

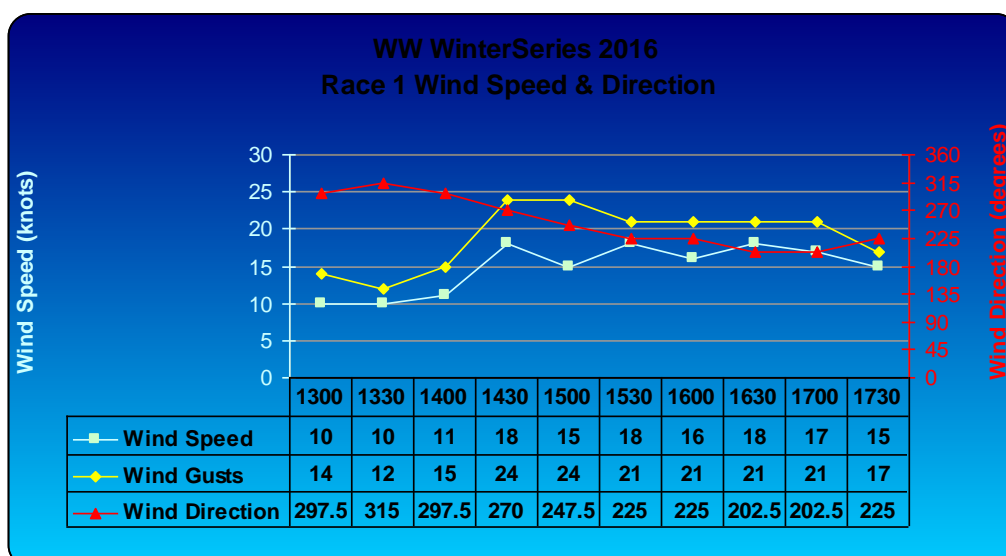
What a Close Finish! WW Winter Series 2016 Race 1 (7 Apr 2016)



After a morning of persistent rain it was a nice surprise to see a fleet of 26 yachts contest the first race of the winter series. It was good to see the return of the J24 GUNBOAT (Bruce Alexander) and the Armitage 30 PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg). Both yachts sailed most of the races in the previous winter but not the summer series. The rain did stop before the start and stayed away for the remainder of the race. The early starters were underway in a breeze around 10 knots but the late starters had a stronger breeze that was moving towards the south from the northwest. There was still plenty of cloud around which helped create regular wind squalls throughout the race.



The good breeze helped to produce some competitive start time's with 11 seconds the median. It wasn't until after the first rounding of number 4 in the 7 leg 9.1 nautical mile course 63, that the yachts started to change their relative positions. Until then, the average change in position was only 1 place. It was a good "team performance" by the Oceanis yachts with WHITE POINTER (Tom Raft) finishing in 2nd place and the 3 Oceanis 34's, PIZAZZ (P. Martyn & R. Kemp), JOHNNY B. GOODE (John Chipp) and SURI (Rick Blanck) finishing 3rd 4th and 5th respectively. The Cavalier 30, CAVALIER (David Lynch) won the race by the narrow margin of 6 seconds. An average elapsed time of 1:32:29 made this one of the faster races since race 5 in the summer. The Eliot 51 STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala) recorded the fastest time 1:13:59. With only 11 minutes separating the first from last finisher it was an exceptionally close finish.





With a win in the first race of the series CAVALIER recorded her first podium finish since race 12 in the summer. She was the 3rd yacht to start the race 12 seconds late for an 18 minute handicap. At the first rounding of number 4 she was still in 3rd place after sailing the first 4 legs of the course in 56 minutes 11 seconds. CAVALIER sailed the last 3 legs of the course in 43 minutes 48 seconds, to cross the finish line at 15:28:11. Her apparent speed (course rhumb line distance ÷ elapsed time) was 5.45 knots – faster than any recorded in her summer series.

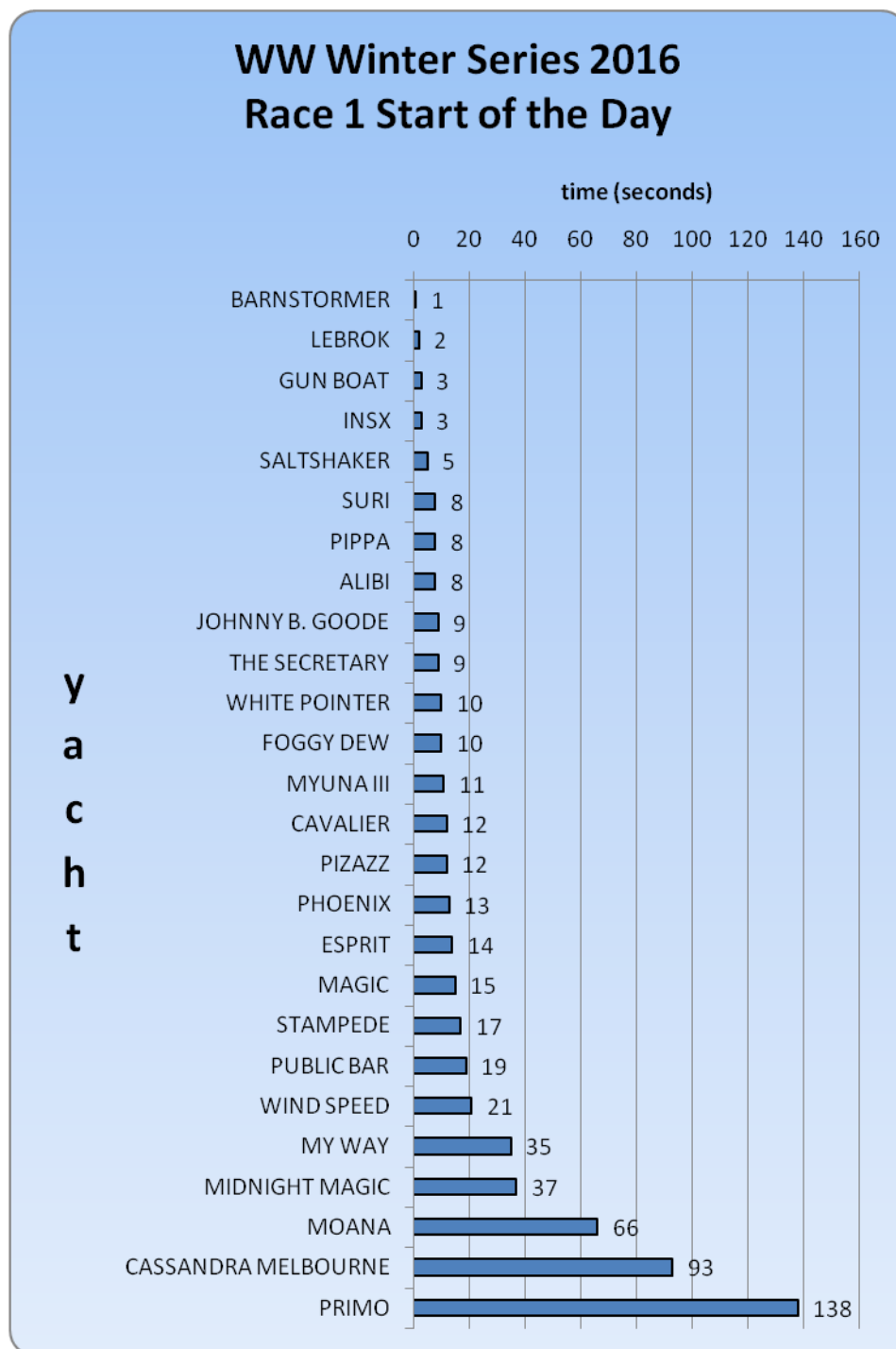


WHITE POINTER finished the summer series strongly with 2 top ten and a podium finish. She has continued this good form into the winter series despite a small increase to her handicap. WHITE POINTER started 10 seconds late for her 33-minute handicap from 13th place. By the first rounding of number 4 she was in 12th place and made further progress through the fleet to be 2nd across the line at 15:28:17. WHITE POINTER recorded the 9th fastest elapsed time of the race sailing the course in 1:25:17.

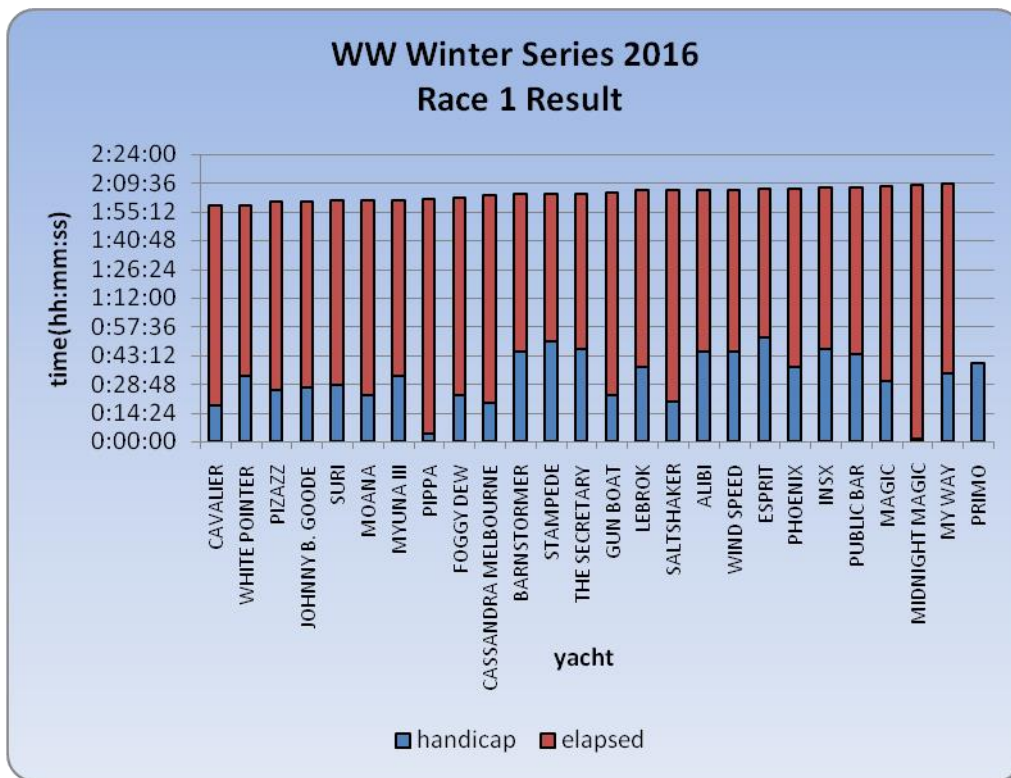


PIAZZ finished the summer series in 15th place after completing 17 races. She only recorded one podium finish in the series that was a 3rd in race 11. PIAZZ recorded another 3rd place in this race when she crossed the finish line at 15:30:07 after sailing the course in 1:34:07. This was the slowest elapsed time of the three Oceanis 34's. PIAZZ had started the race 12 seconds late for her 26 minute handicap from 9th place. After completing the first 4 legs of the course she moved into 8th place but sailing the last 3 legs in 1:00:12 was enough for her to finish in 3rd place.

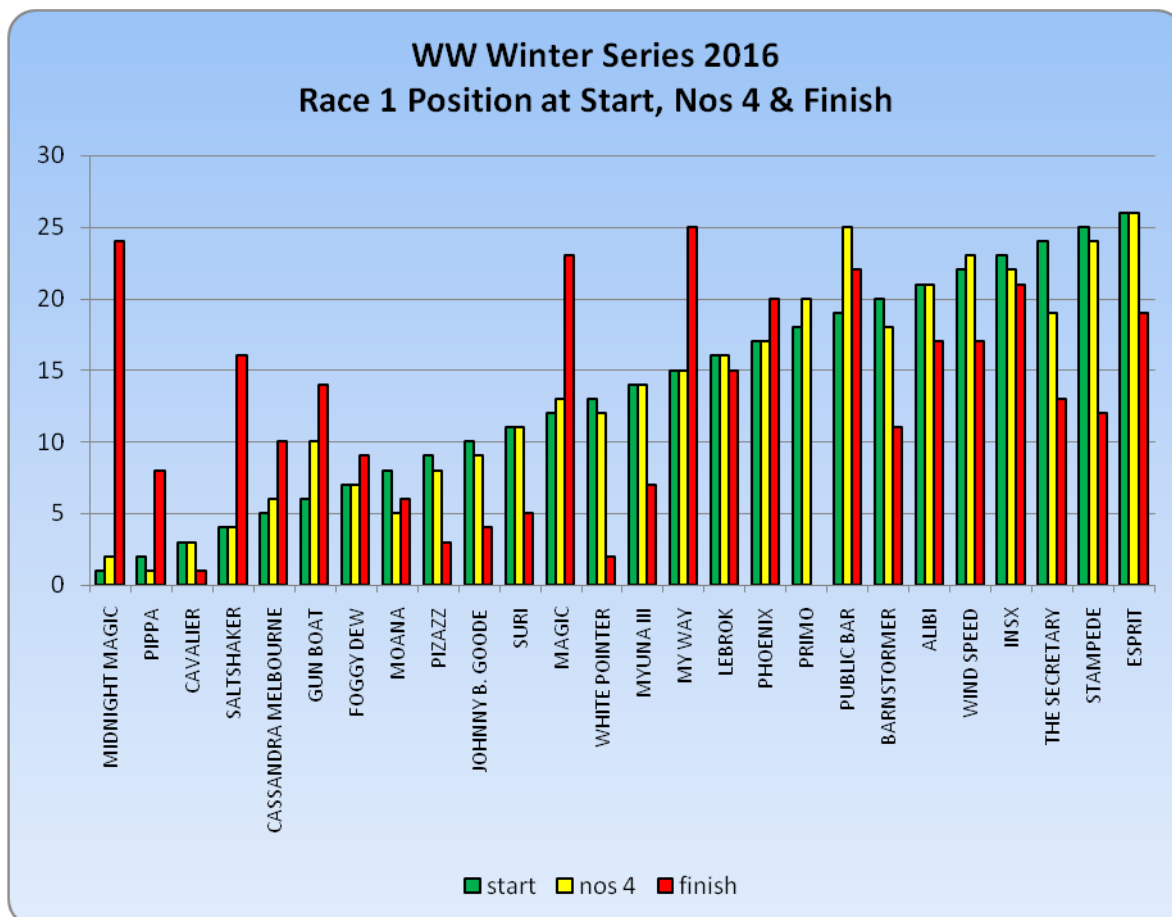
BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) won Start of the day only 1 second late for her 45-minute handicap. Starting only 2 seconds late was LEBROK (Theo Korbel) with GUN BOAT and INSX (Rob Sill) both 3 seconds late. Twenty-three yachts started within 37 seconds or less of their handicaps and, as mentioned earlier, the median start time was 11 seconds.



The fleet started the race 50 minutes 37 seconds apart and by the first rounding of number 4 were still 29 minutes 25 seconds apart. But as already mentioned the fleet finished 11 minutes apart. This is the closest finish for some time, beating any comparative time set in either the last summer or winter series.

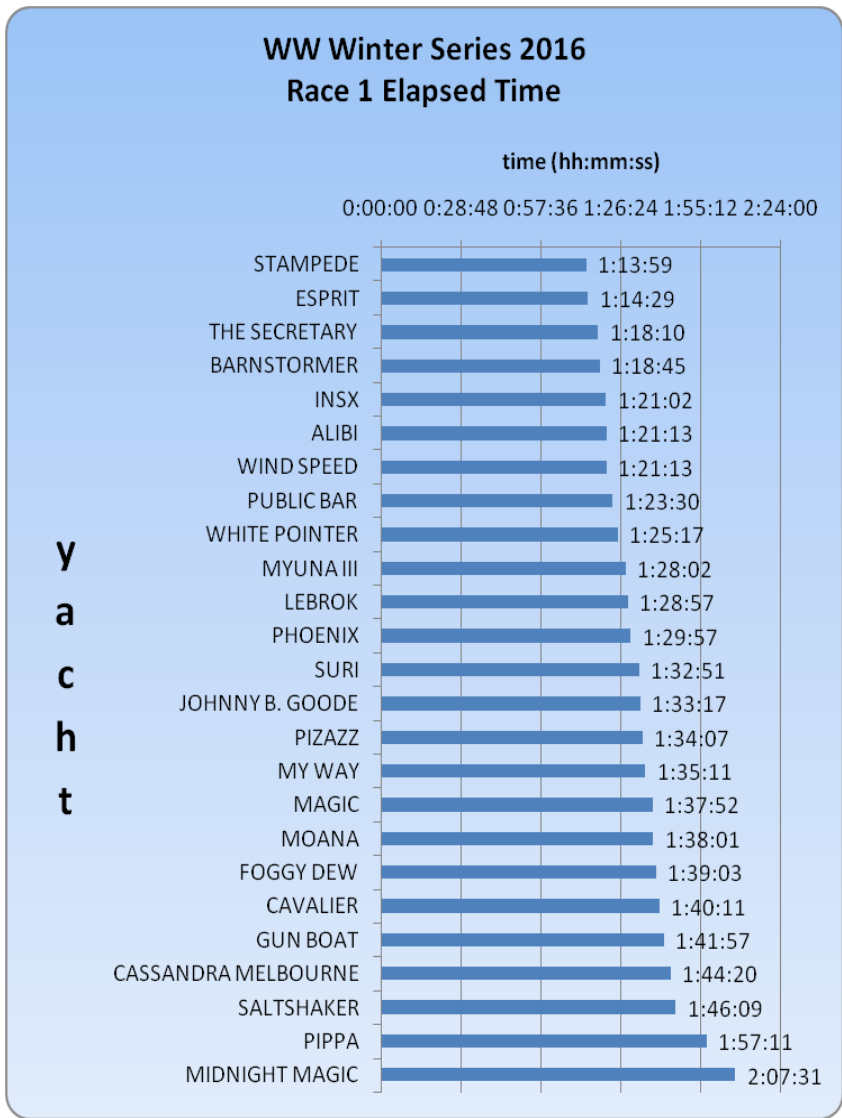


Eight yachts were still in the same position at the first rounding of number 4 as at the start. Things changed during the last three legs of the course when the mid fleet starters in particular gained ground.





With the average apparent speed of the fleet a little over 6 knots and an average elapsed time of 1:32:29 this was, for WW, a fast race. STAMPEDE recorded the fastest time, 30 seconds faster than ESPRIT (Garry Anderson).



Windward
Buoy

Mark's 10-minute test - A 10 mins test checks out how many yachts cross the line – from the first finishing yachts time, add ten minutes. The result for this race was 24 yachts. This is the reason the handicapper was happy, even if he did just arrive for the finish of presentation from a country trip.

Mark noted that Pippa did help the rest of the fleet locate the buoys and was first around Number 4 the first time by 3mins. The hopes of the crew for a shortened course at 14:39:58 were a little optimistic.

An activity for Presentation night: Questions about Wednesday Wonders yachts and skippers

Which Crew member is just back from Sri Lanka?

Who is about to head off sailing in Corsica, to be joined later by his wife?

Which yacht will be out of action until their rudder and SS welding is repaired?

Will the next WW Summer series be adjusted for daylight savings time to 'Summer Breeze Time', SBT? i.e. start at 2:30 daylight saving time.?

Which Yacht spent too much time posing for the camera and not sailing?

Why will Barnstormer be short handed?

Which skippers claim that medallions should be awarded to the top 30% of series finishers for the season due to 30% more boats entering? That would be the top 15 (not the top ten).

Which yacht is likely to be protested for flying an extra sail due to the position it holds in the series?

Which yacht has dirty fuel?

What was the highest apparent wind gust for this race?

Who thought that staying away and not racing over summer might give them a better handicap when they returned but didn't get any improvement?

Who forgot to put in their entry for the Winter series?

Who is the youngest female regular crew on board any WW yacht?

Which yacht has the largest average number of years (adding the skippers age and crew age)?

Midway Awards With 26 yachts in the fleet, was it unlucky to be a Midway winner? At the first time around Sm 616 Magic passed No4 at 14:56:23 just 7 seconds ahead of Sm16 MYUNA. Myuna gained 7 places at the finish.

Midway Position at the finish was 6107 Secretary. She finished just 19 secs behind Myuna. The Secretary started 24th 9 seconds late, was 19th passing number 4, 15:05:36, 2 seconds in front of Primo.

Attention to all Century Class Entrants.

Century Class Dates for Winter 2016 Wednesday Wonders

The Century Class will be held on the last Wednesday Wonders race of each month. This will be Race 4 April 27, Race 8 May 25, Race 13 June 29, Race 17 July 27, Race 22 August 24, Race 26 September 28.

There are no dropped races. Races that are not able to be held will be postponed until the next race. If the last race of the series, Race 26, cannot be held the race held prior will be counted. To qualify, the age of the yacht and the age of the skipper must add up to be 100 years or over.

ALL SKIPPERS who intend to participate in the Century Class - Please Note:

You will need to fill out details and confirm that you are racing in this class and that you have a block entry for the Winter 2016 WW series. This will avoid any confusion for which yachts are entered in the Century Class. It is also requested that if you exchange your yacht, please advise the Boating Department and reapply for the Class if you still qualify.

Entry is by completing the entry form from the Boating Office, and returning it to the Boating Office or front desk prior to Race 4.

The form will include

- Name of Yacht
 - Type of Yacht
 - Skippers Name
 - That you confirm that you are entered in the Winter series for 2016.
 - That you understand that all the conditions in the WW Notice of race apply to this class (except resails)
- Sail Number
Age of Yacht
Age of skipper

Signed Skipper

Email address.

Amended Century Class results for Race 25 Summer 2015-6

Place	Yacht	Skipper	Elapsed	Finish	Hcap
1	Moana	Stan Rankin	1:57:23		
2	Pippa	Jeffrey Woolhouse	2:17:11		
3	Cassandra of Melbourne	Bob Reeves	2:05:56		
4	Magic	Phil Spry-Bailey	1:54:35		
5	DejaVu	Peter Dransfield	1:58:09		
6	Tequila	Alan Collins	2:01:07		
7	Saltshaker	Ken Gayler	2:07:35		
8	Willarie	Graeme Kaufman	2:24:50		



A grey mist on the sea's face.....

How many crew are on these yachts?



WD-40, and locks I have been trying to check out advice given to me from Bunnings that: The reason my padlocks rusted after just a few weeks was because I sprayed them with WD-40 and this assisted in blocking up the small drain holes in the lock. I did get a replacement and have now purchased a Level 5 Marine Lock.

The fine print on some Yachting deck ware advises not to use WD-40 on some blocks as their composition may be eroded. Due to it having a petroleum base???

To present a balanced view check out the WD-40 website for 2,000 uses for WD 40: Such as using it to get rid of a python in the undercarriage of a bus [CLICK](#) and 2000 uses [CLICK](#)

Robert "Bob" Oatley. In the April edition of *Afloat* there is on page 63 a vale for Bob Oatley...The finishing line is a quote from Bob in answer to a question "What did he think it would be like on the other side?" He replied

"Blue Skies, flat Seas and lovely breezes and every day is Wednesday".

Looking forward to sharing your company at Presentation Night. Feedback always welcome.

[Mark Windward](#)