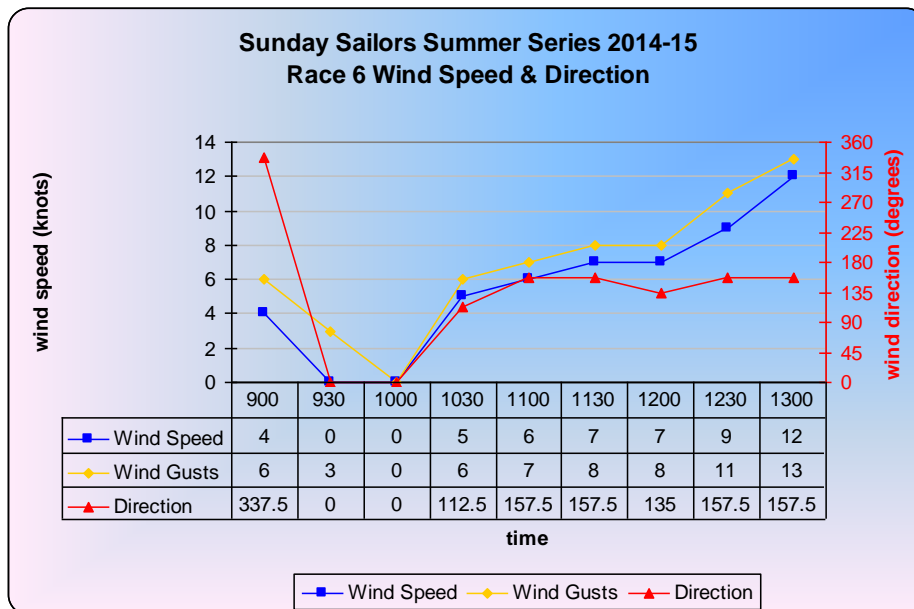


Sunday Sailors Race 6 A Good Day for Spinnakers After a Slow Start.



The forecast for Port Philip was for “North to northeasterly around 10 knots tending southerly in the afternoon”. The change to southerly arrived earlier than forecast, but a little late for the early starters in race 5. Before the race start the breeze had moved from the north towards the south but by race start Fawkner Beacon was recording calm conditions.



As a result the earlier starters had difficulty making the start line with starts above 5 minutes not uncommon. When the breeze did arrive it created something approaching a mass start causing a kind of “traffic jam” around number 7. Fortunately conditions remained so light there was no serious damage but a few harsh words. Although the breeze continued to increase for the duration of the race it did not exceed 10 knots until 1230 after the course had been wisely cancelled allowing all participants to complete the race.

It was a good day for spinnakers with 3 of the 4 yachts choosing to fly them being first across the finish line. However, after applying the 3 minute spinnaker adjustment only 2 of them made it on to the podium.



First across the finish line flying the very distinctive red kite was DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez). Even though DEBONNAIRE has a good lead of 7 points in the aggregate this was her first win and 3rd podium finish of the series. She was fortunate in starting after the change in wind direction and was underway only 37 seconds late for a 39 minute handicap from 22nd place. She crossed the line in 1st place at 11:20:40 after sailing the course in the 3rd fastest time of the race at 1:11:40. DEBONNAIRE has completed all 6 races this series and leads the aggregate with a total of 18 points.

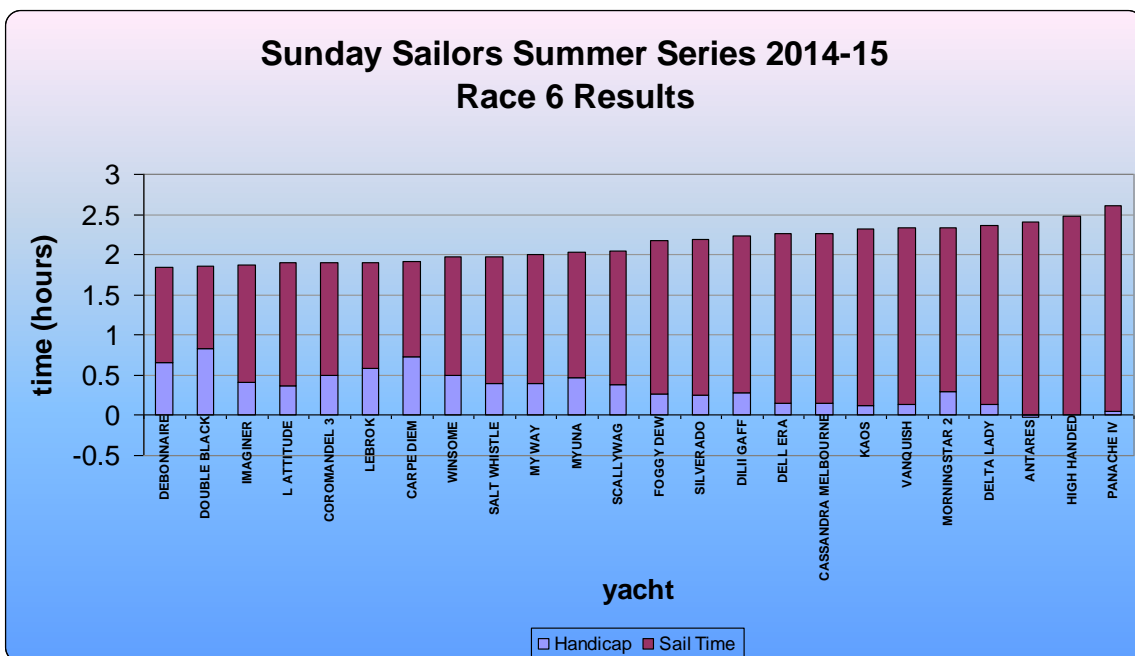
Maintaining her record of a podium finish in every race was DOUBLE BLACK (Rob Pitts). After winning races 2 and 4 her handicap rose from 40 to 50 minutes. She had a good start from last place only 28 seconds late for her handicap and flying her spinnaker to finish 2nd in race 6. She sailed the course in 1:01:22, 9 minutes 11 seconds faster than her nearest rival. She crossed the finish line at 11:21:22 only 42 seconds behind DEBONNAIRE. DOUBLE BLACK has sailed 3 races and is 10th in the aggregate on 58 points.



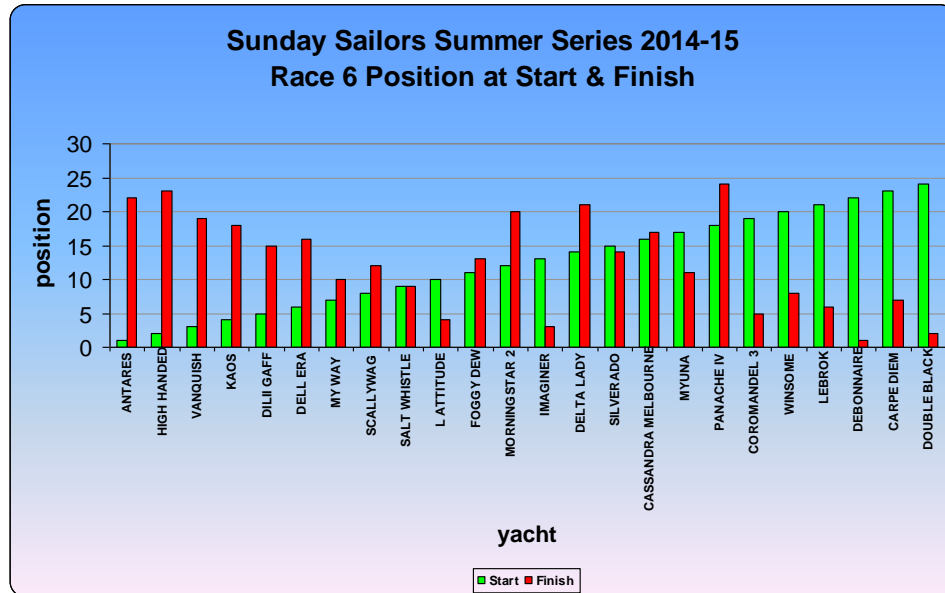


Ensuring that spinnakers didn't have all the podium finishes was IMAGINER (Chris Byrne). She edged out CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) who was 3rd across the finish but had to have a 3 minute adjustment for flying a spinnaker. IMAGINER was the 13th starter, 24 seconds late for her 25 minute handicap. Despite being one of the smaller yachts in the fleet she sailed the 6th fastest time of the day completing the shortened course in 1:27:17. She crossed the finish line at 11:22:17. IMAGINER has completed 3 races with this being her 1st podium finish. She is 11th in the aggregate on 53 points.

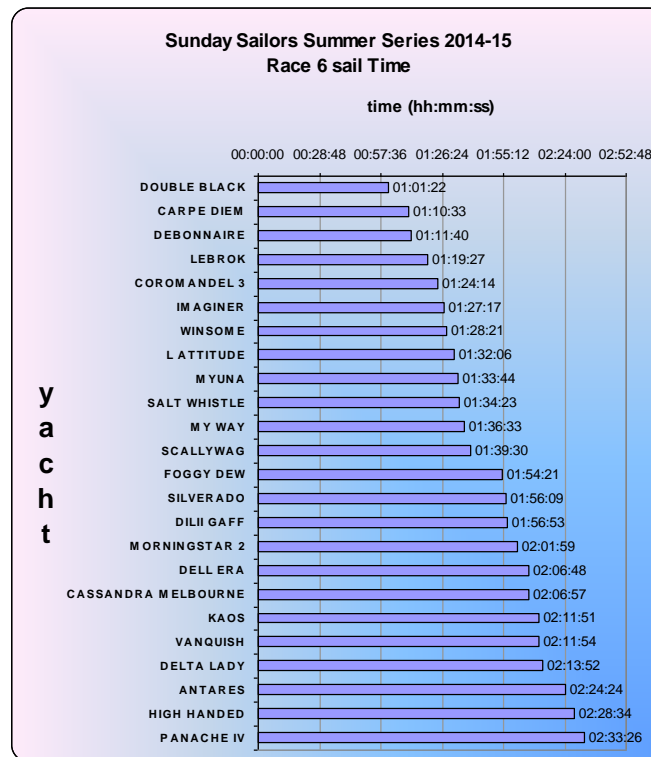
The difference between the lowest and highest handicaps for this race was 51 minutes but the light breezes during the early stages of the race created difficulties starting. This reduced the actual difference in start times to 45 minutes 51 seconds. The 24 yacht fleet finished 45 minutes 46 seconds apart.



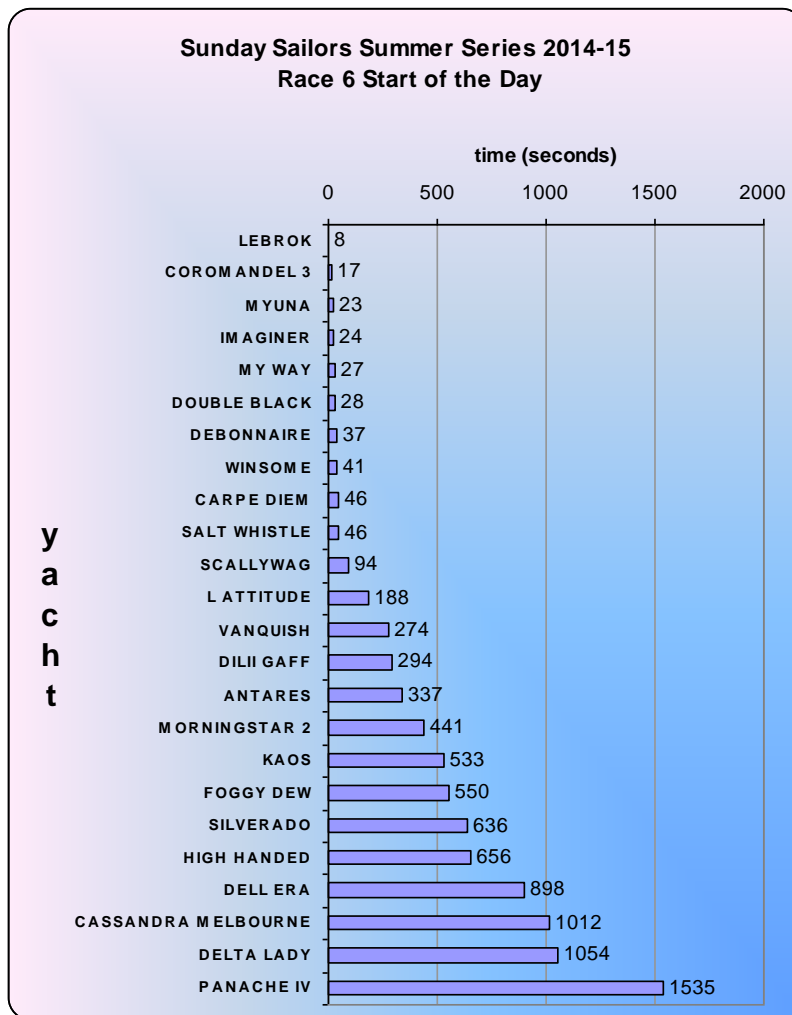
The conditions favoured the later starters with the first 5 positions being filled by yachts starting towards the back of the fleet. None of the first nine yachts to start the race were able to improve upon their start positions.



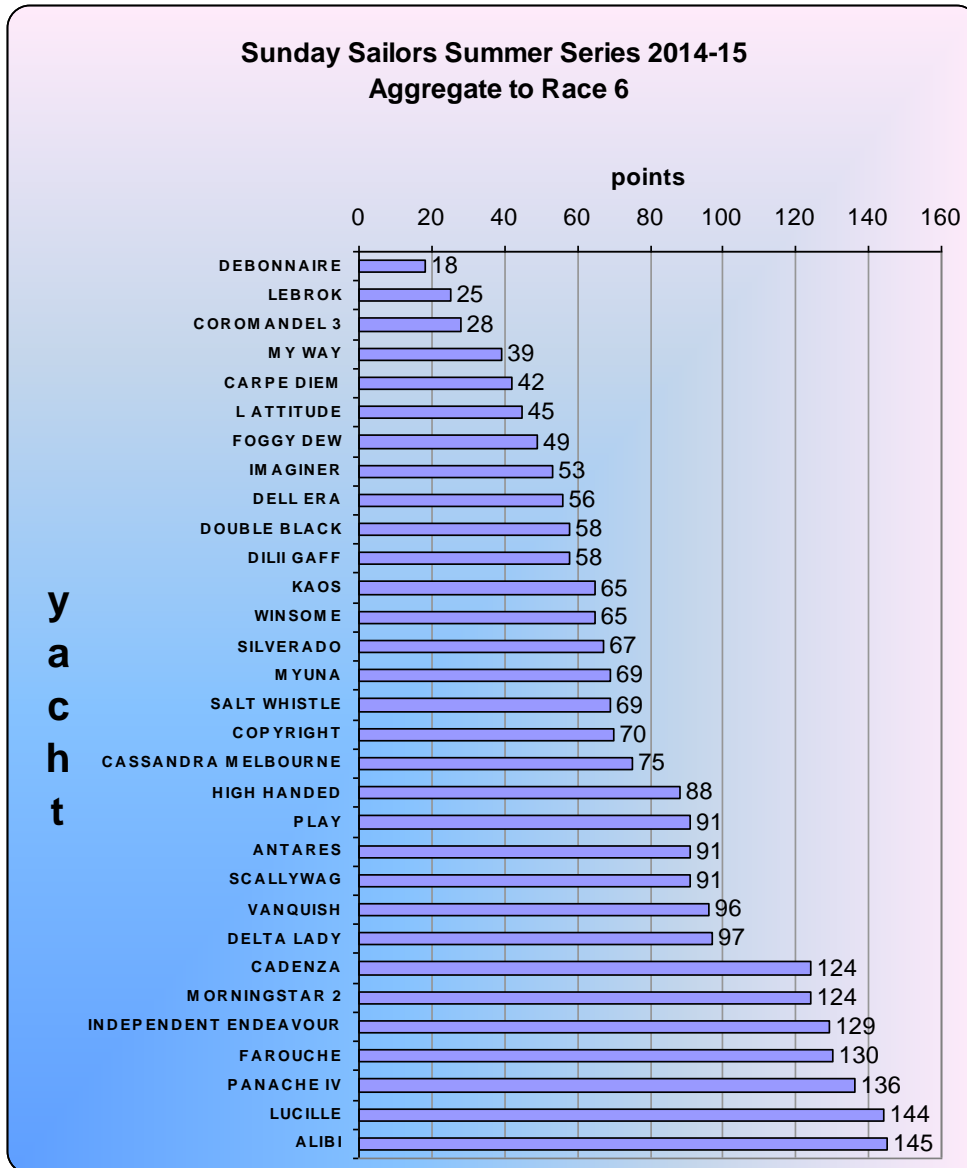
There was 1:32:04 separating the fastest from the slowest sail time with an average of 1:478:46.



Insufficient breeze at the start had a big impact on the race. Only 10 of the 24 yachts had start times below 60 seconds whilst a start by PANACHE IV (Egils E Stokans) 1,535 seconds is probably a record for any SYC pursuit race. It was LEBROK (Theo Korbel) who recorded the start of the day with 8 seconds. Despite the slow start all the fleet completed the course in what became very pleasant sailing conditions.



Race 6 is almost the half way point of the 13 race series with the aggregate taking shape. Although it has been necessary to shorten 3 of the 6 races due to light conditions none have been abandoned. DEBONNAIRE is the only yacht to have completed all 6, with 9 yachts completing 5 races. DEBONNAIRE leads the aggregate on 18 points followed by LEBROK on 25 with COROMANDEL 3 on 28 points. (Graph on next page).



Race 7 is scheduled for 4 Jan 2015.

