

## Pursued & Caught! – Well Almost

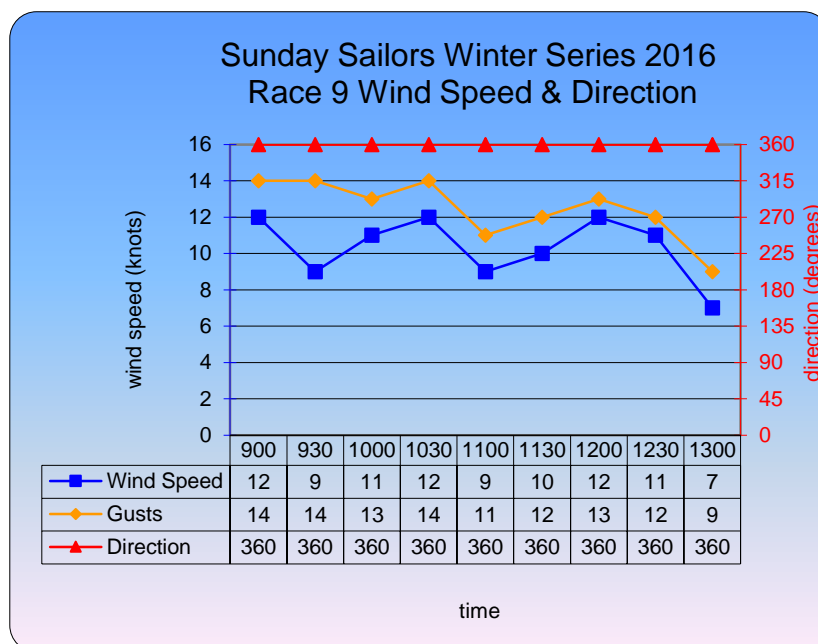
### Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2016 race 9



This became a very successful morning for yachts with handicaps in the 40 minute category. All four finished in the top five, pursuing the race winner – the Peterson 30 CAFE RACER (Doug Hartnett). In 2<sup>nd</sup> place was PLAYLIST (Mathew Powell) followed by XPRESSO (Ari Abrahams). The other two yachts with 40 minute plus handicaps were CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) who finished 4<sup>th</sup> whilst DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Of the first 5 yachts across the finish line three elected to fly a spinnaker. This proved successful as they finished 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

DEBONNAIRE won Start of the Day for the third time this series with a 5 second start. This equals her start time for race 7, but her best time was in race 3 when she had a 3 second start. PLAYLIST repeated her performance of race 8 when she sailed the course in the fastest time of 1:43:32.

The course for the race was the 7 leg 8.4 nautical mile course 6. Despite being one of the shorter courses used this series, 3 of the 21 yacht fleet were unable to finish the race. The breeze was probably less than expected with Fawkner Beacon recording a ten knot northerly for the morning. It varied between 7 and 12 knots at Fawkner but may have been less close inshore.





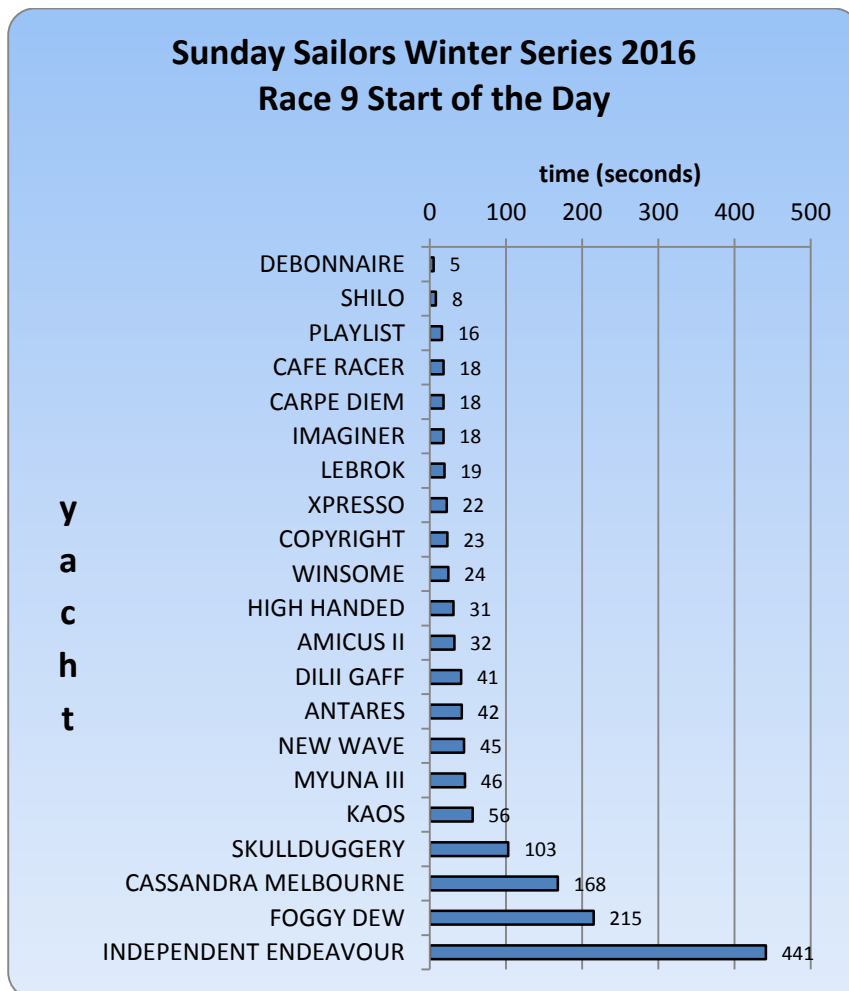
Race 8 was the first for CAFE RACER in this series. She won that race convincingly when she crossed the finish line 10 minutes 34 seconds ahead of the fleet. Her handicap for that race was 10 minutes which was increased to 18 minutes for this race. Nevertheless, CAFE RACER again had a solid win with a margin of 2 minutes 48 seconds. She started the race from 7<sup>th</sup> place 18 seconds late for her handicap and sailed the course in 2:06:54 when she crossed the finish line at 11:54:54. CAFE RACER became the second yacht in the series to win 2 races. Unfortunately for her, but fortunately for the other yachts, she is not in the aggregate.

This was the first podium finish in 5 attempts for the Beneteau 44.7 PLAYLIST. It helped lift her into 9<sup>th</sup> place in the aggregate top ten. She started the race from 20<sup>th</sup> place, 16 seconds late for her 44 minute handicap. She sailed the course in the fastest elapsed time and crossed the finish line at 11:57:42 – 31 seconds faster than her closest rival. Of the 3 podium finishers PLAYLIST was the only yacht not to fly a spinnaker. She has a total of 61 points in the aggregate 44 behind the current leader.

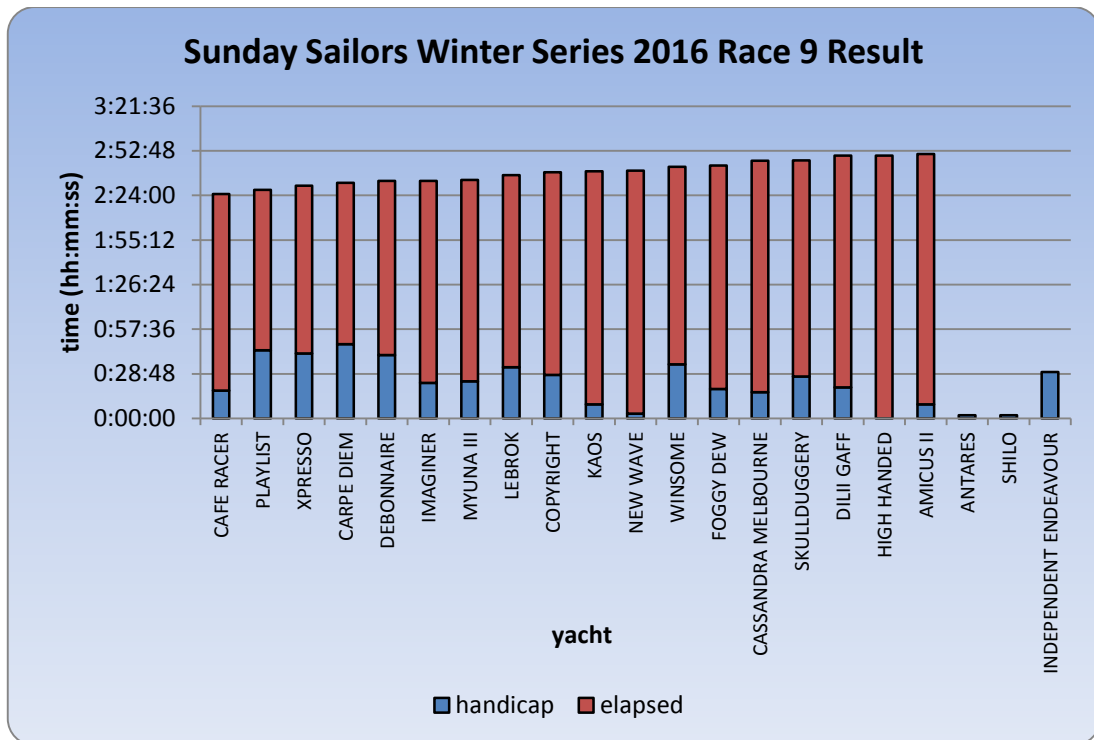


XPRESSO has occupied top position in the aggregate for 4 of the 8 races. She is one of two yachts to have completed 7 races this series but is the only yacht to have accumulated 4 podium finishes. XPRESSO began this race from 19<sup>th</sup> place 22 seconds late for her 42 minute handicap. After opting to fly a spinnaker, she sailed the course in the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest time of the day and crossed the finish line at 12:00:13 – 2 minutes 31 seconds behind PLAYLIST but 2 minutes ahead of CARPE DIEM. XPRESSO has a total of 17 points in the aggregate, 16 points ahead of CARPE DIEM her closest rival.

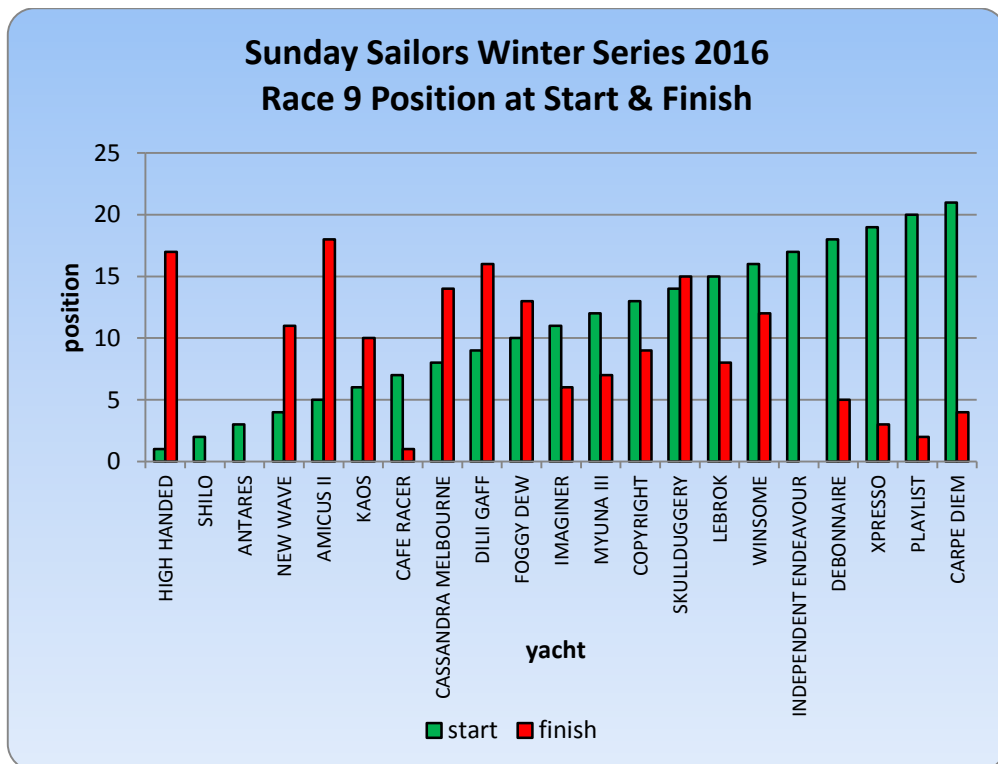
The median start time for the entire series is approximately 33 minutes whilst this race had a median start of 31 seconds. DEBONNAIRE won start of the day off 5 seconds, with SHILO (Doug Jackson) second best off 8 seconds. These were the only two yachts to record starts of less than 10 seconds. There were 3 yachts with starts over 1 minute late.



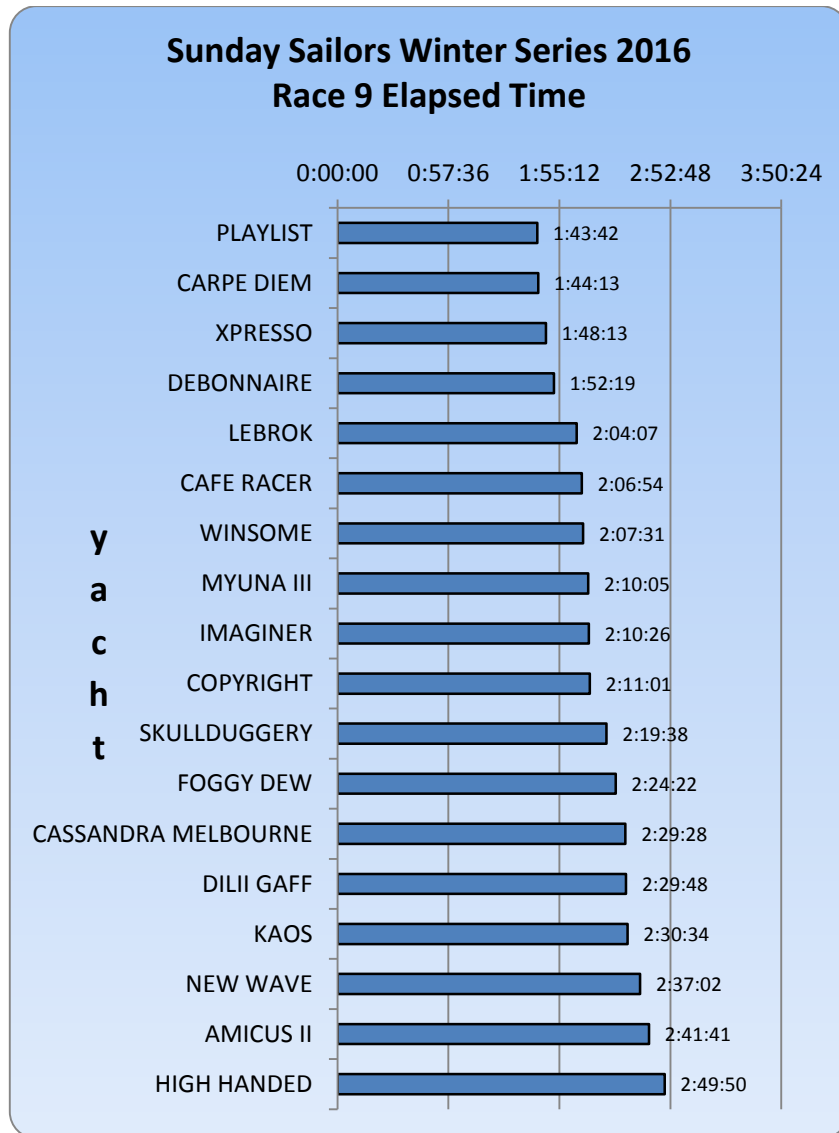
The closest finish in the race was for 16<sup>th</sup> place between DILII GAFF (Paul Macbain) and HIGH HANDED (Guy Dwyer). After starting 20 minutes 10 seconds apart DILII GAFF finished the race 2 seconds ahead. Twenty one yachts started the race 47 minutes 47 seconds apart but only 18 finished within the time limit. So far there has been a total of 169 starts this series but only 124 finishes (73%). That is, 45 yachts have recorded a DNF. On some occasions there hasn't been sufficient breeze for some yachts in the fleet.



It was a tough day for the early starters. Of the first half of the fleet to start the race only 1 finished in the first 5; two were the last two yachts to finish while another two yachts failed to finish in time.



Fourteen of the eighteen finishers had a sail of over 2 hours whilst there was a gap of 1:06:08 between the fastest and the slowest. IMAGINER and MYUNA III started from 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> place 1 minute 28 seconds apart. They finished in positions 6 and 7 with only 21 seconds separating their elapsed times.



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