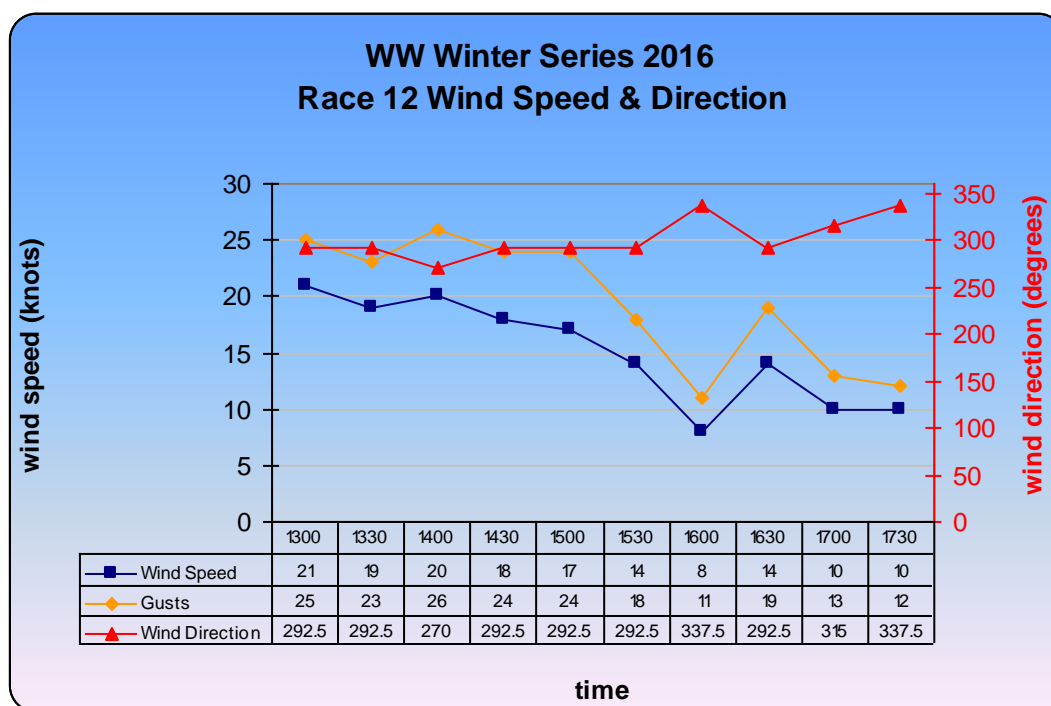


Wednesday Wonders - SAIL AGAIN
Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2016 Race 12
 22 June 2016



Following an unintended 2-week layoff, WW were back on the water on an invigorating day that had sunshine, rain, wind and choppy seas. A fleet of 24 yachts tackled the 9 legs, 10.1 nautical mile course, for what was the second time this series. Average wind speed and direction were similar for both races, but this was a faster race with the average sail time being over 10 minutes shorter. In what was the second closest finish of the series, the first three yachts across the finish line were on the podium for the first time. All 24 yachts finished within 15 minutes 22 seconds of each other, including a gap of 5 minutes 55 seconds between the winner PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg), and second place MOANA (Stan Rankin).



The race was away to a good start, especially for WHITE NOISE (Daniel Edwards) who started on her handicap of 42 minutes.

CONQUEST (Paul Jacka) recorded the fastest elapsed time of 1:22:24 – 49 seconds faster than her closest rival CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins).

There was movement in the aggregate with MOANA (Stan Rankin), CARPE DIEM and SALTSHAKER (Ken Gayler) entering the top ten at the expense of WINDSPEED (Les Browne), PIZAZZ (P. Martyn & R. Kemp) and STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala). PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) still holds top spot, which she has occupied since Race 7.



PHOENIX was first to cross the finish line at 15:35:22 after sailing the course in 1:36:22 – the 9th fastest time of the day. She sailed the course just 23 seconds faster than the 40 foot Hanse BABYDOLL (Brendan Kruger) 1:36:45 a yacht with a 38 minute handicap who finished 15th. This is the first win and podium finish for PHOENIX this series. She is one of 10 yachts to have completed all 7 races but this was by far her best result. She started from 11th place only 10 seconds late for her 29-minute handicap. PHOENIX rounded number 4 for the first time in 3rd place after sailing the first 5 legs of the course in 57 minutes 37 seconds. At this stage she was still 4 minutes 18 seconds behind the race leader. By the time PHOENIX crossed the finish line she had established a lead of 5 minutes 55 seconds over the rest of the fleet. The win gave her a good lift of 13 places in the aggregate and she now sits in 27th place.

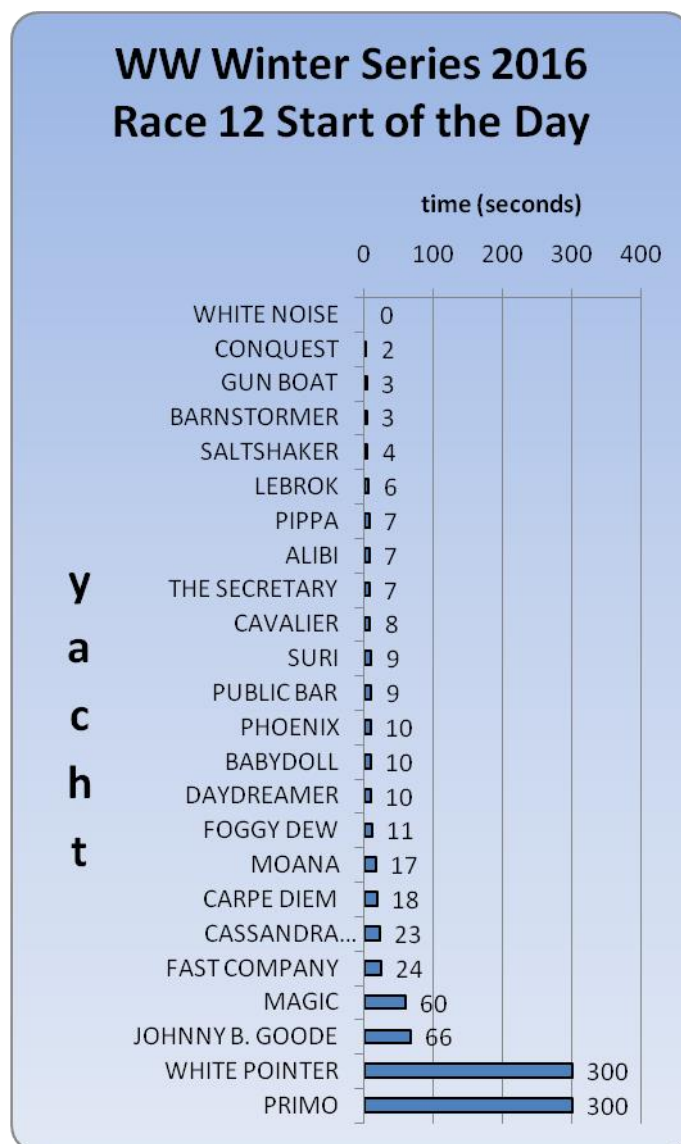
PHOENIX started the season with a handicap of 37 mins; it has dropped back to 29mins in the last 4 races - the most dramatic change in the fleet. In Race 9 Phoenix actually finished 7th but due to being over the line early and a penalty added, recorded a 19th place. As a result her handicap did not increase, but decreased by 2 mins to 29mins. But Phoenixes are known for their ability to arise from the ashes. MW

MOANA is another yacht to have completed all 7 races in this series and after 3 top ten finishes finds herself 4th in the aggregate. She started this race from 7th place, 17 seconds late for a 24 minute handicap. MOANA sailed the first 5 legs of the course in 1:03:19 and was in 6th place at the first rounding of number 4. She moved into 2nd place during the last 4 legs of the course and after sailing the entire course in 1:47:17 she crossed the finish line at 15:41:17 – 32 seconds ahead of MAGIC (Phil Spry Bailey). MOANA was the recipient of the Handicappers Award for the summer series and is already in a strong position in this winter series. More than most other yachts, she seems to record her best results in the stronger breezes, so her final place in the aggregate could be significantly influenced by the weather in future races.

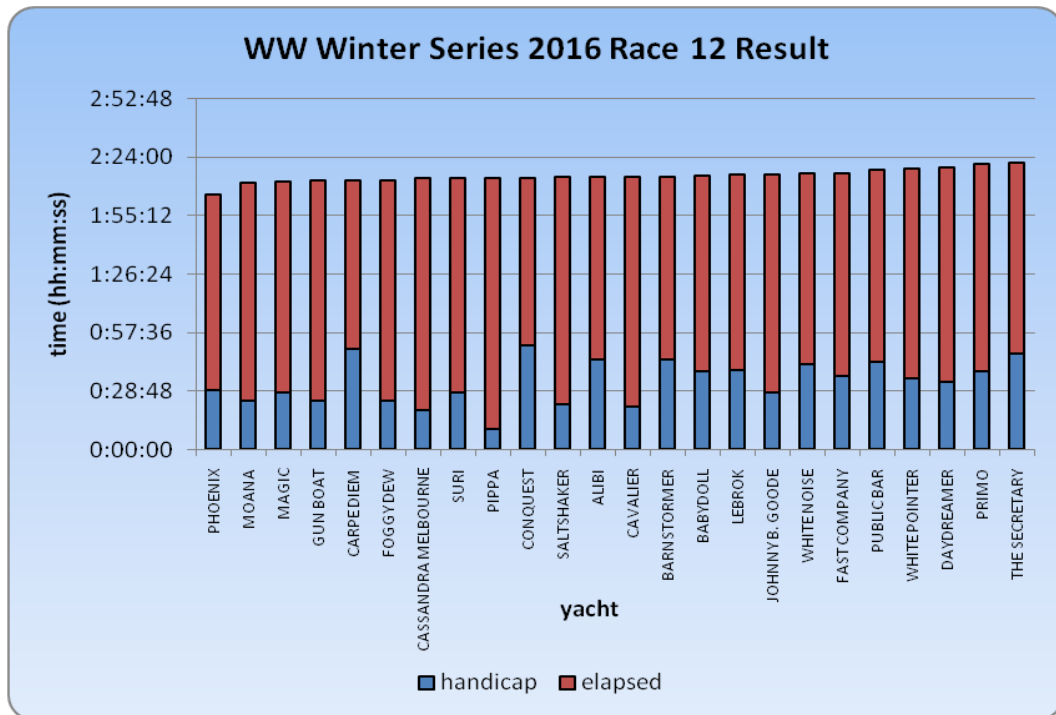


This was the first podium finish for MAGIC in 5 completed races this series. When she crossed the finish line at 15:41:49 she was the first of 16 yachts to finish within 3 minutes 54 seconds of each other. MAGIC started the race from 9th place 60 seconds late for a 28 minute handicap. She was still 6 minutes 33 seconds behind the leader (Pippa) when she rounded number 4 for the first time at 14:59:02 in 6th place. MAGIC improved her position during the last 4 legs of the race and sailed the course in the 14th fastest elapsed time – 1:43:49. This podium finish helped improve her position in the aggregate as she moved up from 34th into 24th place.

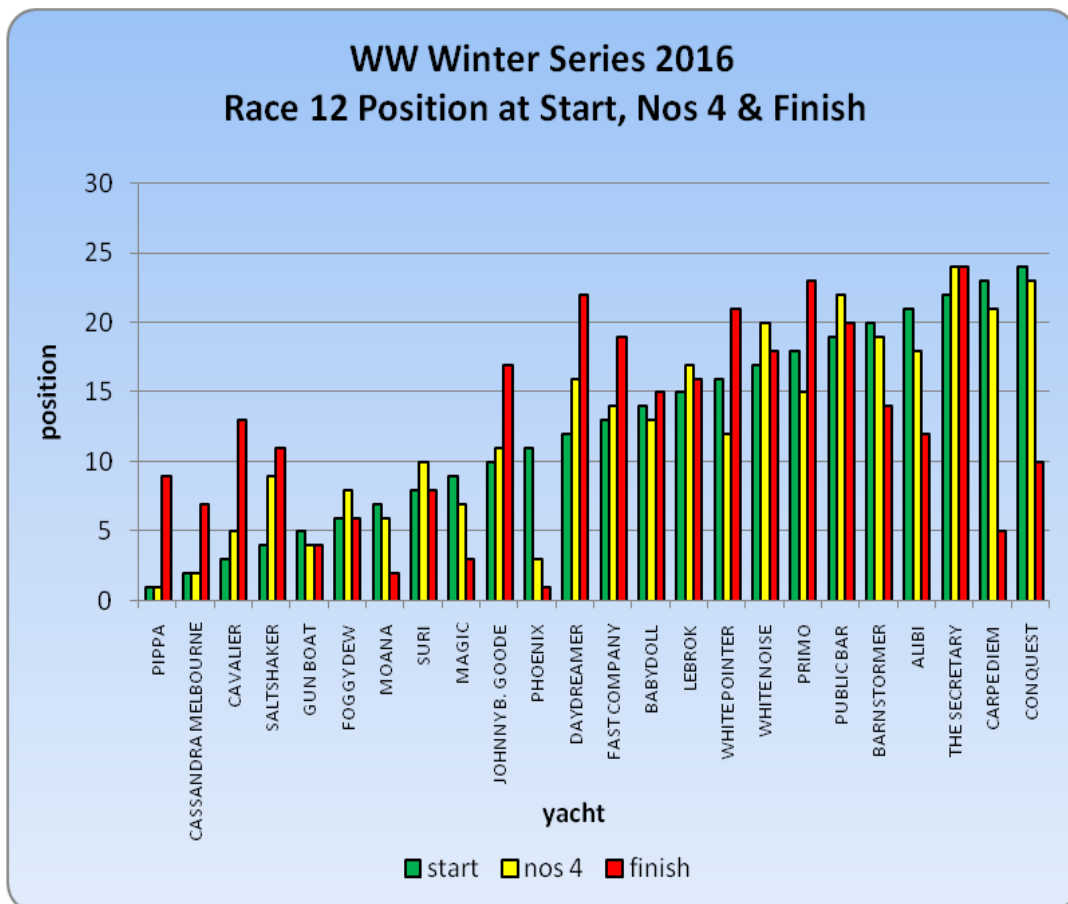
With one yacht starting exactly on time; there were 15 other yachts starting the race within 10 seconds or less of their handicaps; and, with a median start time of 9 seconds this was one of the better starts of the series. WHITE NOISE became the 3rd yacht to have a perfect start in this series and was seriously challenged by CONQUEST who was only 2 seconds late followed by GUNBOAT (Bruce Alexander) and BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) both 3 seconds late.



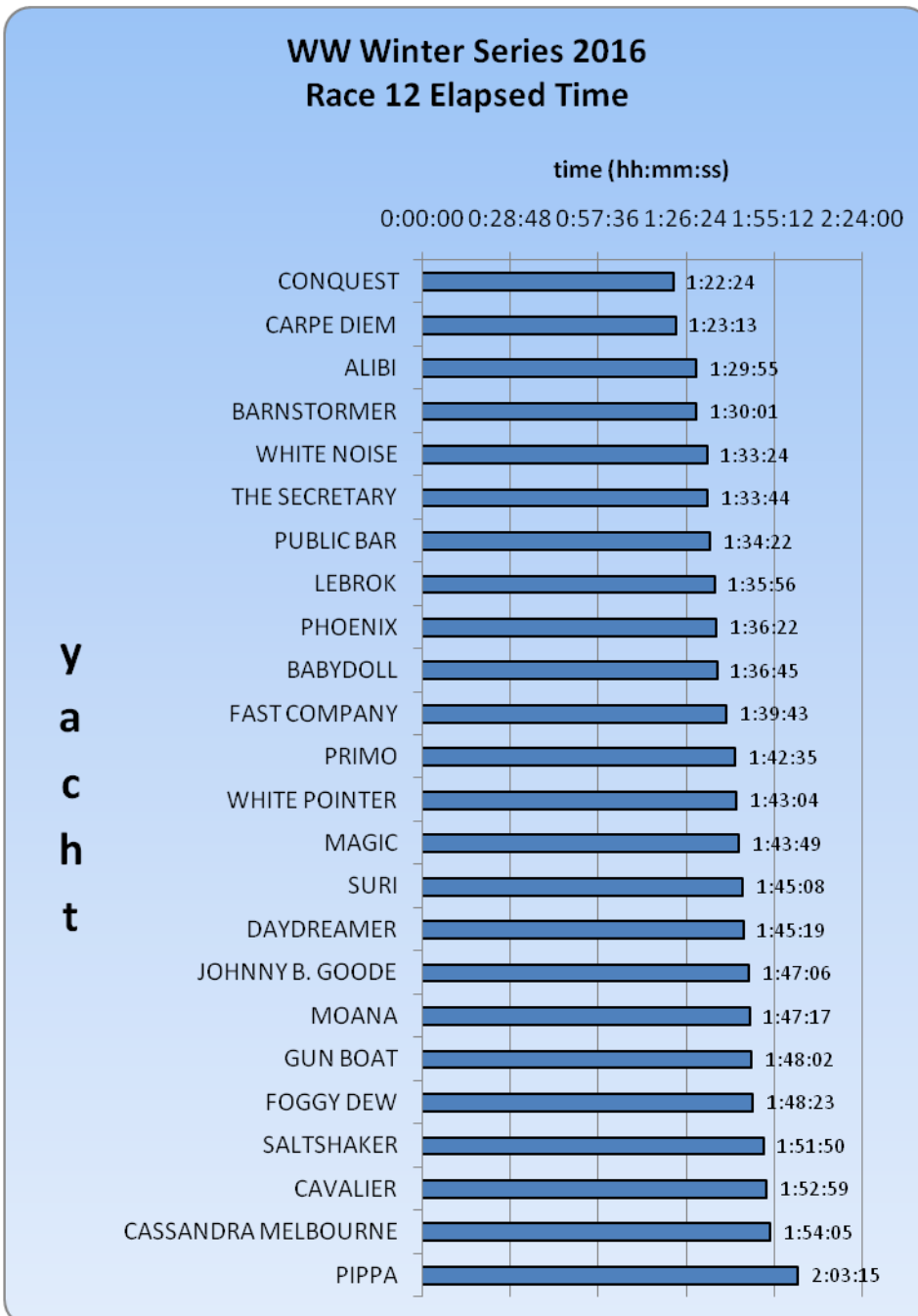
This proved to be a good pursuit race with the fleet starting 40 minutes 55 seconds apart, then 19 minutes 48 seconds apart at the first rounding of number 4, then only 15 minutes 22 seconds at the finish. Fourteen yachts finished within 10 minutes of the winner and with an average of one yacht finishing every 38 seconds this was a close competition. Only 2 seconds separated CAVALIER (David Lynch) from BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) who finished 13th and 14th respectively. There was also a close contest for 7th place that was won by CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) who finished 3 seconds ahead of SURI (Rick Blanck).



With 5 of the first 8 yachts across the finish line amongst the first 8 to start this was a good race for the early starters. There were 2 mid fleet starters (MAGIC & PHOENIX) among the early finishers, whilst CARPE DIEM was the only early finisher who was among the late starters.



The average elapsed time for the race was 1:41:12 with a range of 40 minutes 51 seconds. As mentioned earlier CONQUEST recorded the fastest time with CARPE DIEM second fastest. ALIBI (Denis Hambleton) was third fastest and sailed the course 6 seconds faster than BARNSTORMER.



The table on the following page shows the handicap adjustments made from one race to the next. For race 12, three yachts received an increase (shaded red) to their handicap whilst 11 yachts received a decrease (shaded green).

WW WINTER SERIES 2016 HANDICAP ADJUSTMENTS							
YACHT NAME	RACE NUMBER						
	1	2	3	5	7	9	12
ALIBI	45	45	45	45	45	45	44
BABYDOLL			39	39	39	38	38
BARNSTORMER	45	45	45	45	45	45	44
BELLABLU	35	35	35	35	36	36	36
BON VIVANT		23	23	23	23	24	24
CARPE DIEM	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
CARRERA			20			20	
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
CAVALIER	18	20	20	20	21	21	21
CONQUEST			50	52	52	52	51
DAYDREAMER						31	33
ESPRIT	52	52	52	52	52	52	51
FAST COMPANY	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
FIREFOX			24	24	24	24	24
FOGGY DEW	23	23	23	21	22	24	24
FUN AND GAMES		42	42	42	42	42	42
GUN BOAT	23	23	23	23	23	23	24
INSX	46	46	46	46	46	46	45
JOHNNY B. GOODE	27	28	28	28	28	28	28
LEBROK	37	37	39	39	39	39	39
MAGIC	30	30	30	30	30	29	28
MARIBEL						24	
MIDNIGHT MAGIC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MOANA	23	23	23	23	24	24	24
MORE NOISE	41	41	42	42	42	42	42
MY WAY	34	34	37	37	36	36	35
MYUNA III	33	33	33	33	33	32	32
PHOENIX	37	37	37	34	34	31	29
PIPPA	4	4	4	4	7	10	10
PIAZZ	26	27	27	27	27	28	28
PRIMO	39	39	39	39	38	38	38
PUBLIC BAR	44	44	44	44	44	44	43
SALTSHAKER	20	20	20	20	22	22	22
SECOND NATURE	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
SHIMMER		42	42				
STAMPEDE	50	50	50	53	53	53	53
SURI	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
THE SECRETARY	46	46	46	46	47	47	47
TRUE COLOURS		30	30	30	30	33	33
UPBEAT		38	38	37	37	39	36
VANTAGE	33	33	33	33	34	34	34
WHITE NOISE		41	41	42	42	42	42
WHITE POINTER	33	35	35	35	35	35	35
WICKED	50	50	50	50	50	50	49
WILLARIE	4	4	4	4	4	5	6
WIND SPEED	45	45	47	47	47	47	47

The data used to compile these comments is obtained either from the Tower Sheets or from results published by the Boating Department. Throughout this series the results have been available on the day of the race. This has not always been the case in the past. For this race they became available within 35 minutes of the finish. **Great Stuff Well Done** Tower and Boating management



Mark Windward Windy Words

Good to see Big Bob's back – although his front view is OK. Cassandra looked like getting to Number 4 for a while until Phoenix came in from off side and the breeze freshened that little bit more and Cassandra finished 7th just 2:10 off second place.

It was a difficult decision at the start of the race whether to believe the weather forecast. It was predicted to lighten, which it did...but not for very long, and a few yachts were a little over powered as they neared Number 3 for the second time.

The half way award for the 12th finisher is **ALIBI** (Out of a total of 24).

She started at 14:07 and took just 1:29:55 to complete the course, 6:27mins faster than Phoenix. Alibi was only 1:35min behind Magic who finished in second place and needed to be 8:24min faster to beat Phoenix to the finish line.

The 'Biggest loss of Places' award

The whole fleet from 2nd to 24th was only 9:27 mins apart. (Leaving out Phoenix finishing 5:42 mins in front). The handicapper might be delighted to have the fleet finishing so close together, however this meant that starting early was a very expensive penalty.

SM430 White Pointer was just 0:21 seconds early and dropped from 6th place to 21st and Sm 99 Primo just 3 seconds early dropped from 18th to 23rd just 5 places.

So what excuses can the Skipper of PIPPA (and his assistant) make up? The start was good and she was first past No4 (just the first time). After rounding No1 and heading for two there was a bit of a wobble on the breadcrumb line.

You would have noticed at 3:01 to be precise the wind at Fawkner went from WNW 17~29knts, then at 3:09 was W 23~29, and by 3:30 was back to WNW at 14~18. Sometimes looking closely at the Fawkner actual readings, they provide a good excuse. The wind movement did also explain the appalling tack at about 2:11 when the wind did the same movement WNW 19~23 and then at 2:00 to the West 20~26 and by 2:30 back to WNW 18~24.

Fawkner Bcn. actually records digitally the precise time when a significant event occurs. For example, the strongest gust, so you can easily compare your position on the course at that time.

Other reasons overhead for not doing well in Wednesday Wonders

Skipper: It is so hard to get good crew who turn up all the time

Crew: I wish the skipper would spend a bit more money and get the winches serviced.

When Mark started sailing he was given advice by an 'Old timer' WW skipper that "It is not so much about tactics, it is more about who makes the least number of mistakes who wins the race."

Shanti at Sea: The blog of Jacqueline Hope

Jacqueline Hope has started a blog "Shanti At Sea" so now Mark will not have to relay information. You can visit it at <https://shantiatsea.blogspot.com>

The update covers the lull in Jacquie's progress over the last month, the destruction of Coffs Harbour marina and her current situation.

Jacqueline would welcome some feedback from anyone about her blog or just to say Hi skipperj@fastmail.com

You will notice from now on in the weekly SYC news that the log or blogs of Jacqueline, Hugh Pilsworth and Shane Freeman will be appearing regularly to keep you up to date.

Hugh Pilsworth is traveling back home to Dublin, Ireland aboard his 49 foot Jeanneau Blue Flyer <http://blueflyer4905.blogspot.com.au/>

Shane Freeman is doing the GGR 2018 race around the world and is preparing his Trade Winds 35 Mushka from his pen down on E Row <http://freemansailing.com>

Century Class

Reminder to get serious for the mature sailors as Wednesday's Race 13 is a Century Class race. It will also be the halfway mark in the series.

Congratulations to the Marine Trivia Experts. Di and Alan Tyndall won the Mark's Ten Trivia question quiz. I hope they enjoy the prize of a bottle of Sequacious wine.

Race 12 Question

This week's question is just an excuse to show off a great photo.
If this photo was taken in 1870 who would have owned this pier?
What changes were made in 1878?

The photo is part of the Sate Library of Victoria Collection C1870- 1880



Thanks to Windward Buoy and a few other WW sailors who wish to remain an na mouse.
Your comments and stories are always welcome.

Replies to the question and photos send to

[MARK WINDWARD](#)

*Something I like to do a lot is just sit by water when there's a current and just stare into the water. I don't fish, I don't hunt, I don't scuba, I don't spear, don't boat, don't play basketball or football - I excel at staring into space. I'm really good at that. **Iggy Pop***