

Every minute counts

Race 14 Wednesday Wonders Winter 2015

July 1 2015

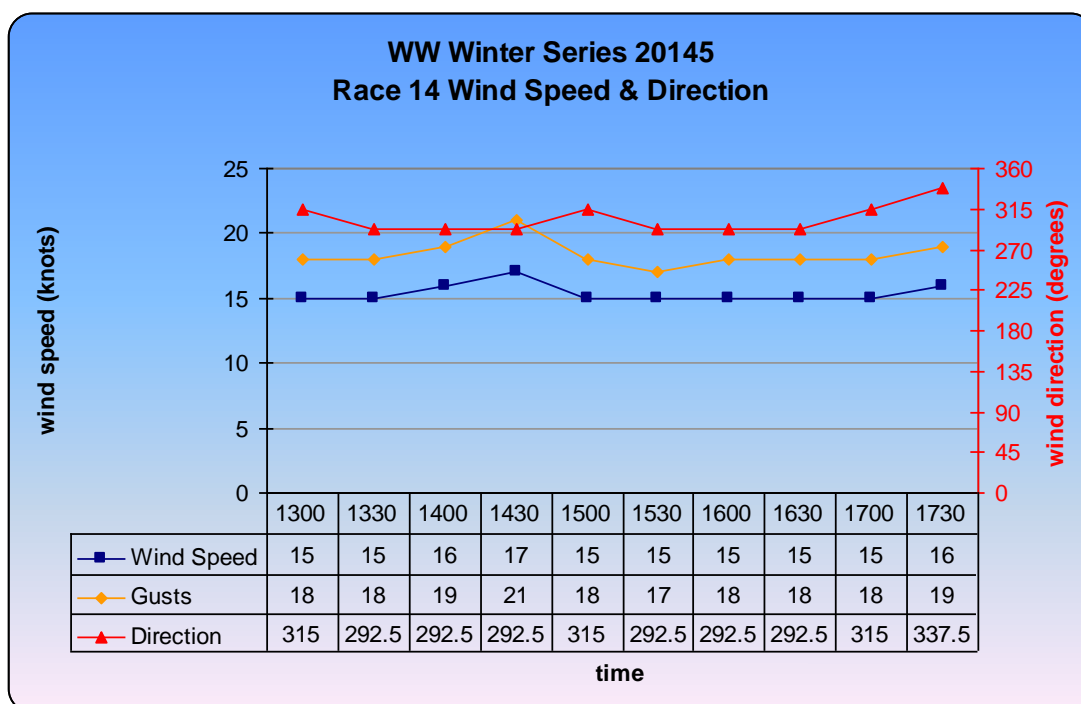


A great view of Race 14, a view that feels even better when it is taken after you have crossed the finish line.
Photo John Snare

Race 14 saw a 32 yacht fleet sail beyond the SYC fixed marks out to R2 around the 4 legs, 8.5 nautical mile course 27. It appears that WW was not the only race to make use of R2 with RBYC making it a mark of their course. The WW fleet approached the mark from the south leaving it to starboard whilst the Brighton fleet approached the mark from the north leaving it to port. Extra concentration was beneficial.

This is the second time this series course 27 has been selected and offers a great sail especially in 15+ knot breezes. On this occasion the breeze averaged a little over 15 knots, which was enough to ensure that all the fleet completed the course well within the time limit. It was a race dominated by the early starters with 6 of the first 11 yachts to start being amongst the first 11 to finish. The first 3 across the finish line started 2nd, 4th and 5th. It was one of the smaller yachts in the WW fleet, the 24 foot Triton, PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) that won the race to become the first yacht to win two races in the 2015 winter series.

Observations at Fawkner Beacon indicated that both the wind speed and direction varied little throughout the afternoon – a 15-knot west northwesterly. This made the first leg a reach to number 1, the second a beat to R2 and a run back to the finish line via number 3.





This was the first time in 11 attempts in this series that PIPPA has completed a course in less than 2 hours. She started from 2nd place only 2 seconds late for a 4-minute handicap and sailed the course in 1:54:43. A record time for PIPPA. She was first across the finish line at 15:28:43 to record her second win of the series. The win helps put PIPPA on top of the aggregate leading by 1 point.

Crossing the finish line just 14 seconds behind PIPPA was MOANA (Stan Rankin) to record her second 2nd place this series. MOANA had her best start of the series only 6 seconds late for a 14-minute handicap from 4th place. MOANA also recorded her fastest sail of the series completing the course in 1:44:58 and crossing the finish line at 15:28:58. She has completed 8 races and is 22nd in the aggregate.

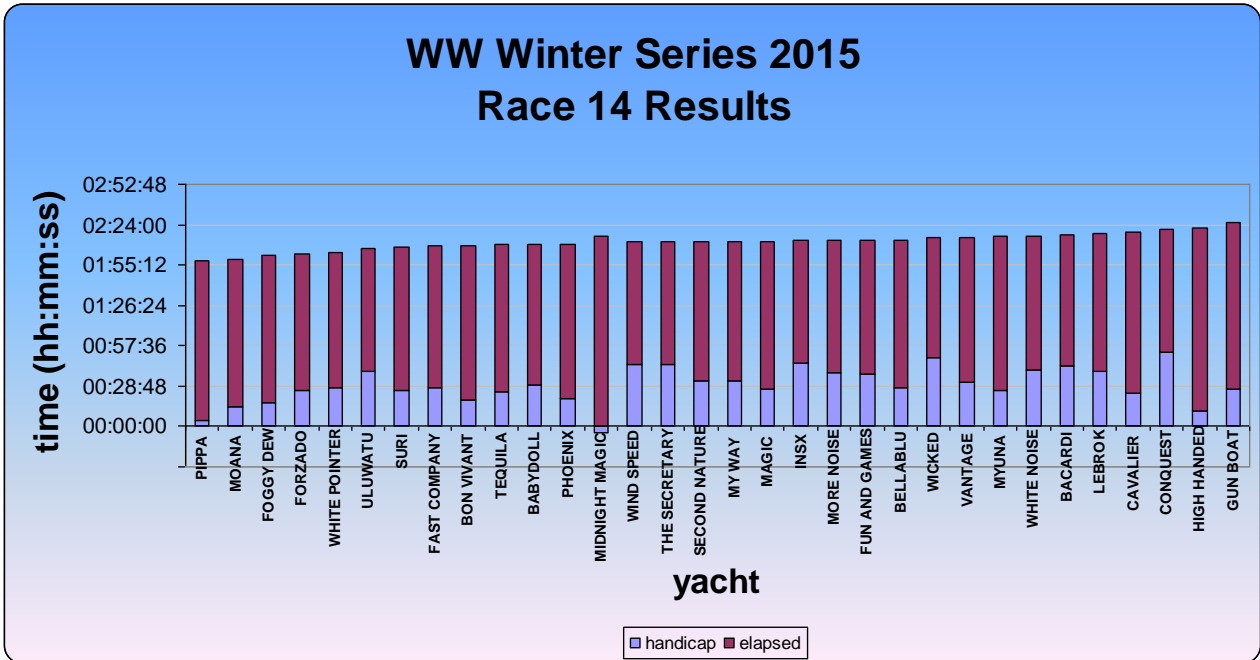


The Bavaria 32, FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) also recorded her shortest sail time in the series sailing the course in 1:45:14. She was helped by a very good start from 5th place only 1 second late for her 17 minute handicap. She crossed the finish line in 3rd place at 15:32:14, 3 minutes 16 seconds behind MOANA. After completing 10 races FOGGY DEW is placed 5th in the aggregate moving up from 12th at the completion of race 13.

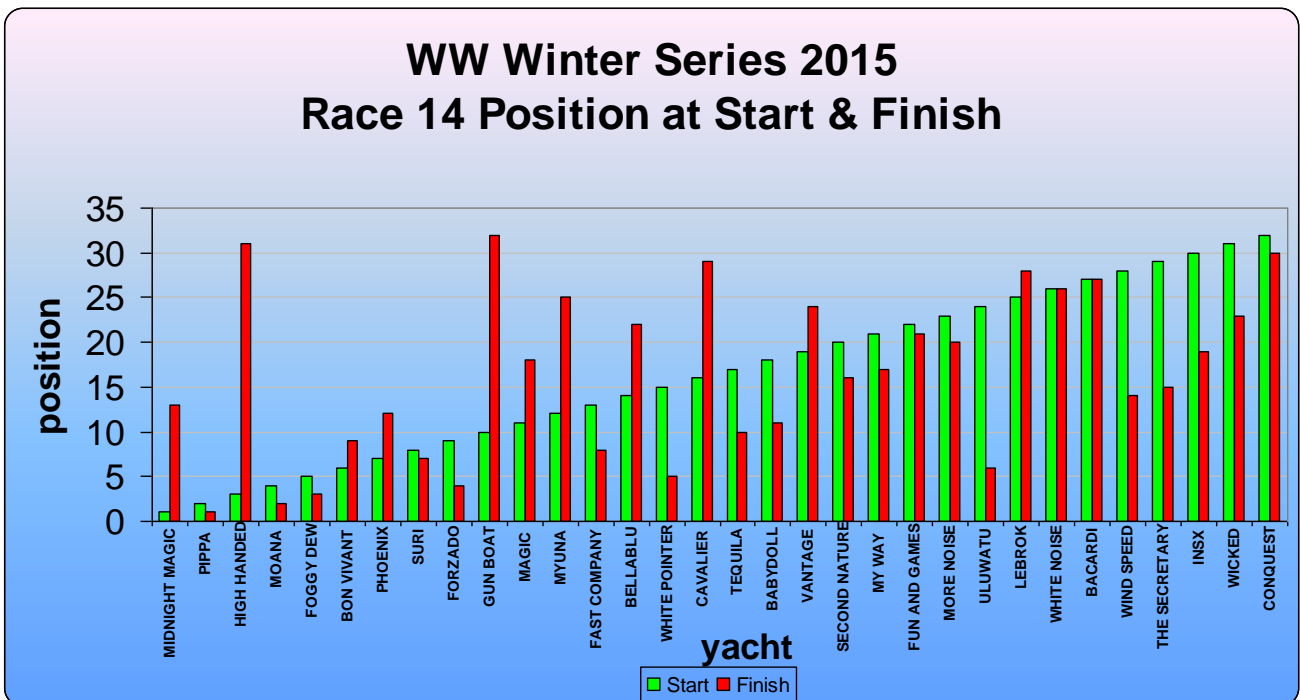
Every Minute Counts

The 32 yachts, including 2 visitors, started the race 53 minutes 32 seconds apart and finished 26 minutes 45 seconds apart.

There were some close finishes with 1 second separating FAST COMPANY (Albert Doggett) from BON VIVANT (Russell Keays) in 8th and 9th place. SECOND NATURE (Paul Mentiplay), MY WAY (Magdy Iskander) and MAGIC (Phil Spry Bailey) finished within 7 seconds of each other whilst INSX (Rob Sills) and MORE NOISE (Jason Close) finished 2 seconds apart.

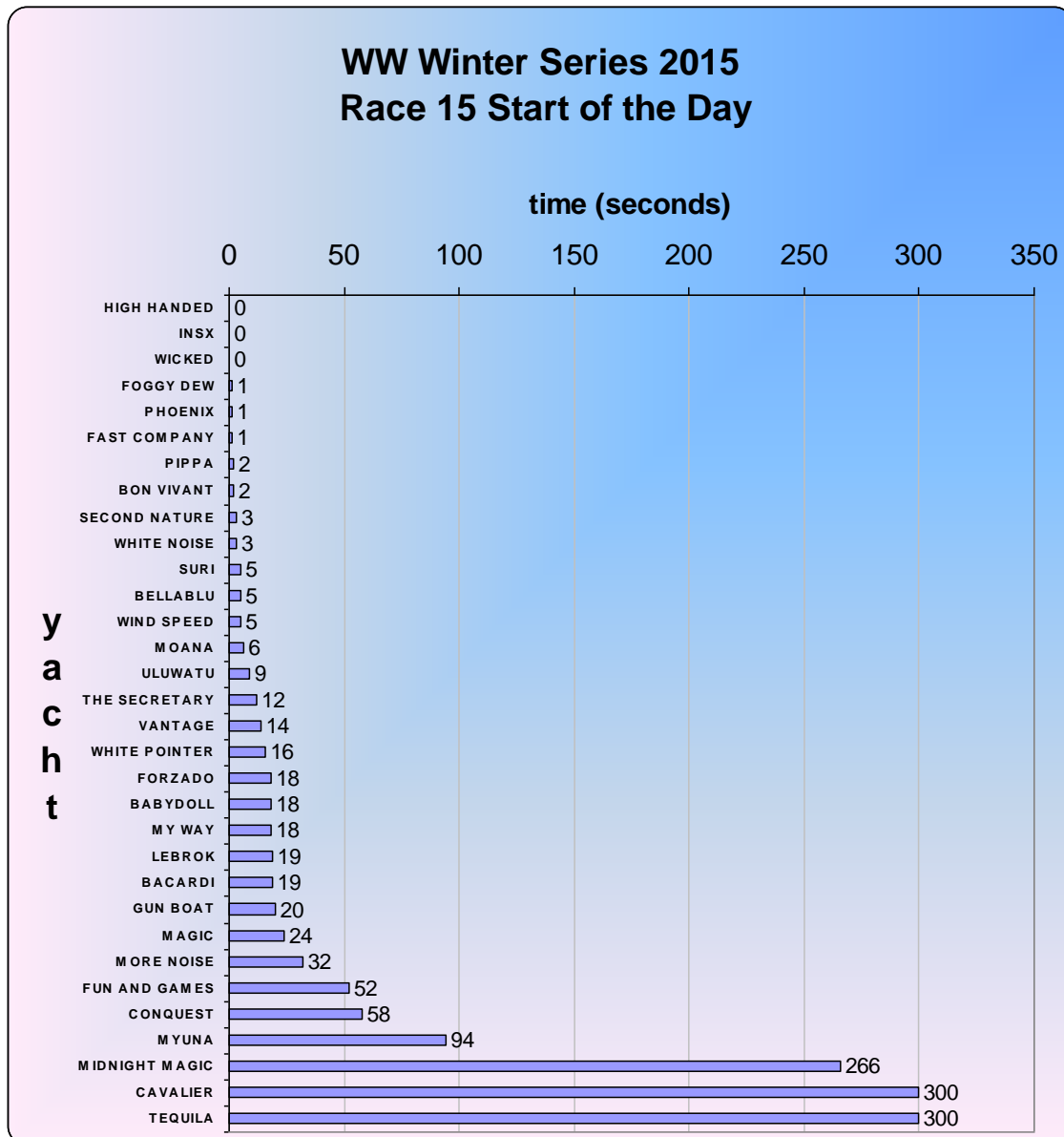


As mentioned earlier, of the yachts amongst the last 11 to start, only 1 was amongst the first 11 to finish. Four of the mid fleet starters were amongst the first 11 to finish.



Three yachts had a perfect start, HIGH HANDED (Guy Dwyer), INSX (Rob Sills) and WICKED MIKE WELSH. CAVALIER (Andrew Lynch) and TEQUILA (Alan Collins) started too soon and received the 5-minute penalty.

The median start time was 12 seconds with 25 yachts starting within 30 seconds or less of their handicaps.

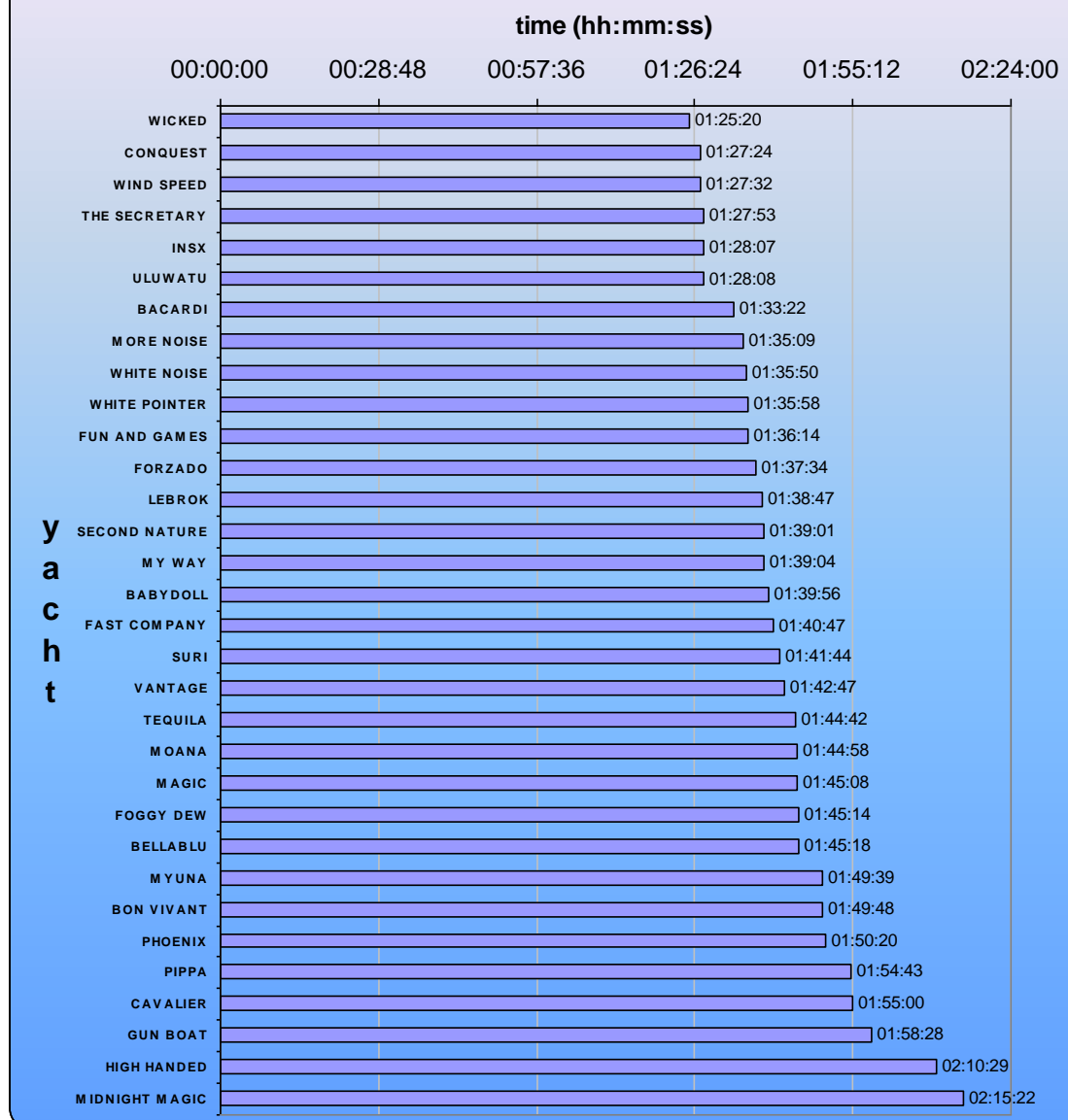


The fastest elapsed time of 1:25:20 was recorded by WICKED (Mike Welsh) who was 2 minutes 4 seconds faster than the Beneteau First 45 CONQUEST (Paul Jacka). This was the second WW race for CONQUEST who sailed the course faster than WICKED in race 13.

There were 4 other yachts that sailed the course within 3 minutes of WICKED – WIND SPEED (Les Brown) 1:27:32, THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) 1:27:53, INSX (Rob Sills) 1:28:07 and ULUWATU (M Billings & P Geary) 1:28:08.

There will be a bottle of liquid for the yacht that records the fastest time over ten races. It will be known as the Mark Windward FAST FEET prize and has been donated by Paul Jacka. It is not clear if this means he is confident in winning it himself. The Commodore was quick to point out that Wicked was much faster than Conquest in this race. Guess which boat she was on!

WW Winter Series 2015 Race 14 Elapsed Time



*Windward
Buoy*

Mark's Overhead Murmurs

Some of you may not be aware that the Atomic clocks were adjusted on Wednesday by only one second. A few skippers, mainly those who started just one second late, have considered that a protest should be lodged with the United Nations to alter the results for start of the day. If this succeeds it would mean that the three yachts that started on 0:00 would be counted as being over early and have 5 mins added to their time.

INSX Sm 5985 from 15.43.08 to 15.48.08 about 29th, Sm948 would finish last, and Wicked from 23rd to about 30th. It would result in the yachts starting on +0.01 to be given a zero start.

Therefore, Start of the day would be given to FAST COMPANY (who had an excellent start and was not over early), Sm927 PHOENIX and Sm32 FOGGY DEW. A decision is expected to be made by the United Nations after it has sorted out a few other issues. The commodore stated that the timing of the tower was correct and there was really no need to bother the UN about this matter.



I HAVE TAKEN THE
SEXTON READING .
NOW WE WILL BE
ABLE TO LOCATE R2



I THINK OUR
JACKETS ARE
NOT QUITE
COLOUR
COORDINATED
WITH OUR
YACHT

Suri is currently in third position overall



JASON SAYS TO STAY OUT A
BIT TO SEA AND GET AN EXTRA
BREEZE SO WE CAN BEAT FUN &
GAMES

MAKE SURE WE BEAT
THESE YACHTS SO MARK
WINDWARD WILL SAY
SOMETHING NICE ABOUT
US THIS RACE, EVEN IF IT
IS JUST BY ONE SECOND

SOMEONE HAS
STOLEN OUR
SAIL NUMBERS



As you are approaching the finish the thought occurs that “if I win, my handicap will double”. But the feeling of winning just dissipates any bagging. Mark has heard various suggestions of ideas of slowing down that could be employed, like dragging a bucket out the back...etc. The photo above is a good example of anti-bagging. I think Uluwatu was very keen to preserve her first ranking in the series. She is heading to the line with every sail fully powered up. She passed 17 boats to finish 6th. You have to feel a little sorry for SM 355 BON VIANT who is being “a little overshadowed”, but she went on to finish 9th. Thanks to Phoenix for a great photo.

An unfair tactic to try to disrupt the progress of PIPPA winning the race

Someone in the SYC fleet may have attempted to distract PIPPA as she was in the lead closing in on number 4. A call came from the Brighton Tower “PIPPA PIPPA please return to Brighton”. The call was ignored by the Pippa skipper telling his crew “don’t move, we do not want to lose any speed”. Another attempt and then another by Brighton was made requesting Pippa to go straight to Brighton.... Finally a response came “This is Flipper 2 Flipper two.” There was also another SYC yacht called up by Brighton. The PIPPA skipper was pleased he ignored the call. Was this some devilish plot by an SYC yacht to try and distract a winning boat?

There were enough other distractions from yachts which seemed to be in the wrong place and not going around the correct course. These were, on closer inspection. Brighton yachts.



It seemed like MAGIC was trying to set a record for the number of passengers onboard. I think she had 12 people on board. Maybe Phil thought having more eyes on board would make it easier to find R2 .

PIPPA was trying to argue that a special handicap or time allowance should be given for the first yacht to find R2. She was first around and everyone else just followed!

No L-plates this week (Opposite)
Fast Company had her best start for 3 weeks. Just 1 second from her 28min handicap.



I THINK NO 3
IS OVER THERE



ITS ONLY OUR THIRD
RACE FOR THE
SEASON BUT WE
BEAT WICKED BY 1
SECOND



FINISHING 13TH
BY 10 SECONDS
IS JUST
UNLUCKY

Test Your Rules Knowledge RULES Revision courtesy of UK Sails

View this video and test your knowledge.

This is a video shot by Sailing World at the 2015 NOOD Regatta.

It shows an incident at a windward mark involving two Beneteau First 40.7s.

One boat is yelling, "*No Room! Don't go in there!*" and the other boat is yelling, "*Don't Tack!*"

Watch the video, stop it, move the slider bar to advance and back up the action before coming to a conclusion of who is right and who is wrong.

The answer, written by Butch Ulmer, UK Sailmakers' rules guru, will appear next week.

To view videos on U Tube (Thanks to UK Sail) [CLICK](#)

To subscribe to UK sails newsletter [CLICK](#)

RACE 15 - we should see:

BARNSTORMER back. (She had a trial on Saturday and the skipper is pleased with her performance). PIPPA with her handicap doubled. See a change in the overall series order. CONQUEST now "officially" named and ready to go. A chance for skippers to gain some good times that will count in the *Fastest Feet* competition. A wind of about 10 knts from the North ~ Northeast.

ANSWER TO Question for RACE 13

The answer was St George 111, which is neatly anchored in the Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen, Denmark.... hence the name of the menu is Fartplan. For more information [CLICK](#)

Question: Race 14

What am I and where am I?

I am a local building, built in 1881. I think most of Wednesday Wonders would have passed by me at some time. I took over my role from a ship that served the same purpose in 1854.

I used to be very important for sailors. I am two-storey building and have an unusual shape. I was one of four manned buildings in my area that were originally built and had living quarters attached to me. I originally was built of red gum with a concrete platform.

I was moved to a new substructure in the 1980's and some of my super structure was damaged.

Send your answer to [MARK WINDWARD](#)

Recreational Boating Sunday Breakfast. Thanks to the Rec Boating for an excellent Sunday Breakfast, a great way to spend a morning. Congratulations to WHITE POINTER Skipper TOM RAFT who is 2015 Cruising Yachts' person of the year. Mark was fortunate enough to win one of Tom's very generous donations, of a very heavy box of fresh vegetables.

Special Thanks to all the people supporting this report. Windward Buoy, who does the stats and more, Photographers Alex Tseberg - Phoenix, John Snare - Pippa, Andrew Lynch - Cavalier.

The photo quality that you view in this report is a reduced quality to enable the size of the report to load quickly on the SYC site. If you would like to print any photos shown here please mail Mark Windward and ask for a higher quality copy.

Thanks to the SYC Sailing Office - to Monica and especially to Eloise who came back from her holiday to put the last report on the web site, then staggered out of her sick bed at home to her computer to process the report so you all could read it before the race. Thanks to George, Jason, Mal, Kate, Daniel, Rob and many others for their input and positive feedback,

Photos, feedback, stories of your race, ideas to make WW better, other tips for racing - send to [MARK WINDWARD](#)

Its all in the mind ... dont take it too seriously