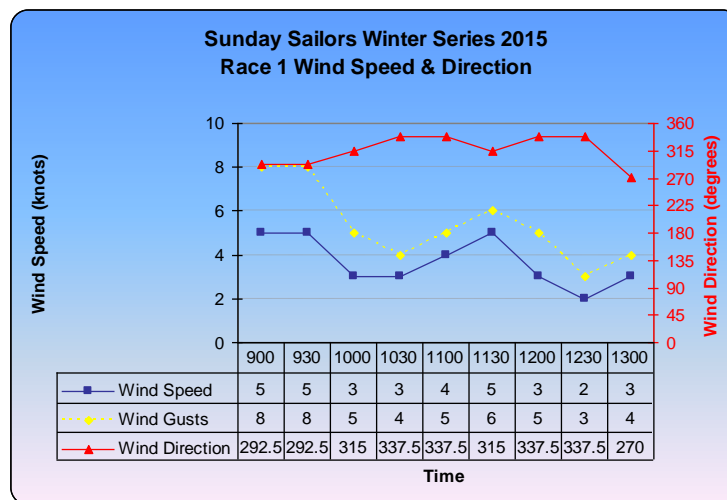


## Sunday Sailors Winter Series Race 1 They're Off And Racing

A fleet of 19 yachts were out on the water to contest the first race of the 11 race winter series for 2015. There was plenty of variety in the fleet with yachts 20+ feet long, 30+ feet, 40+ feet, 50+ feet and one 60+ feet long. The fleet included an elegant Fred Parker design yacht, CHRISTELA (Greg Clarke) a new entrant to Sunday sailors.



Four yachts added a dash of colour to the race by choosing to fly spinnakers. This was a successful strategy with all four finishing in the top half of the fleet, two with podium finishes. The sun shone occasionally, the seas were flat but the main ingredient for sailing – the breeze – was very reluctant to make much of an appearance. Although the forecast was for a 10-15 knot breeze, decreasing to 10 knots in the middle of the day, the speed at Fawkner Beacon was not more than 5 knots during the morning with gusts of 8 knots.



The breeze averaged less than 4 knots for the duration of the race with 3 yachts unable to complete the shortened course within the 3 hour time limit. In general, yachts with higher handicaps found it more difficult to start as the breeze eased and the fleet started 45 minutes 51 seconds apart and finished 42 minutes 32 seconds apart.



First across the finish line in the first race of the series was the 35 foot X Yacht XPRESSO (D&A Abrahams). With a handicap of 33 minutes XPRESSO started 52 seconds late from 16<sup>th</sup> place. The blue and white spinnaker proved to be a great benefit as she sailed along the second leg of the course from number 3 to number 5 (about 40% of the total shortened course length). It was on the last leg of the race that EXPRESSO finally made it to the front of the fleet and crossed the finish line at 11:47:06 after sailing the course in 1:44:06. A great start to the series for EXPRESSO.



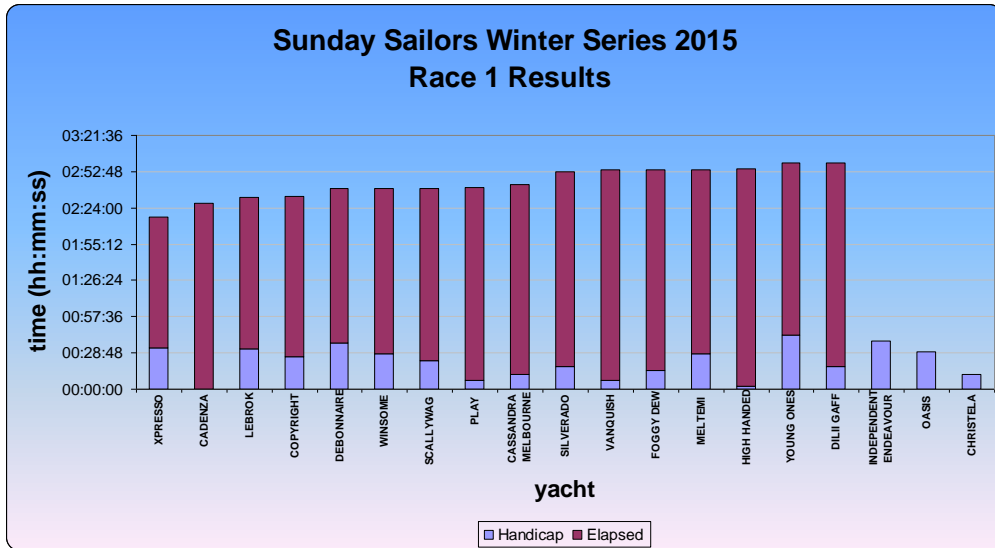
Getting the winter series underway was the Sonata 7 CADENZA (Kenneth Foxworthy). She was first to start the race 4 seconds late for her 0 handicap, good enough to win Start of the Day. Flying a spinnaker on the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the course extended her lead over the rest of the fleet and she was first to round number 5. CADENZA crossed the finish line in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at 11:57:26 – 10 minutes 20 seconds behind the winner. She sailed the shortened course 62 in 2:27:26. It must have been music to the ears of the skipper and crew of CADENZA collecting not only Start of the day but also 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the first race of the series.



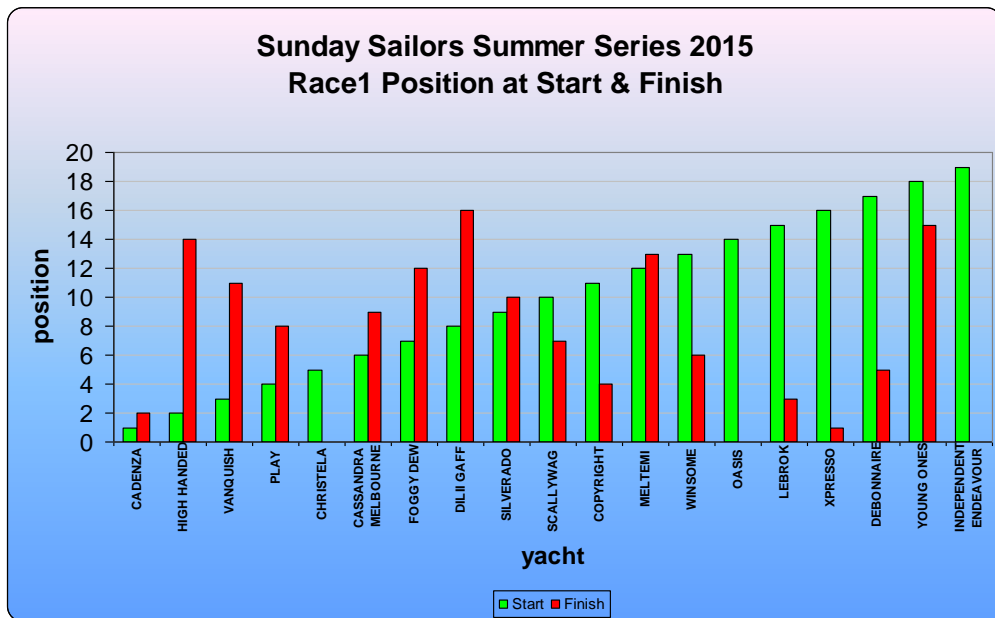
After finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2014-15 summer series and collecting the Noelle Coram Trophy, the Beneteau 367 LEBROK (Theo Korbel) had a good start to the winter series with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place. LEBROK was the only podium finisher not to fly a spinnaker in this race. She started from 15<sup>th</sup> place 32 seconds late for her 32 minute handicap. After sailing for 2:00:38 and gaining 12 places she crossed the finish line at 12:02:58 to continue the good form of last series.

There were some big gaps between the finishing times of a number of yachts in this race. Over 10 minutes separated XPRESSO from CADENZA and a further 5

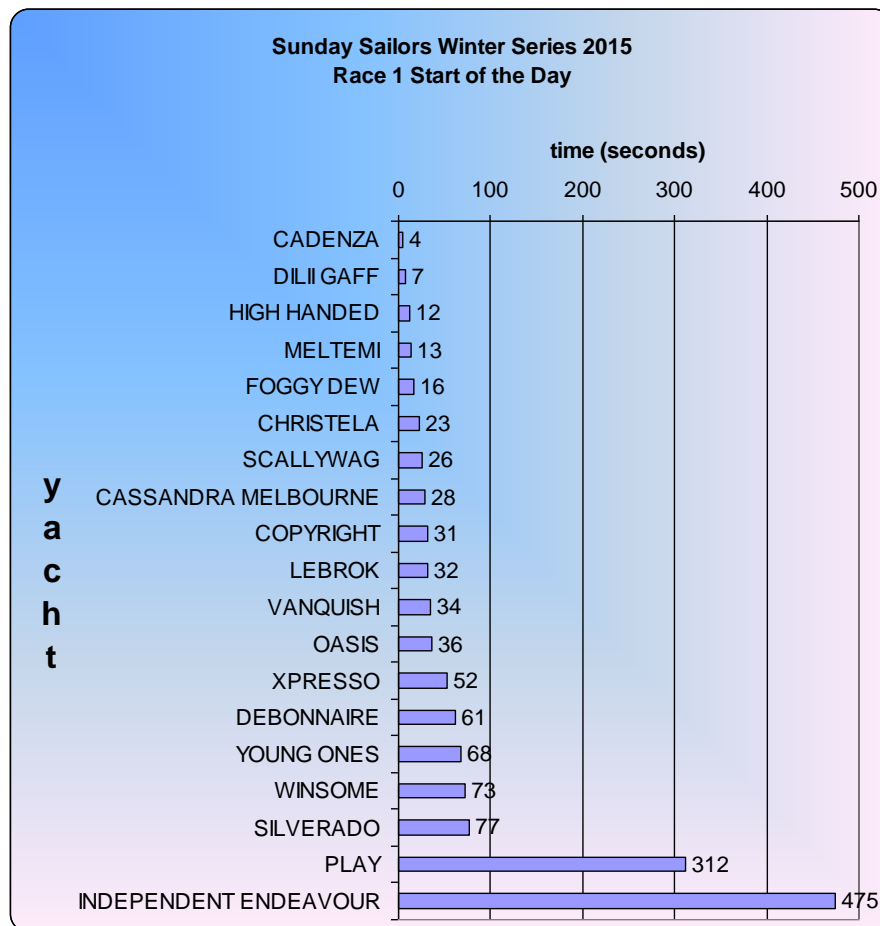
minutes 12 seconds separated CADENZA from LEBROK. Further down the list a gap of 3 minutes 36 seconds separated COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison-Jack) from DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) with 10 minutes 21 seconds separating CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) from SILVERADO (John Barbieri).



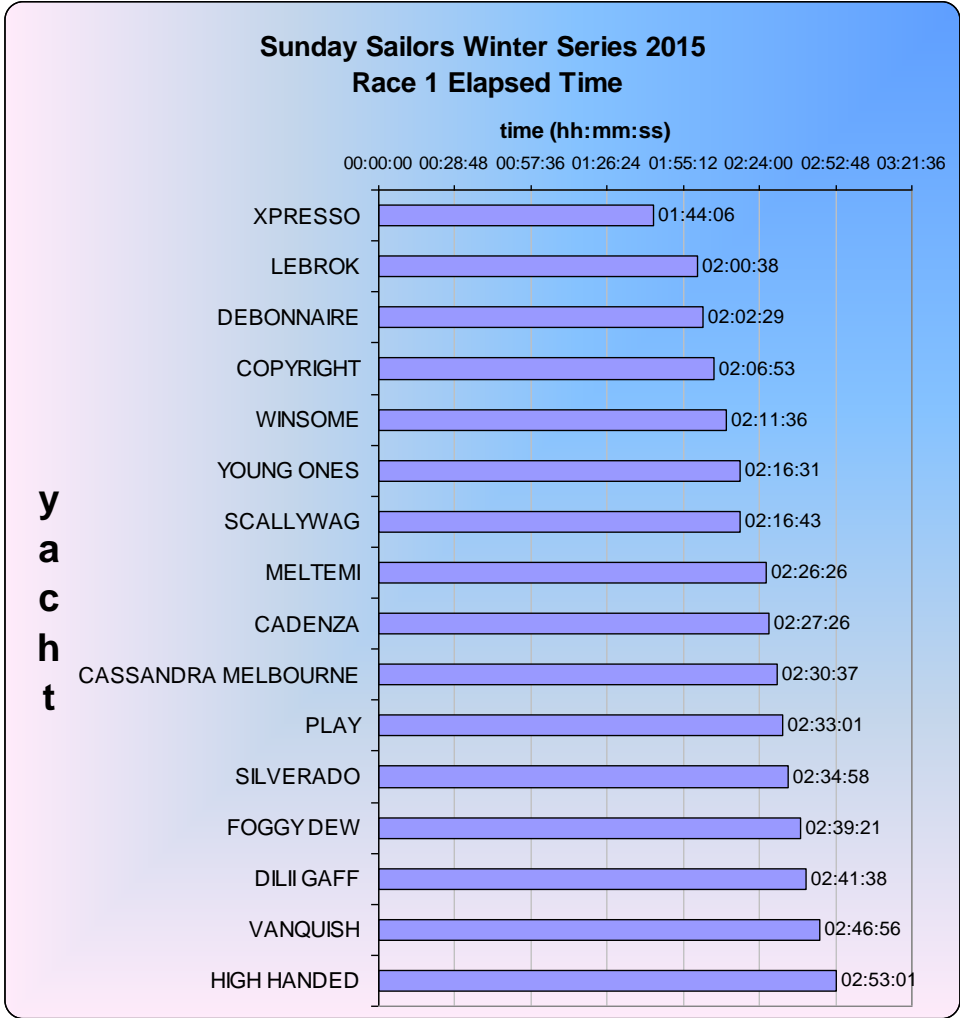
Of the first 6 yachts to start the race, 1 finished amongst the early finishers 3 amongst the mid fleet and 1 amongst the late finisher with one yacht not finishing. The mid fleet finishers comprised 2 early starters, 4 from mid fleet and 1 late starter. Of the last 6 yachts to start the race, 3 were amongst the early finisher and 1 amongst the late finishers. Two late starters did not finish the race.



CADENZA won Start of the Day with DILII GAFF (Paul MacBain) having the next best start time and HIGH HANDED (Guy Dwyer) the third best. Six yachts, almost a third of the fleet, were more than a minute late for their respective starts and but this would have made a difference to the finishing position of only 2 of the yachts.



With an average sail time of 2:23:16 this was a long sail around a short course. The fastest time was recorded by XPRESSO who sailed the course in 1:44:06 and the only yacht to complete the race in less than 2 hours. She was 16 minutes 32 seconds faster than LEBROK, her closest rival. Enjoying the longest sail of the opening race was HIGH HANDED that went around the course in 2:53:01



The 2<sup>nd</sup> race in the winter series is scheduled for 17 May 2015.

