motoring boats" was confronted by three yachts about to start the race. Not ideal when the starters are competing for the highly valued Wednesday Wonders Start of the Day and the coveted Misty Blue Trophy. Paragraph 17c of the SYC Sailing Instructions 2012-2016 addresses this issue stating:

"After the warning signal, boats proceeding to the pre-start side of the line are requested not to cross the start line from the course side to the pre-start side."

Comments, photo's etc to [Mark Windward](#).