

Fastest and Closest of the Series

Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2016 Race 17

27 Jul 2016

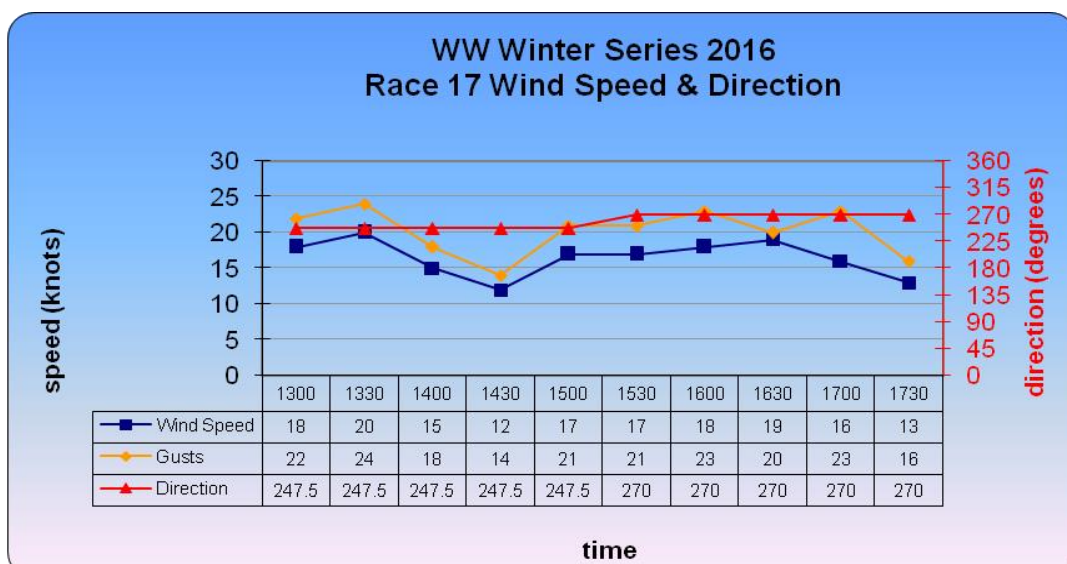


The race was all over when the last yacht crossed the finish line at 15:39:45. The 21-yacht fleet had all sailed the 9.8 nautical mile course in an average time of 1:32:09 all finishing within 9 minutes 36 seconds of the winner.

This race becomes not only the fastest but also closest of the series. Just when it seemed as though her 10-week marathon at the top of the aggregate may end, PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) lead the race from start to finish and was first across the line to record her 3rd win of the series. (A handicap increase should not be unexpected). *...Even with just a less than a minute win and dramatic assistance from the wind? MW.* BARNSTORMER (Brian Barnes) and SURI (Rick Blanck) filled the minor placings with both recording their first podium finishes of the series.

This was the 6th race this series that a yacht has made a perfect start. On this occasion two yachts tied for Start of the Day when BARNSTORMER started on her handicap of 43 minutes followed two minutes later by PUBLIC BAR (Clive Sondheim). BON VIVANT (Russell Keayes) started 2 seconds too soon and reaped the 5-minute penalty to finish 17th rather than 8th. For the 3rd time in ten races CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) recorded the fastest elapsed time of 1:16:31 – only 46 seconds faster than her closest rival ALIBI (Denis Hambleton).

There was plenty of breeze for the race with an average for the afternoon of 16.5 knots at Fawkner Beacon. It did fall below 15 knots around 1430 but increased later in the race. There was a change in direction late in the race as the wind shifted from the west south west to the west. It is the 11th time this series that the breeze has averaged over 15 knots on a Wednesday afternoon.





PIPPA has completed 9 races and has now recorded 7 top ten places including 3 wins and a 3rd place. Her handicap has increased from 4 minutes at the series start to reach 11 minutes for this race. PIPPA made this her best start of the series - only 3 seconds late. She had an 8 minute 6 second lead at the start but after sailing the first 4 legs of the course in 1:16:12 this lead became 6 minutes 25 seconds. PIPPA completed the last 3 legs in 32 minutes 54 seconds and her lead at the finish was further reduced to 54 seconds. The win helps keep PIPPA at the top of the aggregate; a position she has held for 11 consecutive weeks.

This was the first podium finish for BARNSTORMER and was her second Start of the Day win. She started from 16th place on a 43-minute handicap and found herself in 6th place at the first rounding of number 4. BARNSTORMER gained a further 4 places during the last 3 legs of the race which she sailed in 25 minutes 44 seconds. She had the 3rd fastest elapsed time of the day at 1:18:03 and crossed the finish line at 15:31:03 in 2nd place. This podium finish helped BARNSTORMER into 10th place in the aggregate – her best place position this series.

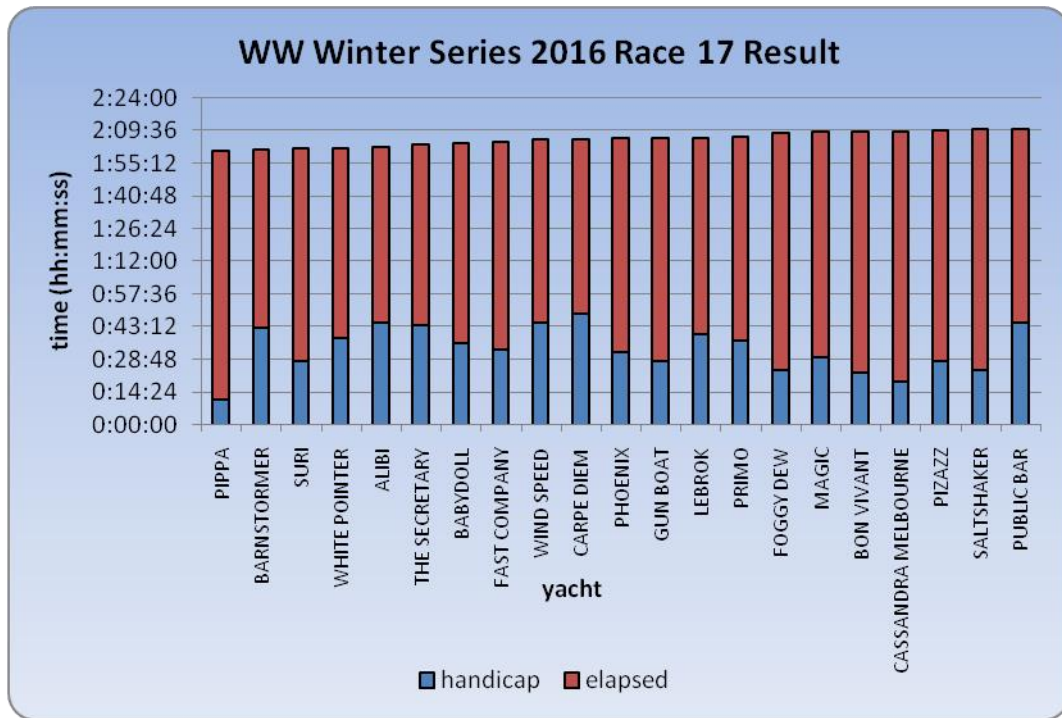


Third place getter, SURI also had the benefit of a good start. She was 5 seconds late for her 28-minute handicap from 7th place. She was the yacht 6 minutes 25 seconds behind PIPPA at the first rounding of number 4. SURI reduced this gap dramatically during the final three legs of the race to finish only 68 seconds behind the winner in 3rd place. SURI sailed the entire course in 1:33:17 and crossed the finish line at 15:31:17 to complete her 9th race of the series. She moved up 3 places in the aggregate from 23rd to 20th place.

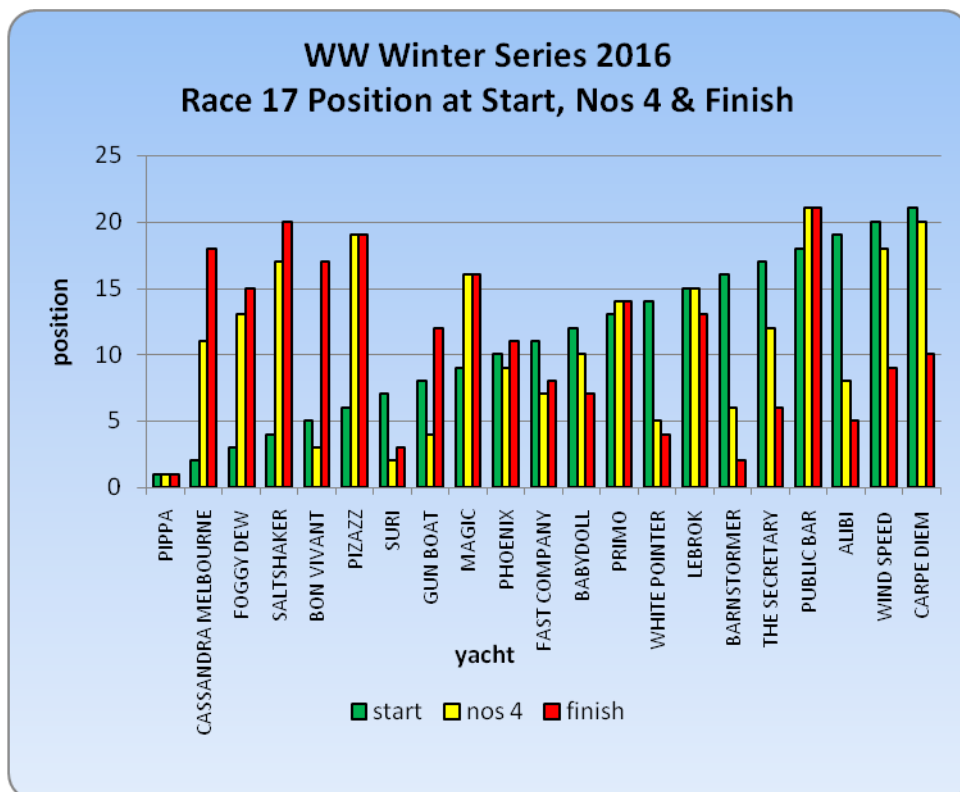
Eleven different yachts have won Start of the Day with having two wins each. All the fleet started within 46 seconds of their handicap but BON VIVANT started too soon. The median start time was 9 seconds, which equals the best this series.



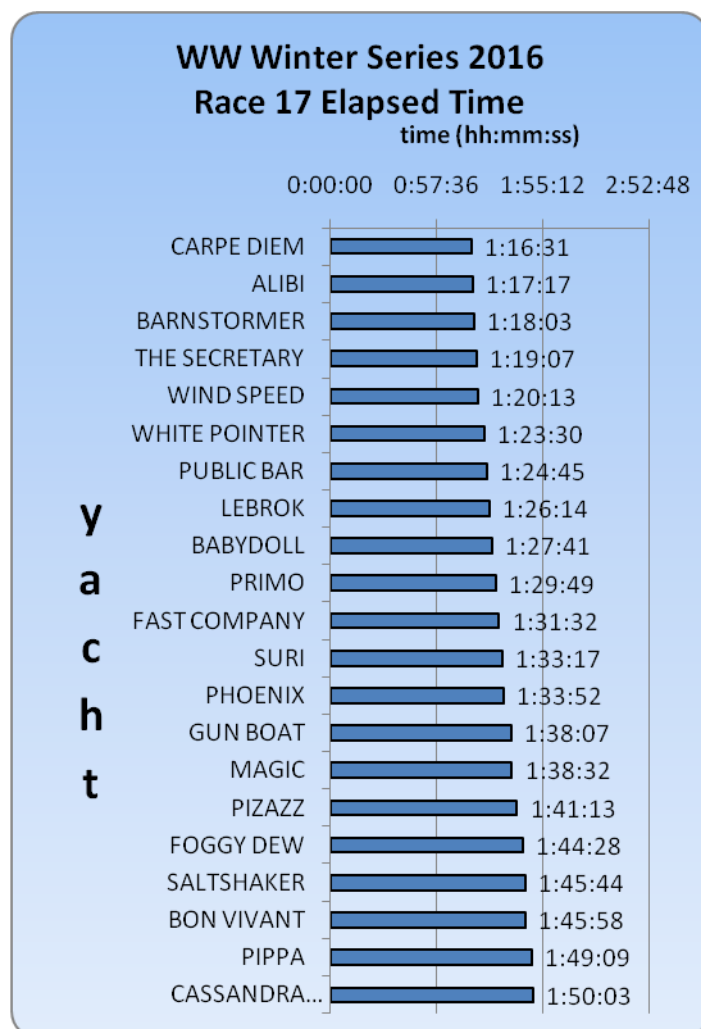
The 21 yachts started 38 minutes 6 seconds apart and after the first 4 legs this gap had reduced to 25 minutes 44 seconds. At the finish line the gap had become 9 minutes 36 seconds. The closest finish was between PUBLIC BAR and SALTSHAKER (Ken Gayler) who was 1 second ahead. The largest margin was the 1 minute 39 seconds that separated PRIMO (Steve Copley) from FOGGY DEW (Grahame Jones).



It was a good race for the late starters with 3 of them finishing in the first third of the fleet. It was not so good for the early starters with 5 of them finishing among the last third of the fleet.



With an average apparent speed (rhumb line distance/elapsed time) of 6.47 knots this race was the fastest of the series. CARPE DIEM sailed the course in the shortest time of 1:16:31 at an apparent speed of 7.68 knots – the fastest of the series. She was followed by ALIBI (Denis Hambleton), BARNSTORMER, THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) and WINDSPEED (Les Browne). PIPPA was the second slowest yacht in the race.



Six of the 21-yacht fleet competed in the 4th race of the Century Class won by PIPPA. FAST COMPANY (Albert Doggett) was 2nd with MAGIC (Phil Spry Bailey) in third place. The full result is shown in the following table.

CENTURY CLASS WINTER SERIES 2016 RACE 4 RESULT						
POS	YACHT	DESIGN	SKIPPER	ELAPSED	FINISH	HCAP
1	PIPPA	Triton 24	Jeffrey Woolhouse	1:49:09	15:30:09	0:11:00
2	FAST COMPANY	Farr 1020	Albert Doggett	1:31:32	15:34:32	0:33:00
3	MAGIC	S & S 39	Phil Spry-Bailey	1:38:32	15:38:32	0:30:00
4	BON VIVANT	S80	Russell Keays	1:45:58	15:38:58	0:23:00
5	CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	Mottle 33	Bob Reeves	1:50:03	15:39:03	0:19:00
6	SALTSHAKER	Jarkan 925	Ken Gayler	1:45:44	15:39:44	0:24:00

There were 5 increases and 7 decreases to handicaps between races 16 and 17. Details are shown in the following table.

WW WINTER SERIES 2016 – HANDICAP ADJUSTMENT											
YACHT NAME	RACE NUMBER										
	1	2	3	5	7	9	12	13	14	16	17
ALIBI	45	45	45	45	45	45	44	44	44	45	45
BABYDOLL			39	39	39	38	38	37	37	37	36
BARNSTORMER	45	45	45	45	45	45	44	43	44	44	43
BELLABLU	35	35	35	35	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
BON VIVANT		23	23	23	23	24	24	24	24	24	23
CARPE DIEM	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
CARRERA			20			20					
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
CAVALIER	18	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	19	19
CONQUEST			50	52	52	52	51	51	51	51	51
DAYDREAMER						31	33				
ESPRIT	52	52	52	52	52	52	51	51	51	51	51
FAST COMPANY	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	34	34	34	33
FIREFOX			24	24	24	24	24	24			
FOGGY DEW	23	23	23	21	22	24	24	24	24	24	24
FUN AND GAMES		42	42	42	42	42	42	42	40	40	40
GUN BOAT	23	23	23	23	23	23	24	25	25	27	28
INSX	46	46	46	46	46	46	45	45	45	45	45
JOHNNY B. GOODE	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29
LEBROK	37	37	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	40
MAGIC	30	30	30	30	30	29	28	29	30	30	30
MARIBEL						24					
MIDNIGHT MAGIC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MOANA	23	23	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
MORE NOISE	41	41	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
MY WAY	34	34	37	37	36	36	35	35	35	35	35
MYUNA III	33	33	33	33	33	32	32	32	32	32	31
PHOENIX	37	37	37	34	34	31	29	32	32	32	32
PIPPA	4	4	4	4	7	10	10	10	10	10	11
PIZAZZ	26	27	27	27	27	28	28	28	28	28	28
PP1										43	
PRIMO	39	39	39	39	38	38	38	37	37	37	37
PUBLIC BAR	44	44	44	44	44	44	43	42	42	42	45
SALT WHISTLE								26			
SALTSHAKER	20	20	20	20	22	22	22	22	22	22	24
SECOND NATURE	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
SHIMMER		42	42								
STAMPEDE	50	50	50	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	52
SURI	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
THE SECRETARY	46	46	46	46	47	47	47	44	44	44	44
TRUE COLOURS		30	30	30	30	33	33	33	33	33	33
UPBEAT		38	38	37	37	39	36	37	37	37	37
VANTAGE	33	33	33	33	34	34	34	34	36	36	36
VINDALOO										42	
WHITE NOISE		41	41	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
WHITE POINTER	33	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	38	38	38
WICKED	50	50	50	50	50	50	49	49	49	49	49
WILLARIE	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	6	6	6
WIND SPEED	45	45	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	46	45

Helping the handicapper - introducing “**The Free Blair Hull Scrub notification scheme.**” It may soon be compulsory to advise the handicapper when you use your free Blair shipwright hull scrub. In this race it was an advantage to the winning yacht Pippa who had a hull scrub just prior to the race. With a win of under one minute her clean hull must have played a part and spoiled the handicapper’s calculations. He could have had the whole fleet finishing in just 8 mins !

The Women’s Hospital Berthing award.

The winner of this award gets the chance to donate \$10 to the Women’s Hospital Foundation. The Women’s Foundation raises funds to support the vital work of the Women’s, Australia’s first and largest specialist hospital for women and newborn babies. The Women’s at Sandringham, 193 Bluff Road, Sandringham

The contenders at the end of this race were numerous.

With a Westerly wind blowing gusting to over 20knts it was a difficult berthing process for many skippers. Judgement for this award is based on the following:

The volume of the skipper’s commands to the crew, within 35ft of the berth.

The number of times the skipper repeats:

"Not that rope, the other one."

Don’t you remember which rope is which?

Just give me the rope.

It’s the white rope.

Can’t you tell the difference?

Pass me any rope, no not that one.

Let the other one off

Fend off, fend off

Don’t let the rope go

No, don’t try to jump off

Yes, we will pick you up out of the water in a minute.”

A contender in race 17 for this award is Tom Raft on Sm430 White Pointer. He does have a big advantage for winning this award. He does not have much room either end of his berth as he ties up on the end of the arm. He has the full force of a Westerly wind on the side of White Pointer and he often has visiting crew. In addition, there is little room from the end of the jetty to the rock wall.

The size of White Pointer did not prevent Tom from getting an excellent start of 2 seconds, and finishing only 27 seconds from gaining a second place. She has had a first and a second place in this series.

It was a little noisy on board but other yachts may wish to nominate for this award.

Bonus points are given to any marks or scratches that are evident, or to yachts that have, as previously has been the case, have tried to carve a new passage from their berth to the sea.

Send your nomination and supporting comments from any race to [Mark](#).

Little Number 5 Is it decreasing in size? Will it have to be renumbered 2½ instead?

A number of skippers have expressed concern that No.5 buoy is gradually getting smaller.

The leading yacht had difficulty in seeing it and was observed by Bob on Cassandra, that she had to do another tack to keep clear of it. Maybe the wash from yachts going past it has reduced its size.

Is it smaller because the courses are using No5 more than some other marks?

Could it be the alignment of the planets that is causing this?

NB: There will be an astronomical show in the August sky. It will be "the people's planetary parade" - visible to the naked eye whether you have fancy gear or not. Starring in the rare celestial line-up will be five of the solar system's eight planets: Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Mars and Jupiter.

A warning about other buoys.

It seems like there are Sirens active around number 2 and 3 trying to deceive skippers.

It is all very well to think it would be nice to be in the lead but it does require a lot of work if there are mermaids and sirens to cope with.

The sirens pop up in the water to look like buoys and make waves in the sun look like marks.

If you were trying to locate No 2 and looking into the sun, you will have seen some of the false siren buoys popping up. At least ten sightings were recorded on one yacht.

The sirens or mermaids also change the colour of the real buoys to a dull grey and make them even harder to locate.

When you are the only yacht heading for a mark – think, it could be the wrong mark.

One of the Wednesday Wonders skippers, who is sitting 5th in the series with an average of 6.16, had his acceptance speech ready for gaining first place in this race. He did not obey the rule of WW of following the little red yacht. He was convinced by a member of his crew that he would be the only yacht to sail the correct course around Number 7 and not No3. Gradually as no other yacht was heading for 7 the navigator was sent below to check the course and a new bearing was set for number 3. George's first place speech was put on hold and he crossed the line in 6th place just under 3 mins behind the winning yacht.

TENACIOUS

As part of her circumnavigation the three masted sailing ship TENACIOUS is arriving in Port Phillip on Sunday 14th August, and will depart in May 2017, returning to England.

Tenacious is 68 metres long and was launched in 2000. She has a permanent crew complement, together with 40 voyage trainee crew, up to half of whom can be people living with a disability.

For more information about the Jubilee Sailing Trust, visit the web site www.jst.org.au

Tenacious is a special purpose tall ship designed and built by the Jubilee Sailing Trust (JST). The entire ship is wheelchair accessible including the crew's nests; there are aids for the visually impaired, and for those with limited dexterity, who can even helm the ship with a joystick.

While in Australia Tenacious' homeport will be Seaworks in Williamstown. She will undergo 3 weeks of maintenance, which will include: cleaning the ship on arrival, sanding and painting, helping to cater for the volunteer and permanent crew, rigging maintenance, etc.

Volunteers with skills in any of the above are invited to register their interest.

On-shore tasks, will include:

Driving to provide transport for crew whilst provisioning, collecting equipment etc.

Crowd control on open days and directing passengers on days of day-sails

If you would like to register your interest, or for more information, please email

– **Rod Alsop JST Tenacious Volunteer Coordinator** ralso@ozemail.com.au

Video for this week

In case you missed the story and documentary of the pirate BLACKBEARD you can catch up on SBS on Demand [CLICK](#)

Question for Race 17

This race's question relates to Mark's childhood of growing up hearing stories about the sea. He has a collection of "Lantern slides" of a story which was written for a magazine from August 1862 to March 1863. The stories were written for his son. Various artists have produced illustrations for this story. The illustration here is copy of one of a set of 24 slides by Warwick Goble C1922.

The story follows the adventures of a chimney sweep.

Can you tell Mark the name and author of this story?



Can you share any stories about marine activities from you childhood?

Presentation Night for Wednesday Wonders Winter 2016.

The tower management crew are already getting prepared for this major event for WW sailors. Please note the date Friday 7th October 2016

Shanti arrived in Townsville 25th July 11:54, **Blue Flyer** arrived in Mackay 20th July 7:20

Please send your contributions, responses or tales to [MARK WINDWARD](#)

Overheard on the walkway: A very nervous first time crew member asked a WW skipper,

"Do yachts like this sink very often?"

"Not too often," replied the skipper. "Usually it's only the once."