

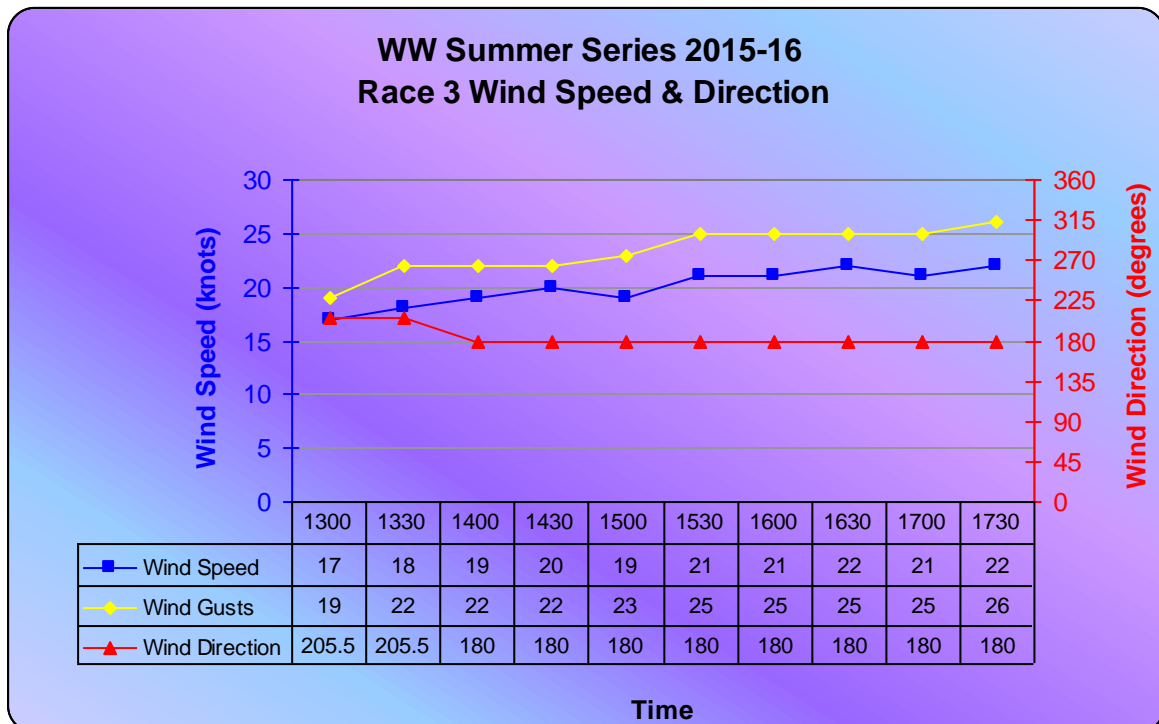
It's Been A Long Wait For The Over 40's Wednesday Wonders Race 3 Summer Series 2015 - 2016

21 October 2015

No yacht over 40 foot won a race in the 2015 winter series and the last time it did happen was in race 22 of the summer series 2014-15 held on 11 March 2015. On that occasion the winner was the Petersen 44 BACARDI (Martin Power). The drought of over 40 foot yachts winning a WW race was broken when the Beneteau 477 ESPRIT (Garry Anderson) won race three by a margin of 30 seconds. She was one of 5 over 40's that finished 1st, 10th, 12th, 19th and 23rd in the 23-yacht fleet.



Contestants in this race were confronted by a forecast for Port Philip that included a strong wind warning, 70% chance of showers and 1 to 2 metre waves. This may have been one reason why the fleet was one of the smaller ones for some time. As it turned out the breeze at Fawkner Beacon did not reach 25 knots (averaged 20 knots), there were no showers but waves did reach 1 to 2 metres.



Almost half of the 23-yacht fleet that sailed in race 2 had a reduction in their handicap to tackle the 6 legs, 9.8 nautical mile course 14. With a southerly breeze this created 4 windward legs and two down wind legs. It resulted in the tightest finish to a race for some time with 15 minutes 19 seconds separating the first from last yacht across the finish line.



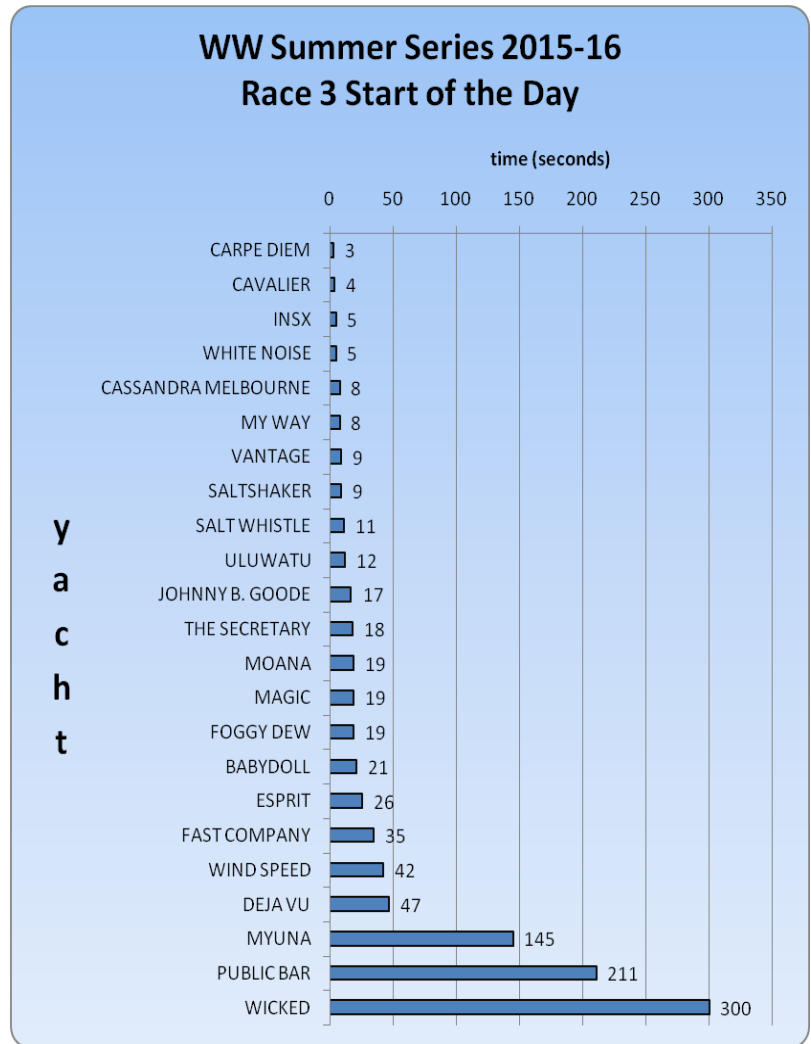
After finishing among the later finishers in the first two races of the series, ESPRIT went on to win race 3. She started from 20th place 26 seconds late for a 46 minute handicap – her best start and lowest handicap of the series. At the first rounding of number 4 she had moved into 14th place. ESPRIT went on to sail the course in the fastest time of the day in 1:29:06. She finished the race in 1st place at 15:46:06. This win lifted ESPRIT in the aggregate from 34th place after race 2 to 18th place.

Finishing in 2nd place 30 seconds after ESPRIT was the 38 foot INSX (Rob Sill). INSX helped her chances of back-to-back Misty Blue Trophy wins with a 5 second start for a 43-minute handicap from 18th place. She was 4 places ahead of ESPRIT when she rounded number 4 for the first time at 15:14:36 in 10th position. INSX finished the race in 2nd place at 15:46:36 after recording the second fastest elapsed of 1:33:36 – 4 minutes 30 seconds slower than ESPRIT. INSX has completed all three races this series and moved from 26th to 9th place in the aggregate.

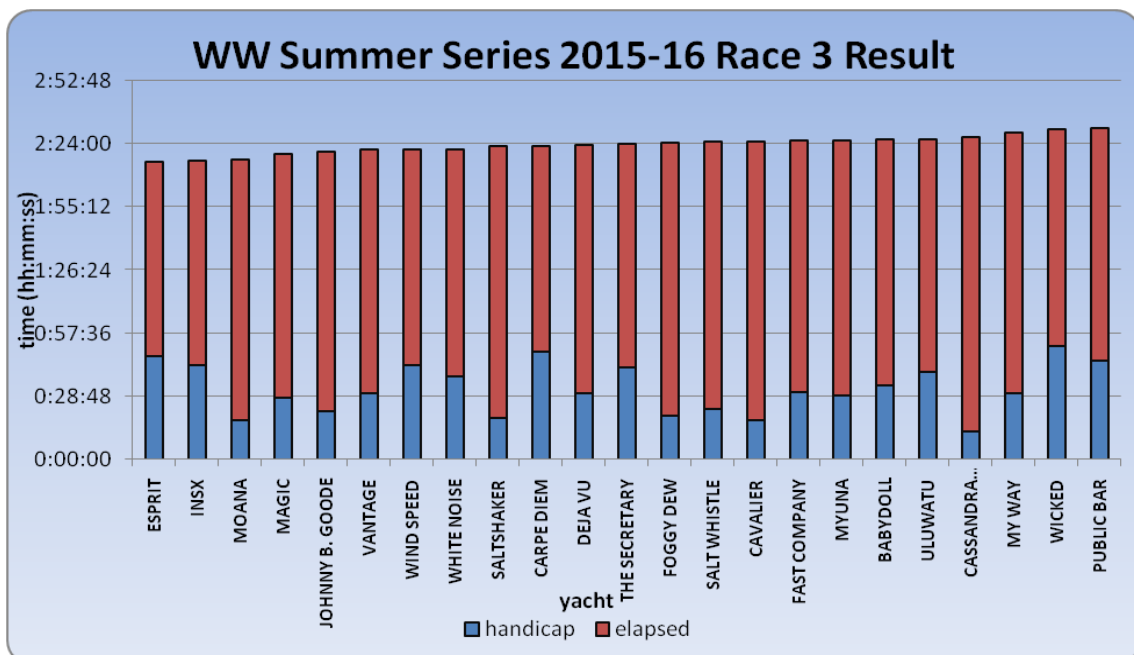


With winds averaging around 20 knots it is not too surprising to find MOANA (Stan Rankin) amongst the early finishers. (Even though the picture shows she furlled in some of the jib). MOANA finished 5 seconds behind INSX after starting from 3rd place 19 seconds late for an 18-minute handicap. At 15:07:23 she led the fleet around number 4 for the first time 2 minute 2 seconds ahead of her closest rival. It took MOANA 39 minutes 18 seconds to complete the final 3 legs of the course to cross the finish line at 15:46:41. She has completed all three races this series and recorded a 2nd and 3rd place, which is enough to put MOANA on top of the aggregate.

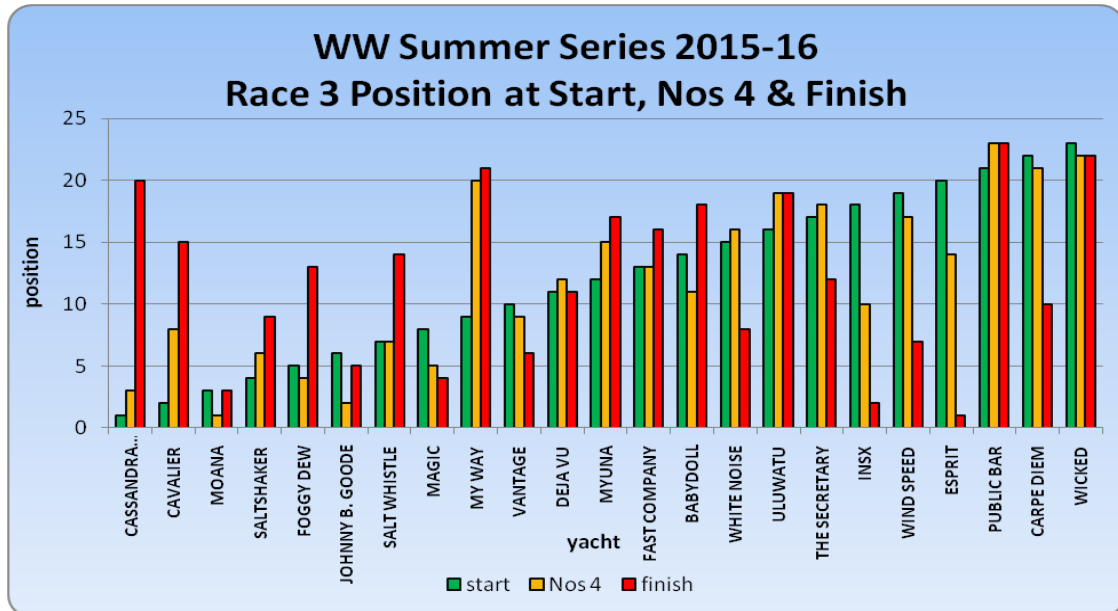
It was CARPE DIEM that seized Start of the Day, 3 seconds off her handicap. The Cavalier 32, CAVALIER (David Lynch) had the next best time of 4 seconds with INSX and Beneteau First 35 WHITE NOISE having a 5 seconds start.



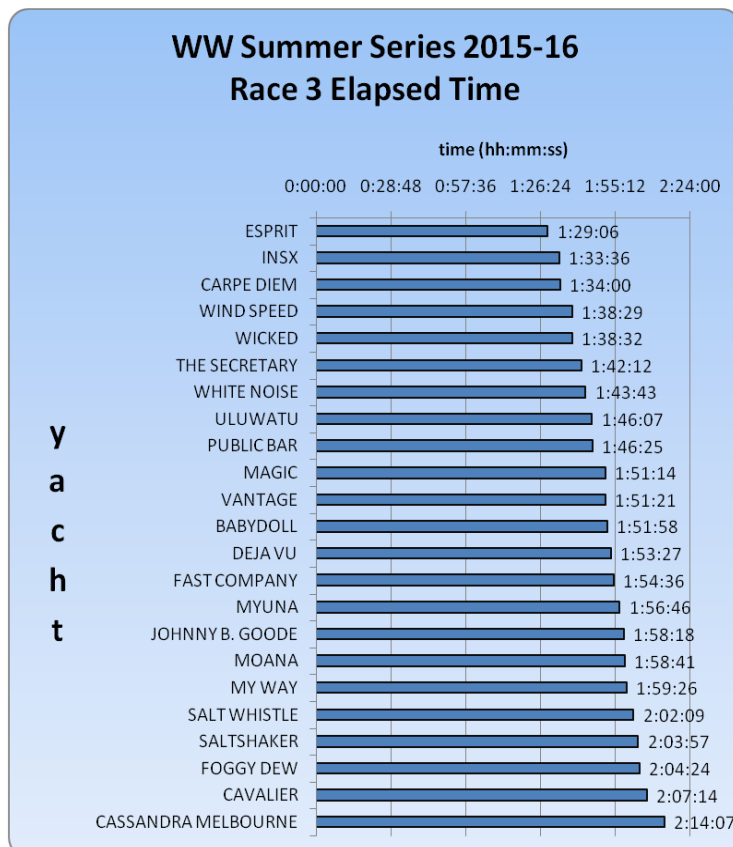
The median start for the race was 18 seconds with 20 yachts all-starting within 47 seconds of their handicaps.



The fleet started the race 43 minutes 32 seconds apart and after the first three legs the gap had closed to be 18 minutes 14 seconds apart. At the end of the race the difference had reduced further to 15 minutes 19 seconds – the closest finish of the series. The closest finish of the race was between one of the smaller yachts – the 30-foot Jarkan SALSHAKER (Ken Gayler) and the Beneteau First 50 CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) who finished within 3 seconds of each other in 9th and 10th place respectively.



The early, mid fleet and late starters were evenly distributed amongst the early, mid fleet and late finishers. Of the early starters 3 were early finishers, 4 finished mid fleet with 1 among the late finishers. Of the late starters 3 finished among the early finishers, 2 mid fleet and 3 among the late finishers. Only 1 mid fleet starter was among the early finishers with 2 finishing mid fleet and 4 among the late finishers.



Forty-five minutes and 1 second separated the fastest from the slowest elapsed time in race 3, whilst the average was 1:51:18. This is a slightly higher average than the 1:50:11 recorded for Race 1 despite they're being a stronger breeze. The courses were different but have the same nominal 9.8 nautical mile rhumb line length.



Mark Windward's pictorial essay of Race 3.



What do you mean, who checked the bungs were in?

*Sailing Tip: Think of crew as mobile Ballast.
Magic 10, Salt Whistle 3*



I wonder Stan, if we had black sails would we have to reef?

Well I hope he gets 5 mins on his handicap



Interesting sail settings on a White yacht with no name or number visible.

A new rule is likely to be introduced to assist the tower to identify all White Yachts. For example, Daniel Edwards is required to always wear his orange jacket.



Ian describes this series of photos as a David and Goliath struggle

At least we rounded Number 7 before him.



I think he has an overlap and wants to pass us, but I can't quite hear what he is calling.



Now is not a good time to ask if the front hatch is closed tightly.



Never mind about trying to take a great photo, get your weight out!

Yes we will do our MOB, but after the race.



Look before you leap! Ian W was relating a story about a friend of his that crews at the Royal Melb Yacht Squadron. One of the other crew members decided to jump overboard while the boat was in the St. Kilda marina and do a hull scrub. He no sooner jumped into the water and then jumped out as fast as he could - there was an eight-foot bull shark under the boat. Scrubbers beware!! The solution for WWs is to time your start better and win SOD and let Blair Shipwright do a free hull scrub for you.

Forecasts I suspect that quite a few skippers saw the forecast for Wednesday and decided not to bother. The advice from one WW person to a skipper was "I'm surprised you believed the weather report - just get a different one - one that suits!!"

Midway Award - Sm 370 Deja Vu 11th out of only 23 yachts: She started in 7th place at 14:00 and was 47 seconds late. At the end of the first triangle she was 12th. She gained one place to finish 11th. A better start may have gained 2 places at the finish. She is currently 19th overall. So far this season Peter has improved every race. Will this be Peter's season?

Man (Or Women) Overboard. This is nearly your last chance before you start to loose points for racing. Current Declarations expire October 31st. This means before race 5 you need to have submitted your form to the boating office.

A present for the skipper who has everything - A 2016 Calendar

Option One: Check out Boat Books Australia [Click](#)

Option Two: Another choice for a calendar (if you order it quickly) is the BOM Calendar. Check out their online sales [CLICK](#)

Photos. The photos used in this report are reduced in quality and size. If you want to print any photos ask Mark for a full quality photo and send a copy of the photo with your request.

There were about 35 photos sent to Mark from this race. All great shots but the amount of space on the web is limited. *Many thanks to Graham F, Andrew L and Ian W*

[Mark WIndward](#)

The skipper of Pippa sent an apology to all the skippers who had to look up the course themselves, had to pick the wind shifts with no guide in front of them, and to those sailors lurching in the bar who did not have a warning it was time to finish their meal.