

# NUTCRACKER II TRIFECTA

Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2016 Race 22

31 August 2016



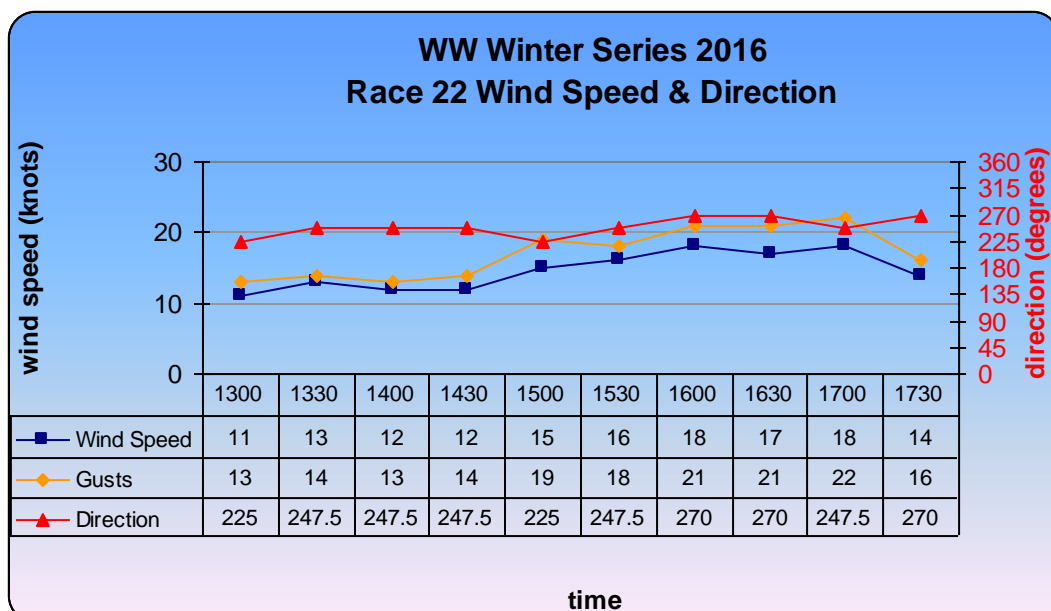
Not even the prospect of thunderstorms and a decreasing breeze could prevent the largest fleet (32 yachts) since race 9 taking to the water. Thunderstorms did not eventuate, and rather than decrease the breeze increased as the afternoon progressed. The sea remained relatively flat and there was plenty of blue sky above, although black clouds were making their way around the area.

The larger yachts with higher handicaps recorded very good results with 8 of the last 9 yachts to start the race finishing in the top ten. In contrast, of the first half of the fleet to start, only 5 yachts finished in the top 20. It was a particularly memorable day for two casual entries. The Triton 24 DOLPHIN PLAY (John Brennan) sailed her first race of the series. She was the second yacht to start but suffered in the early light breeze and finished at the back of the fleet. NUTCRACKER II was the last to start and first to finish the race, and on her way recorded the fastest elapsed time and won Start of the Day.

This was the second win in two WW races for NUTCRACKER II. Could she become the first yacht to have a 60-minute handicap? The other podium finishers were CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) and ALIBI (Denis Hambleton) who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

Although GUN BOAT (Bruce Alexander) finished 31<sup>st</sup>, she still leads the aggregate with 4 scheduled races remaining in the series. After this race the aggregate top ten comprises the same yachts but in a different order. The most significant moves included ALIBI (Denis Hambleton) who went from 10<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place and SALTSHAKER who moved from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> place.

The breeze at Fawkner Beacon averaged almost 15 knots for the afternoon but it was probably less than this inshore especially in the early afternoon. Nevertheless it was enough for all 32 yachts to complete the 6 legs, 9.8 nautical mile course 14 well before the time limit.





NUTCRACKER II entered her second race with the highest handicap of any yacht so far this series. Following her win in race 20 her handicap was increased to 56 minutes. Nutcracker II was only 1 second late for her start – 4 minutes 37 seconds behind the rest of the fleet. She sailed the first 3 legs of the course in 1 hour and 34 seconds but was still at the rear of the fleet. It was during the final three legs of the course that NUTCRACKER II made her move. She moved from last to first sailing the last 3 legs of the course in 19 minutes 57 seconds to cross the finish line at 15:46:52 – 18 seconds ahead of her closest rival.

Starting her 14<sup>th</sup> race third last but finishing second; and, recording the second fastest elapsed time was the Beneteau 50 First CARPE DIEM. She started 14 seconds late for her 51-minute handicap only 10 seconds ahead of CONQUEST (Paul Jacka). By the first rounding of number 4 CARPE DIEM was in 10<sup>th</sup> place after sailing the first 3 legs in 59 minutes 39 seconds. At the same stage of the race CONQUEST was in 20<sup>th</sup> place after completing the first 3 legs in 1 hour and 44 seconds. CARPE DIEM sailed the entire course in 1:26:10 – the second fastest time of the race and was 3 minutes 27 seconds faster than CONQUEST. She crossed the line at 15:47:10. CARPE DIEM is currently 3<sup>rd</sup> in the aggregate



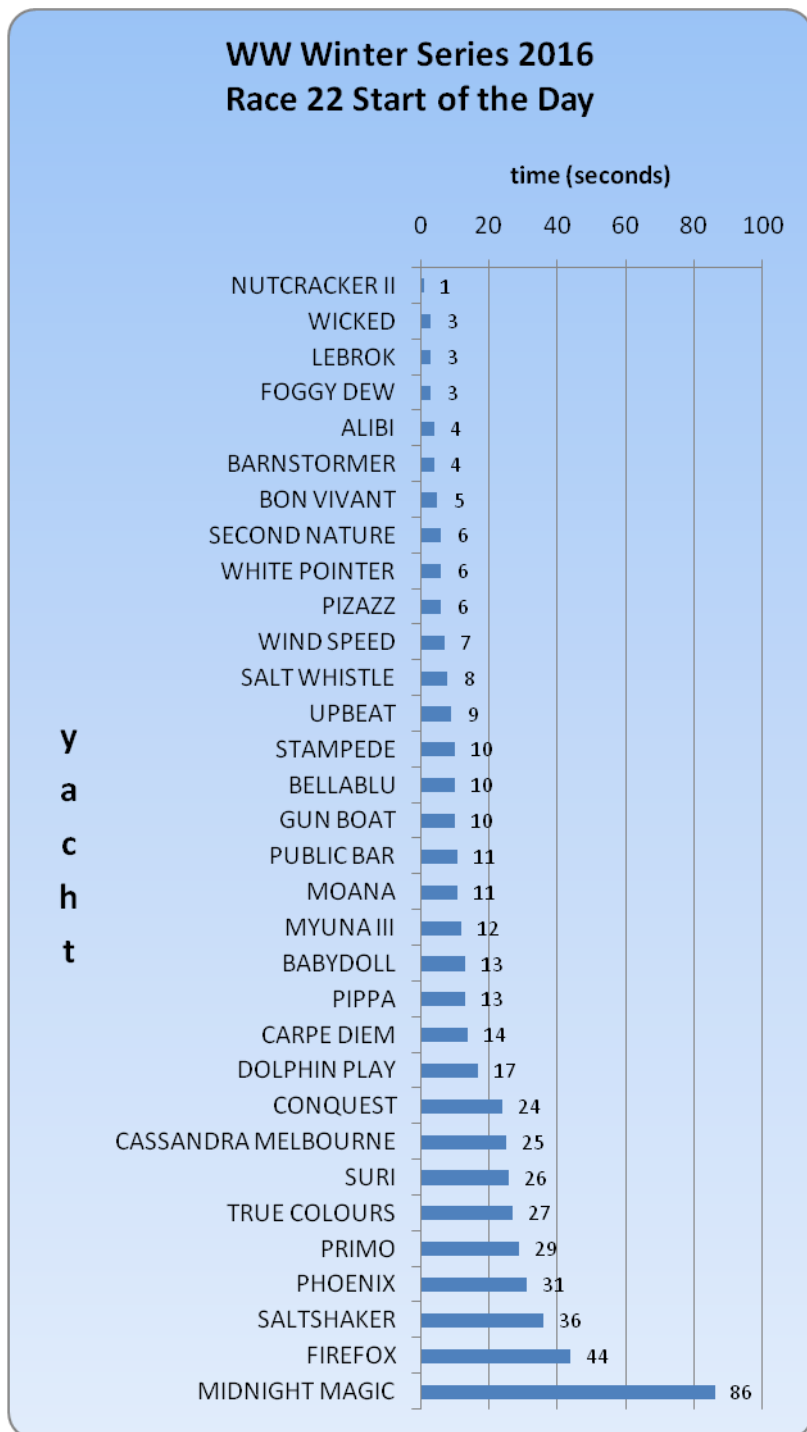
19 points behind GUN BOAT.



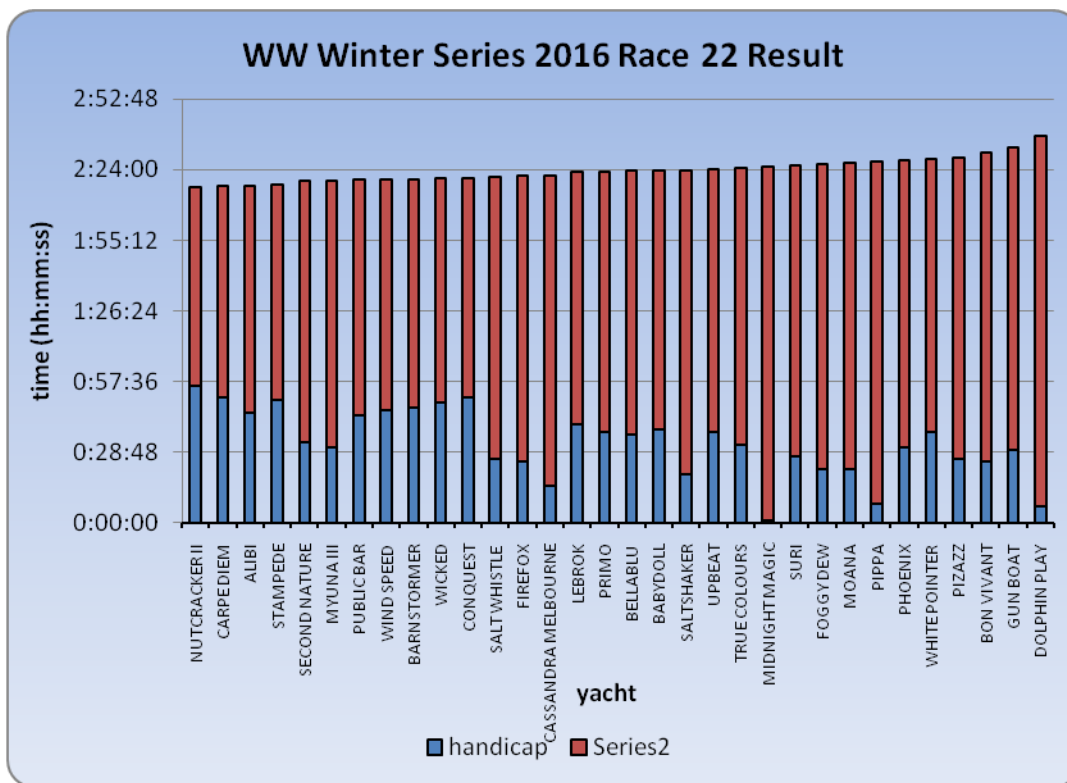
Recording her second podium finish in 12 attempts was the Sydney 36 ALIBI. She has been able to maintain a top ten aggregate position since race 14. She started from 25<sup>th</sup> place only 4 seconds late for her 45-minute handicap. This was 1 minute 3 seconds earlier than her sister ship WINDSPEED (Les Browne). By the first rounding of number 4 ALIBI had moved into 9<sup>th</sup> place leaving WINDSPEED in 15<sup>th</sup> place 1 minute 41 seconds astern. By the finish line ALIBI had increased her lead over WINDSPEED finishing 2 minutes 23 seconds ahead at 15:47:25. ALIBI is currently in 6<sup>th</sup> position in the aggregate – one place and 5 points behind WINDSPEED.

With half the fleet starting within 10 seconds or less of their handicap and only one yacht more than a minute late this was one of the better starts of the series.

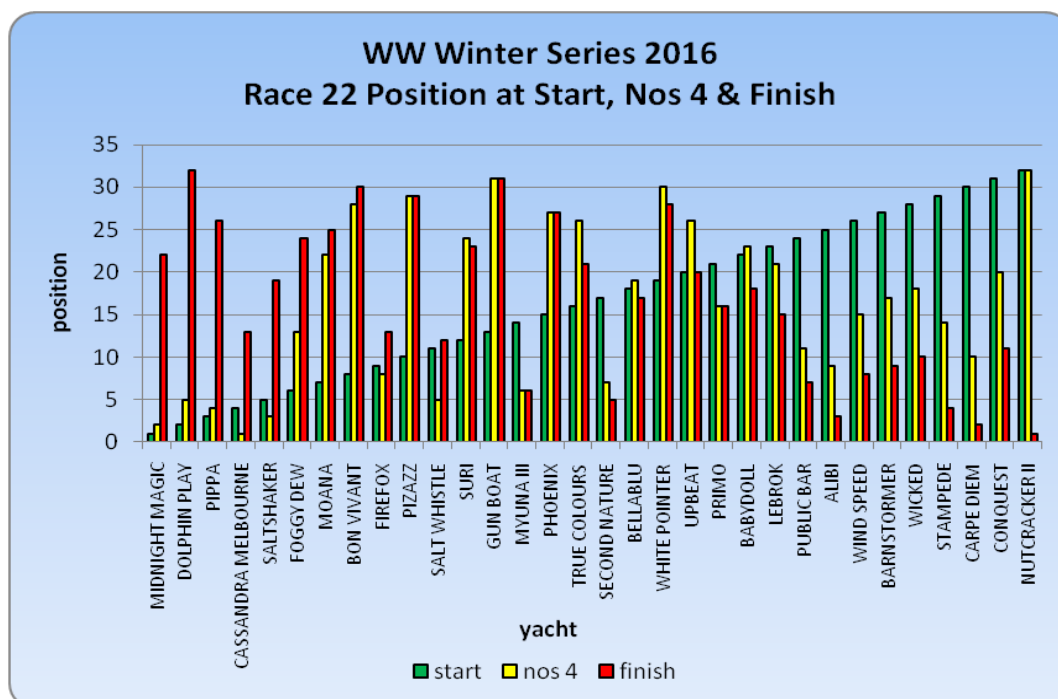
As already mentioned the start was won by NUTCRACKER II but she was closely followed by WICKED (Mike Welsh), LEBROK (Theo Korbel) and FOGGY DEW (Grahame Jones). The median start time was 10 seconds.



Twenty four yachts finished within 10 minutes of the winner with all 32 yachts finishing within 20 minutes and 46 seconds of each other. The fleet had started 53 minutes 35 seconds apart and on completion of the third leg the fleet was very compact with 12 minutes between them. There was a tie for 13<sup>th</sup> place with FIREFOX (Kim Beveridge & Howard Davis) and CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) both crossing the line at 15:51:36.

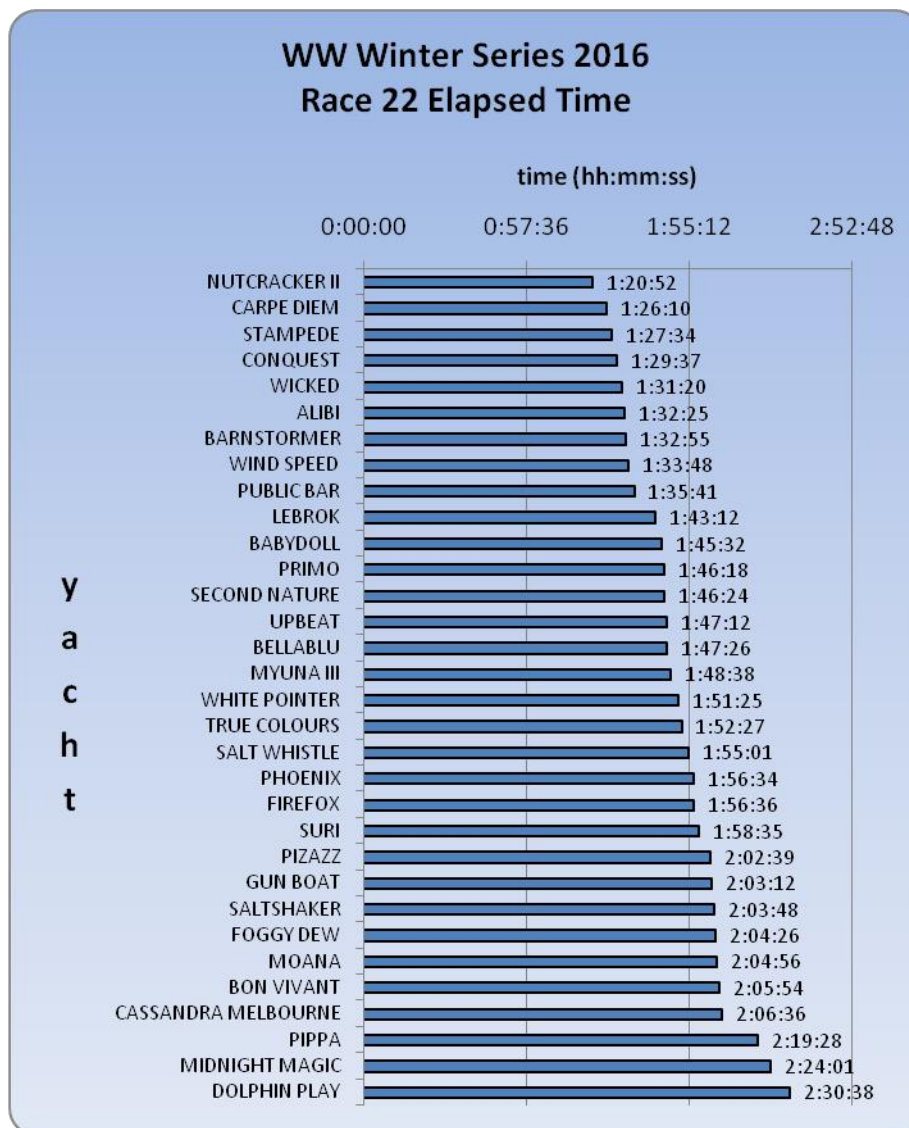


The chart below indicates that during the first 3 legs of the race the fleet became closer together as the later starters caught the earlier ones. During the remaining 3 legs of the race the later starters began to pull ahead and dominate the finish.



This was the second time in two races that NUTCRAKER II recorded the fastest elapsed time. On this occasion the margin of 5 minutes 18 seconds was about half that in the previous race.

The average time was 1:50:59 with a range of 1:09:46 – the second broadest range of the series. After starting 5 minutes 47 seconds apart PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) and FIREFOX came close to sailing the course in the same time



With the completion of the fifth race, the Century Class is coming to the business end of the 6 race series. This race saw CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE win her first Century Class race of the series with BELLABLU (John Lake) finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Third place was won by SALTSHAKER (Ken Gayler). The full results are shown below

POSITION	YACHT	DESIGN	SKIPPER	ELAPSED	FINISH	HCAP
1	CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	Mottle 33	Bob Reeves	2:06:36	15:51:36	0:15:00
2	BELLABLU	Comar	John Lake	1:47:26	15:53:26	0:36:00
3	SALTSHAKER	Jarkan 925	Ken Gayler	2:03:48	15:53:48	0:20:00
4	MOANA	Bluewater 400	Stan Rankin	2:04:56	15:56:56	0:22:00
5	PIPPA	Triton 24	Jeffrey Woolhouse	2:19:28	15:57:28	0:08:00

6	BON VIVANT	S80	Russell Keays	2:05:54	16:00:54	0:25:00
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Four yachts had their handicaps increased for this race whilst four yachts had theirs reduced. Details below.

WW WINTER SERIES 2016 – HANDICAP ADJUSTMENTS																
YACHT NAME	RACE NUMBER															
	1	2	3	5	7	9	12	13	14	16	17	18	20	21	22	
ALIBI	45	45	45	45	45	45	44	44	44	45	45	45	45	45	45	
BABYDOLL			39	39	39	38	38	37	37	37	36	36	38	38	38	
BARNSTORMER	45	45	45	45	45	45	44	43	44	44	43	45	45	47	47	
BELLABLU	35	35	35	35	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	
BON VIVANT		23	23	23	23	24	24	24	24	24	23	23	23	25	25	
CARPE DIEM	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	51	51	51	
CARRERA			20			20										
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	18	18	17	15	
CAVALIER	18	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	19	19	19	19	19	19	
CONQUEST			50	52	52	52	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	
DAYDREAMER						31	33									
DOLPHIN PLAY															7	
ESPRIT	52	52	52	52	52	52	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	
FAST COMPANY	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	34	34	34	33	33	33	33	33	
FIREFOX			24	24	24	24	24	24						24	25	
FOGGY DEW	23	23	23	21	22	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	23	22	22	
FUN AND GAMES		42	42	42	42	42	42	42	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
GUN BOAT	23	23	23	23	23	23	24	25	25	27	28	28	29	30	30	
INSX	46	46	46	46	46	46	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	
JOHNNY B. GOODE	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	
LEBROK	37	37	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	40	40	40	40	40	
MAGIC	30	30	30	30	30	29	28	29	30	30	30	30	29	29	29	
MARIBEL						24										
MIDNIGHT MAGIC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
MOANA	23	23	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	24	22	22	
MORE NOISE	41	41	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	
MY WAY	34	34	37	37	36	36	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	34	31	
MYUNA III	33	33	33	33	33	32	32	32	32	32	31	31	31	31	31	
NUTCRACKER II													53		56	
PHOENIX	37	37	37	34	34	31	29	32	32	32	32	32	32	31	31	
PIPPA	4	4	4	4	7	10	10	10	10	10	11	13	10	8	8	
PIZAZZ	26	27	27	27	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	27	26	26	26	
PP1										43						
PRIMO	39	39	39	39	38	38	38	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	
PUBLIC BAR	44	44	44	44	44	44	43	42	42	42	45	44	44	44	44	
SALT WHISTLE								26						23	26	
SALTSHAKER	20	20	20	20	22	22	22	22	22	22	24	23	22	20	20	
SECOND NATURE	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	33	33	33	
SHIMMER		42	42													
STAMPEDE	50	50	50	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	52	52	52	50	50	
SURI	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	27	
THE SECRETARY	46	46	46	46	47	47	47	44	44	44	44	44	44	45	45	
TRUE COLOURS		30	30	30	30	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	32	
UPBEAT		38	38	37	37	39	36	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	
VANTAGE	33	33	33	33	34	34	34	34	36	36	36	36	36	36	35	
VINDALOO										42						
WHITE NOISE		41	41	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	
WHITE POINTER	33	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	38	38	38	38	37	37	37	
WICKED	50	50	50	50	50	50	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
WILLARIE	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	7	
WIND SPEED	45	45	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	46	45	45	45	46	46	

## Mark Windward's Musings

### Farcenet Series

The winner of Race 3 in the 'Farcenet' series was Carpe Diem. The fast yachts have now started to take the winter series seriously. Is this due to the Farcenet series creating a challenge for the speedboats? You will notice that the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places in the WW series in this race were all taken by 'Farcenet' yachts. Still 4 races to count in the 'Farcenet' Series, and remember no drops.



FARCENET SERIES 2016 RESULT RACE 3				
POSITION	YACHT	SKIPPER	DESIGN	FINISH
1	CARPE DIEM	Paul Commins	Beneteau First 50	15:47:10
2	ALIBI	Dennis Hambleton	Sydney 36cr	15:47:25
3	STAMPEDE	Christopher Gendala	Elliott 15.50	15:47:34
4	PUBLIC BAR	Clive Sondheim	Elliot	15:49:41
5	WIND SPEED	Les Browne	Sydney 36cr	15:49:48
6	BARNSTORMER	Brian Barnes	Bavaria Match 42	15:49:55
7	CONQUEST	Paul Jacka	Beneteau First 45	15:50:37

FARCENET SERIES 2016 AGGREGATE										
YACHT	SKIPPER	DESIGN	RACE NUMBER							TOTAL
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
STAMPEDE	Christopher Gendala	Elliott 15.50	6	2	3					11
CARPE DIEM	Paul Commins	Beneteau First 50	4	5	1					10
WIND SPEED	Les Browne	Sydney 36cr	2	3	5					10
THE SECRETARY	George Shaw	J44	3	1	9					13
ALIBI	Denis Hambleton	Sydney 36cr	9	4	2					15
BARNSTORMER	Brian Barnes	Bavaria Match 42	1	9	6					16

CONQUEST	Paul Jacka	Beneteau First 45	5	9	7					21
PUBLIC BAR	Clive Sondheim	Elliott	9	9	4					22

## Two new Wednesday Wonder yachts, and two different stories.

**Yacht One** Way out past A wing where the birds drop messages, there is a yacht called Nutcracker - owned by someone who a few people around the club know. He has spent a lot of time and money preparing for Wednesday Wonders. As noted by Windward Buoy Nutcracker has won two out of two appearances.

The yacht has been specially prepared, and if you would like to compete against her you might be interested in the following yachts for sale:

For just \$110,000 you could buy a Farr 40,  
a previous World Champion for \$130,000 - For details [CLICK](#)  
or maybe a cheap one in NSW for just \$85,000 [CLICK](#)

Being so far away from A wing Mark has had to rely on other sources for reports about Nutcracker. The following comes from CYCA by Lisa Ratcliff about the Geelong racing in January 2016.

“Andy Baker and Rob Davis’ Nutcracker II is a new partnership and purchased for the Sandringham Yacht Club members across the bay.

Davis once owned a Farr 30 and he and Baker as his crew enjoyed the choice between the one design format and handicap club racing. Given there is talk of a Sydney Hobart Race in the future they needed a bigger offshore boat and the Farr 40 met their criteria at a reasonable cost.

The pair had Nutcracker II completely refitted for relaunch last June. The crew is still settling in making the Rolex Farr 40 World Championship in Sydney next month unrealistic, however Baker says the desire to compete internationally in a few years’ time, either in Australia or overseas, is there. The Farr 40 had a lot of appeal given its been around for so long and is still popular thanks to a really strong association with well organized events,” Baker said. “We look forward to meeting and racing against the other Victorian crew at Geelong. It will be handy to go up against another Farr 40, to gauge where we are at.”

All this preparation just to get up to the standard of Wednesday Wonders.

What would the Wednesday Wonders founders say?

When you read the design brief below, it is easy to understand why the design suits Wednesday Wonders so well.

*The Farr 40 One Design was conceived as a high performance 40 footer that would gather the benefits of modern materials into an economic platform for short course racing that was demanding, exciting and not beyond the capabilities of relatively inexperienced crew members. The boat also had to be capable of competing in the offshore classes and be a competitive IMS performer to give the purchaser a wide range of events in which to compete and to carry through times before class fleets were established. The design of the boat and the formation of Class Rules and Constitution proceeded in parallel allowing input from the operator and builder side of the equation. The Owner/Driver class rule was an influencing factor in the conceptual phase of the design, encouraging us towards easy to tune, simple arrangements that would not take time and energy from the primary activity of sailboat racing.*

Mark can understand now why he thinks he heard the skipper say it was his intention to win all the Wednesday Wonders races. The handicapper might have some reaction to that statement.

The first race she won by 2:23 on a shortened course, 10 mins ahead of the midway yacht.

Race 22 was won by just 1 min., 7mins before the midway marker, as W Buoy pointed out, coming from last (32) at the first time around. Mark thinks this achievement takes away any objection to a



faster yacht having a handicap that could result in them being lapped by early starters. She has been travelling at twice the speed of the earlier starters.

**Yacht Two** Dolphin Play is a Triton 24 which resides in the better part of the marina in A wing. It was recently purchased by John Brennan. It had been set up mainly for cruising and still has a bit of tweaking for racing. John has spent quite a few WW races on Willarie under instruction from Graeme Kaufman (You would have noticed the L Plates on the stern).

You could purchase a similar yacht from \$15,000 to \$19,000. (See the advert from c1968 below)

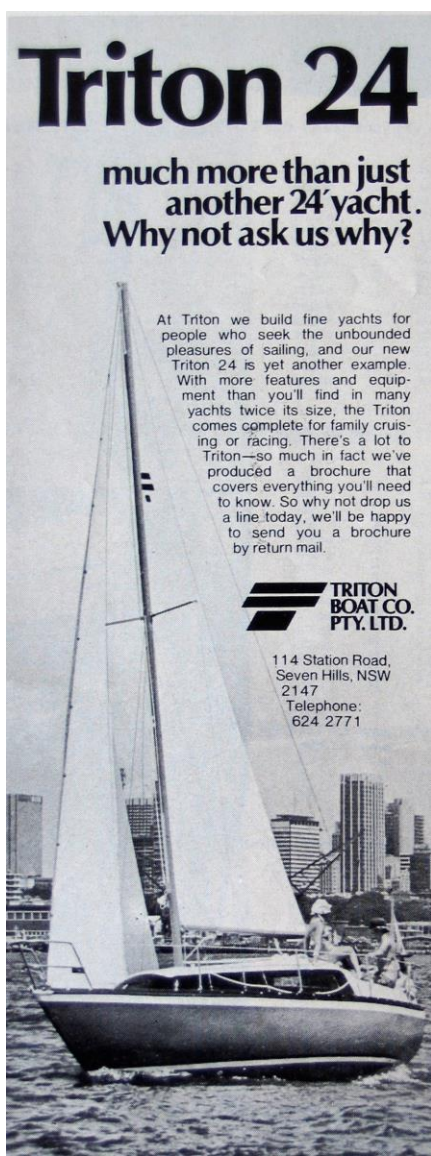
John finished his first race only 4 mins behind the yacht in front of him. The look of pleasure as he came into his pen could have made you think he had won his first race. This could happen before too long. This is Wednesday Wonders, and any yacht in the fleet - big or small, new or old, expensive or budget priced, all have a chance of winning a race thanks to the handicapper and pursuit starts.

Meanwhile some Wednesday Wonders yachts sneak away to Hamilton Island to train for the Summer series. If they didn't do so well they might not have been noticed, but Daniel in his noisy yacht came 3<sup>rd</sup> in one of the divisions, so he should be ready for the next WW series.

*3rd Place PHS Racer Cruiser – White Noise – Daniel Edwards/Milton Green*

You now realize why it has been a little quieter during the last few races. Less Noisy yachts around!

Another newcomer on the scene is also one to watch. You might have wondered why there was a 12mtr yacht starting after Nutcracker going around the course. It was David Lynch and crew from Cavalier testing out their skills at sailing a little faster in their new yacht. Even though they started after everyone else they were not too far behind the last yacht. What is going to happen when they really start to know how to get going.! Maybe Mark should ask the Treasurer if this Blue Chip investment is likely to pay dividends?



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Mark Windward and Windward Buoy would welcome any comments or contributions.

Please send your emails to

MARK [CLICK \[mark-windward@live.com.au\]\(mailto:mark-windward@live.com.au\)](mailto:mark-windward@live.com.au)

A special offer - a give away:

You may not realize that even powerboat owners read Mark Windward including Gillian and Bill. As the Stubb's footy team might be in a grand final, this note maybe of interest to them or other Swans' supporters

A good friend of Mark Windward's has two fully paid tickets for the AFL Grand Final in a private box with all food and refreshments included.

Unfortunately, he didn't realize when he bought them that it's on the same day as his wedding, so he can't go.

If you're interested and want to go instead of him, it's at 2pm at St

Patrick's Cathedral and her name is Julie.