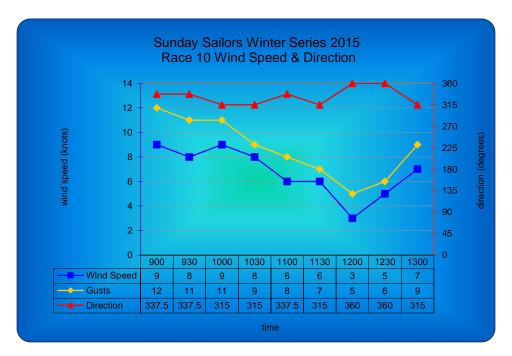
A Great Day for First Timers Sunday Sailors Race 10



At first glance there appeared to be excellent sailing conditions for race 10. However, they became increasingly difficult as the morning progressed and the breeze began to ease. The average at Fawkner Beacon for the morning was about 7 knots with a range of about 6 knots.



Of the 23 starters only 11 were able to complete the 8.4 nautical mile course 6. Among the 11 finishers were 5 yachts that elected to fly spinnakers including two of the three podium finishers. There was a tie for start of the day between IMAGINER (Chris Byrne) and WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) – both first time winners. Winning a race for the first time this series and the only yacht among the 9 early starters to complete the race was AMICUS II (Warwick Stenford). She was accompanied on the podium by PP1 (Cameron Dale) and A CUNNING PLAN (John Lechte) both sailing in their first Sunday race of the series. Not only did PPI finish 2nd but she also recorded the fastest elapsed time.

After finishing in 7th place XPRESSO (Ari Abrahams) continues in top spot in the aggregate with a slight increase to her lead. CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) remains in 2nd place whilst COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) replaces LEBROK (Theo Korbel) in 3rd place after they finished 6th and 11th respectively.



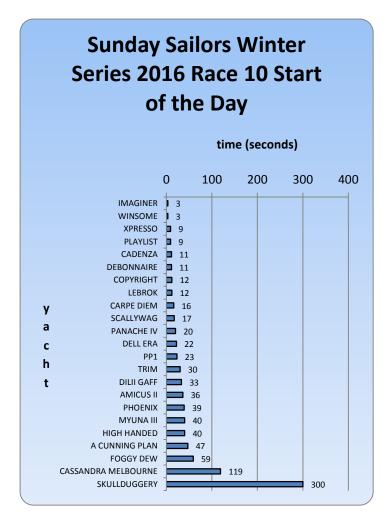
AMICUS II, the Swanson 30, has completed 6 races this series and this is her first podium finish. She started the race with a handicap of 7 minutes, down from 10 minutes at the series start. AMICUS II was 36 seconds late for her start from 5th place - 47 minutes 47 seconds ahead of PP1. By the time these two yachts arrived at the finish line AMICUSII was still 5 minutes 40 seconds ahead. She had sailed the course in 2:09:21 and finished at 11:46:21. AMICUSII was the only yacht with a handicap of less than 23 minutes to finish the race that suited some but not all yachts with higher handicaps. The win raised her 2 places in the aggregate from 11th to 9th.

This was the first Sunday race for the Melges 32 PP1. She was the last yacht to start, 26 seconds late for a 55 minutes handicap. This was 6 minutes 7 seconds later than the Beneteau 50 CARPE DIEM who she beat by 21 minutes 20 seconds. PP1 sailed the course in the fastest elapsed time of 1:27:01-8 minutes 28 seconds faster than her closest rival. She won a Wednesday Wonders Race (race 16) earlier this series by a large margin which was also contested in light winds. PP1 sailed as a visitor and is not in the aggregate.

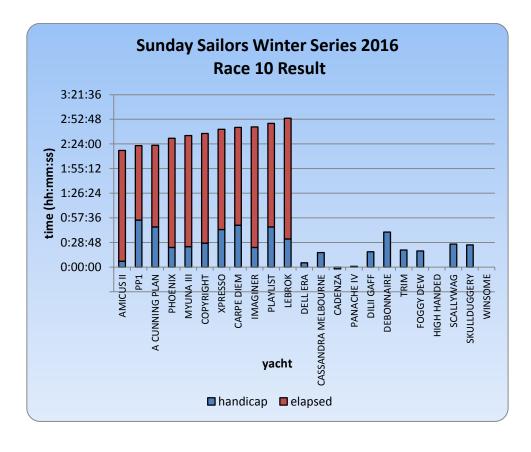




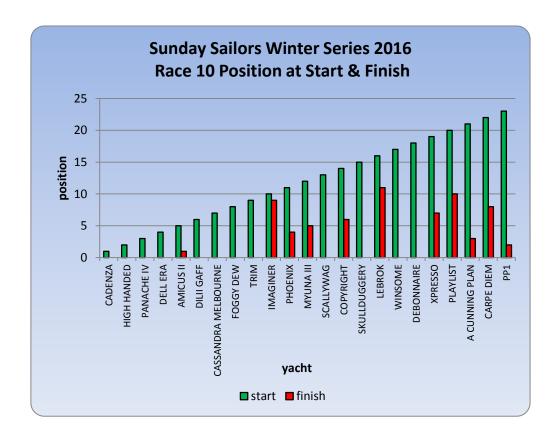
A CUNNING PLAN is listed in the aggregate and this was her first race of the series. Her 3rd place was enough to lift her from a tie for 28th to 27th place. She started from 21st place 47 seconds late for her 47 minute handicap. This put her 38 seconds behind PLAYLIST (Mathew Powell) at the start of the race. By the time she crossed the finish line at 11:52:29 A CUNNING PLAN was 31 minutes 28 seconds ahead of PLAYLIST. It seems the "CUNNING PLAN" had been successful resulting in a 3rd place and the second fastest elapsed time of the day.



This was the 5th time this series there has been a tie for Start of the Day. On this occasion it was between IMAGINER and WINSOME who both started off 3 seconds. Although IMAGINER was able to finish the race the good start by WINSOME was not enough for her to complete the course. The median start time was 22 seconds which is the second best for the series. There were only two yachts more than 60 seconds late which included SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) who started 5 seconds too soon and received the 5 minute penalty.

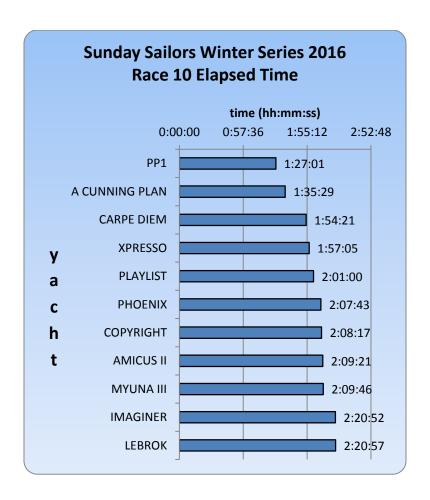


It was not a close finish to the race with the 11 yachts finishing 31 minutes 28 seconds apart. The closest finish was between PP1 and A CUNNING PLAN who finished 28 seconds apart. The biggest time difference was between A CUNNING PLAN and PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) who finished 8 minutes 14 seconds apart.



The chart above highlights how difficult a day it was for the entire fleet and particularly the early starters. Only 1 of the first 8 yachts to start the race was able to finish. There were 4 yachts of the 7 mid fleet starters to complete the race whilst 6 of the last 8 yachts to start were able to finish. Of the first 5 yachts to finish the course 1 was an early starter with 2 mid fleet and 2 late starters.

The average elapsed time was 2:01:05 but a glance at the individual times shows how different they were and the challenge facing the handicapper especially in light breezes. At one end of the scale there was an 18 minute 52 seconds difference in the elapsed times of A CUNNING PLAN and CARPE DIEM. At the other end there was an 11 minute 6 second difference between MYUNA III and IMAGINER.



The final race in the Winter Series 2016 is scheduled for Sunday 25 Sep 2016