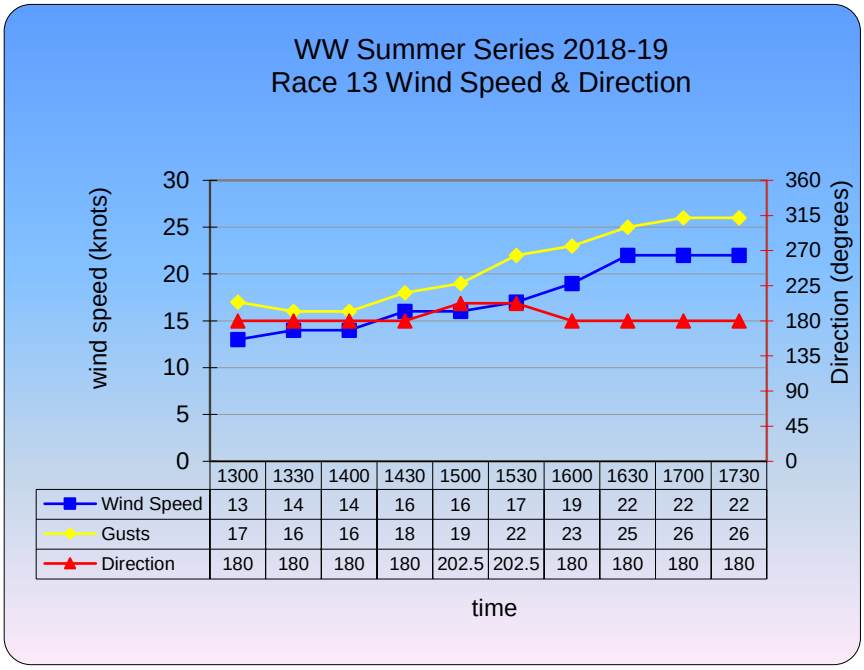
Hide & Seek
Wednesday Wonders Summer Series 2018-19 Race 13
(2 Jan 2019)

The smallest fleet of the series, 25 yachts, contested what could be the most fascinating race of the summer. Race 13 proved unlucky for about a quarter of the fleet with six yachts retiring. The choice of course 51 – a 16.8 nautical mile 8 leg course probably surprised most in the race. Even with an average southerly breeze of about 18 knots a shortened course was expected. Finding R2 is easily plotted on the GPS but more difficult to see. However it was the temporary SYC 7 that was more difficult to identify. It seems RBYC 1 was mistaken for SYC 7 by the majority of yachts that retired. The race could have been shortened at number SYC 4 but continued until SYC 5. Even the shortened course had a rhumb line length of about 12.6 nautical miles – the longest course of the series. The final leg of the course proved decisive with the late starters making their way through the fleet to record good results.

First across the finish line was ESPRIT (Garry Anderson) who also sailed the course in the fastest elapsed time. Competing as a visitor BANDIT (Ashley Trebilcock) was 2nd in her first WW race whilst CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) made this her first podium finish of the series. With a time of 1 second ARC DE TRIOMPHE (Murray/Davis/Taylor) won Start of the Day for the second time in the series.



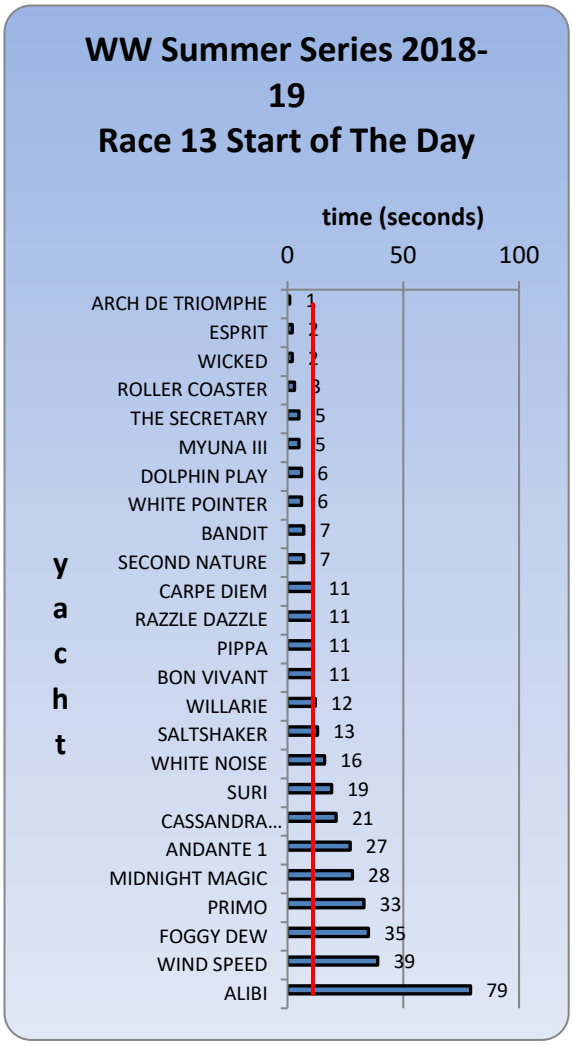
	1300	1330	1400	1430	1500	1530	1600	1630	1700	1730
Wind Speed	13	14	14	16	16	17	19	22	22	22
Gusts	17	16	16	18	19	22	23	25	26	26
Direction	180	180	180	180	202.5	202.5	180	180	180	180

PIPPA (Jeffrey Woolhouse) retains her place at the top of the series aggregate with ESPRIT moving into 2nd place and BON VIVANT (Russell Keays) in 3rd. PIPPA is also the current leader in the contest for the Shebessa Shield with the winner of the winter series WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) 2nd and BON VIVANT 3rd. CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) is leading the contest for the Noelle Coram Trophy followed by RAZZLE DAZZLE (Andrew Stopp) with MYUNA III (Geoffrey Nixon) in 3rd place. It's not unusual for the winner of the Misty Blue Trophy to go down to the wire. However, at the start of the second half of the summer series ARC DE TRIOMPHE, UPBEAT (Peter Dunne), VINDALOO (John Taylor) and WICKED (Mike Welsh) are all in contention.

ESPRIT is one of 8 yachts to have sailed all the 11 completed races in the series. She started the series by winning start of the day with a perfect start. She has finished in the top ten on 4 occasions including 3 podium finishes. Her handicap has increased as the series progressed from a low of 49 to the current top of 52 minutes. ESPRIT had an exceptional race starting from last place and finishing first. She had the second best start of the day only 2 seconds late for her 52 minute handicap. By SYC 4 she had moved up into 15 places still 8 minutes 23 seconds behind the race leader. It was the last leg that proved the most fruitful as she overtook the remaining 14 yachts to be first across the finish line at 16:12:05. ESPRIT sailed the course in 1:50:05 and won by 19 seconds. This win lifts ESPRIT from 9th to 2nd in the aggregate.

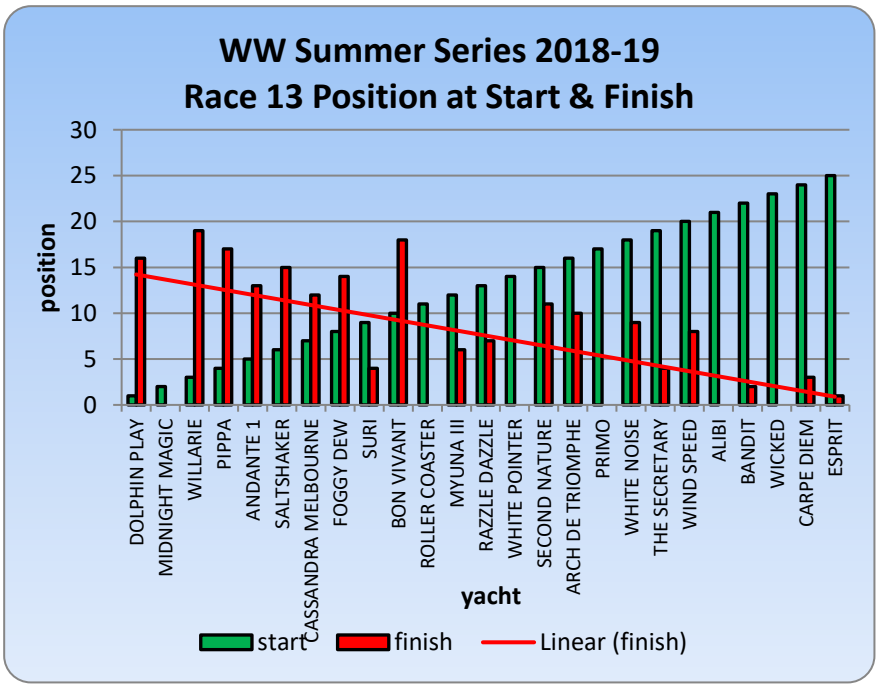
In her first race of the summer series the Beneteau First 40 BANDIT received a 49 minute handicap. She was only 7 seconds late starting from 22nd place. By the time she rounded SYC 4 she had moved up into 18th place 41 seconds behind ESPRIT. BANDIT sailed the last leg of the course in 25 minutes 41 seconds narrowing the gap between herself and the race winner. She crossed the finish line at 16:12:24 after sailing the shortened course in 1:53:24 – the third fastest elapsed time of the race.

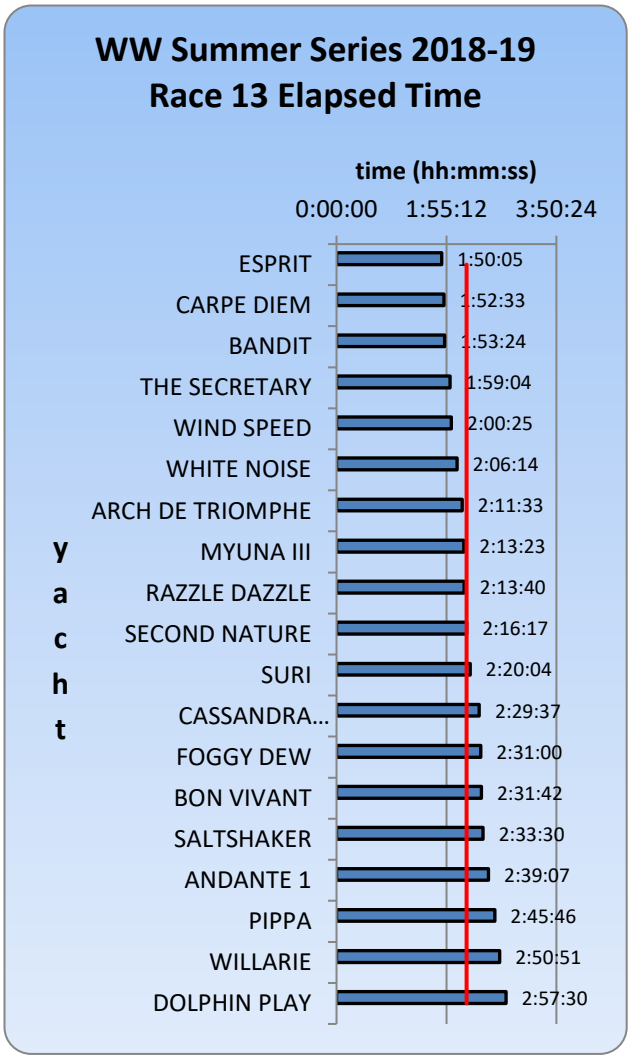
CARPE DIEM has completed 7 races in the series and this was her first podium finish. She started the series with a 54 minute handicap which has been progressively reduced 51 minutes for this race. CARPE DIEM started from 24th place 11 seconds late for her handicap. She was the 17th yacht to round SYC 4 – 37 seconds behind ESPRIT and 4 seconds ahead of BANDIT. CARPE DIEM sailed the last leg of the course in 27 minutes 6 seconds and crossed the finish line in 3rd place at 16:13:33. She had sailed the course in 1:52:33 and finished 69 seconds behind BANDIT. CARPE DIEM moves from 44th to be 36th in the aggregate.



The median start time for the race was 11 seconds. All but one yacht started within 39 seconds or less of their handicaps. ARCH DE TRIOMPHE won start of the day with a 1 second start – her best start of the series.

It wasn't a successful day for the early starters as none of the first 8 yachts to start were among the first 8 to finish. Assisted by a strengthening breeze and a long course some of the late starers recorded good results. Of the last 8 yachts to start, 5 were among the first 8 to cross the finish line. The 25 yachts started 53 minutes 56 seconds apart, they were 13 minutes 45 seconds apart at the rounding of SYC 4 and 19 yachts finished 16 minutes 46 seconds apart. There was a tie for 4th place between THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) and SURI (Rick Blanck) who both crossed the finish line at 16:14:04. They had elapsed times of 1:59:04 and 2:20:04 respectively.





For the 5th time in the series ESPRIT recorded the fastest elapsed time sailing the course 2 minutes 28 seconds faster than CARPE DIEM. For the 7th time in the series it was DOLPHIN PLAY (John Brennan) who enjoyed the best value for money. She was 4th rounding SYC 4 but finished 16th. The median elapsed time was 2:16:17 – the second longest of the series. As both ESPRIT and CARPE DIEM had previously recorded the fastest elapsed time the prize was presented to BANDIT.

The two Sydney 36's had contrasting fortunes with WINDSPEED finishing 8th & ALIBI retiring.

(Above) WHITE POINTER retired even though they rounded SYC 7. (Left) RAZZLE DAZZLE & MYUNA III in search of the elusive mark.

(Left) WHITE NOISE finished 9th whilst FOGGY DEW (right) finished 14th.

(Below left) ANDANTE 1 recorded her best result of the series when she finished 13th.

(Right) SECOND NATURE finished in 11th place and remains 7th in the aggregate for another week.

(Right) BON VIVANT finished 18th & is 3rd in the aggregate.
(Below) SALTSHAKER & SECOND NATURE about to cross paths.

Both PRIMO (left) & ROLLER COASTER (right) retired from the race. PRIMO moved up 1 place in the aggregate whilst ROLLER COASTER slips out of the top ten.

(Below) Ten yachts well to port of SYC 7 which should've been passed to starboard.

(Left) Time is of the essence has BOONARONG races to create the finish line.

(Right) Mark Windward suspects Santa started searching for SYC 7 before Xmas!

Photos
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Windward Buoy