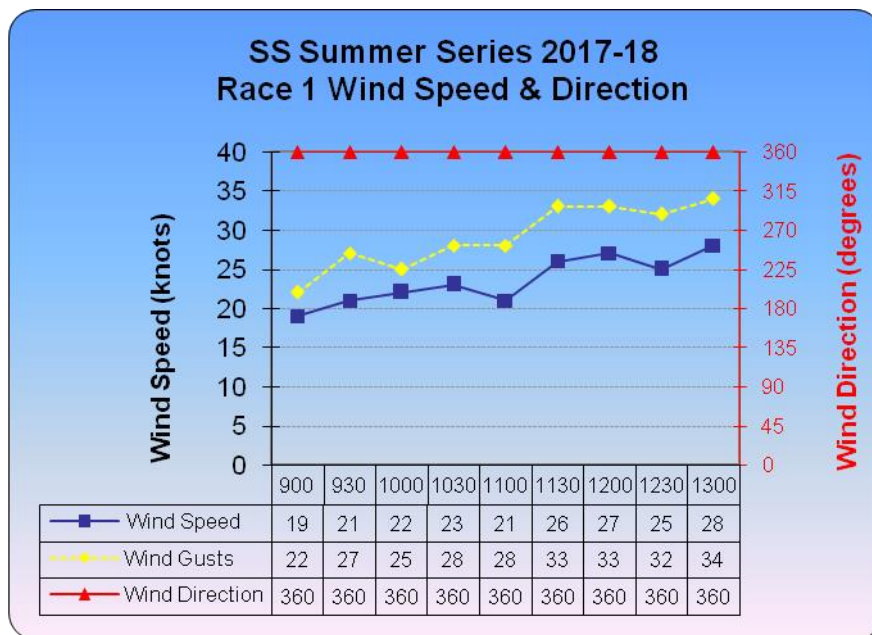


Summer Series Starts Right on Schedule Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2017-18 Race 1



After an absence of 7 weeks, Sunday Sailors were back on the water for the start of the 2017-18 summer series. A strong wind warning had been issued for Sunday but the stronger winds were not expected until late morning/early afternoon. This warning was not enough to deter 12 yachts contesting the first race of the new series in a warm northerly. The race was around course 19 which was shortened in an effort to avoid the “worst” of the weather. The shortened course was about half the length of the course 19 therefore the late starters had only limited opportunity to pursue and catch the rest of the fleet.



Observations at Fawkner Beacon showed the breeze averaged about 24 knots for the morning.

The first race of the series was won by GISELLE (Robert Freeman) with ENDURANCE (Eric Clarke) 2nd and SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) in 3rd place. The northerly breeze made the fleet hesitant to start but WINSOME won start of the day 14 seconds late for her 38 minute handicap. The fastest elapsed time was recorded by BLUE TACK who sailed the course 11 seconds faster than THE SECRETARY (George Shaw).



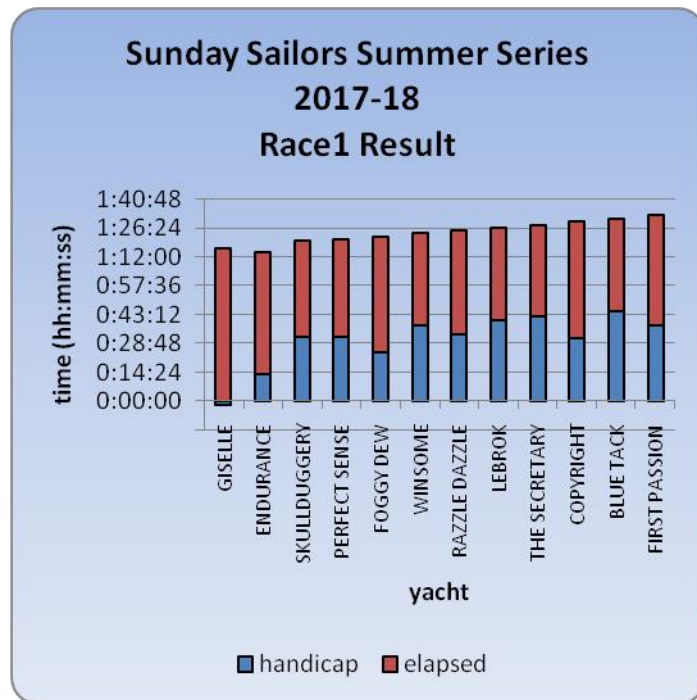
Being the first to start, it was GISELLE that got the series underway. She led the fleet for the race and became the first winner of the series. It is probably not going to be her best start of the series being 3 minutes 15 seconds for her - 2 minute handicap. She started 14 minutes 28 seconds ahead of the rest of the fleet which, by the end of the race, were gaining ground. GISELLE sailed the course in 1:16:20 and crossed the finish line at 10:44:20. This was only 20 seconds ahead of ENDURANCE. Nevertheless, this was the first win for GISELLE in Sunday Sailors.

By starting 2 minutes 14 seconds late, ENDURANCE did not make the best of her 13 minute handicap. However, she sailed the shortened course very well in a time of 1:01:40. She was the second yacht to start the race and maintained her position through to the finish line. ENDURANCE was second across the finish line at 10:44:40 – 5 minutes 43 seconds ahead of SKULLDUGGERY.

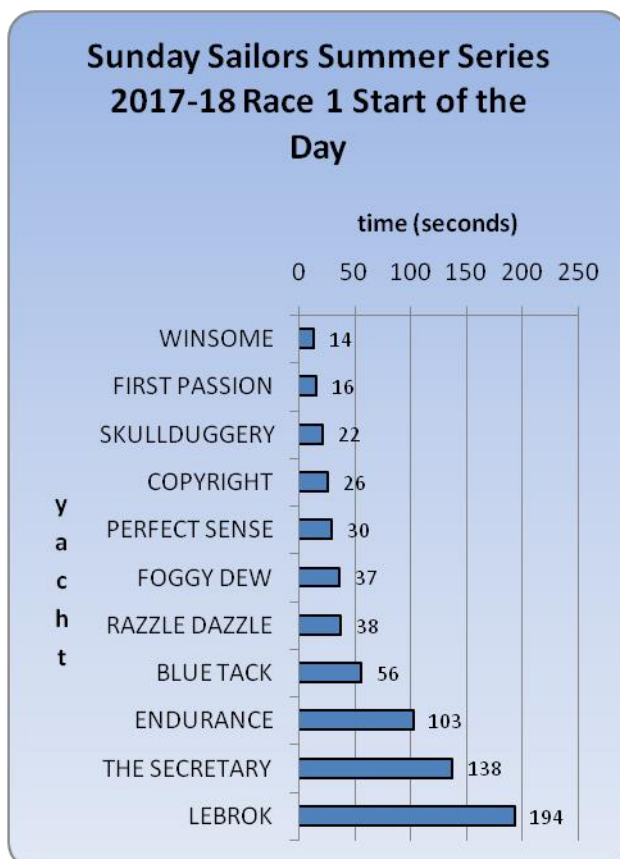


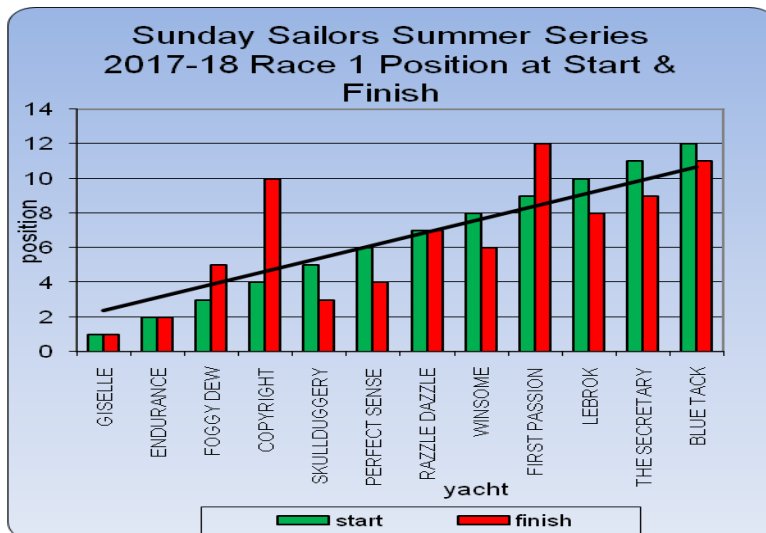
SKULLDUGGERY finished the 2017 Winter Series in third place and made a very determined start to this series. She was the 5th yacht to start the race 22 seconds late for her 32 minute handicap. She completed the shortened course in 48 minutes 23 seconds crossing the finish line at 10:50:23. SKULLDUGGERY started the race a mere 8 seconds ahead of PERFECT SENSE (Peter Sutton). They were closely matched throughout the race finishing only 12 seconds apart.

Despite the course being shortened the fleet came closer together. They started 44 minutes 41 seconds apart and finished 18 minutes 52 seconds apart. The closest finish was the 12 seconds that separated SKULLDUGGERY from PERFECT SENSE.



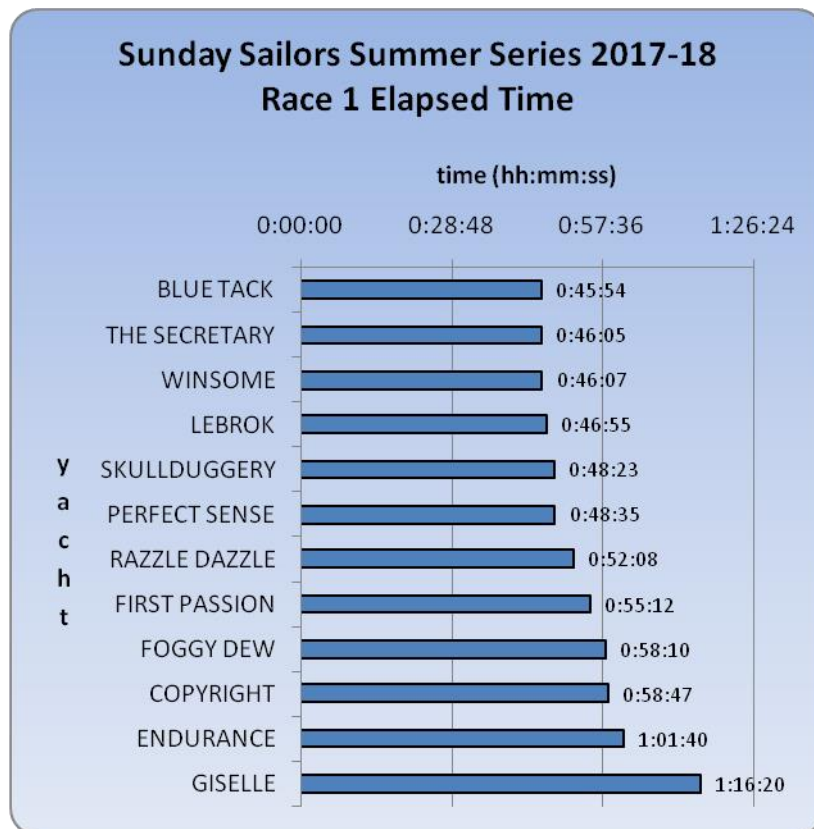
WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) recorded the best start with a time of 14 seconds. Achieving a good start in a northerly seems more difficult than in a southerly breeze. The median start time for this race was about 37 seconds.





There was relatively little positional change throughout the race. Most yachts finished close to their start positions. The best improvement in the race was 2 places gained by 5 yachts.

With an average elapsed time 53 minutes 41 seconds this was probably the shortest race in the history of Sunday Sailors. (The average elapsed time for the 2017 Winter Series was 1:54:17). BLUE TACK recorded the fastest time of 45 minutes 54 seconds with THE SECRETARY two seconds faster than WINSOME.



There are 13 races scheduled for this summer series which runs until 8 April 2018. As well as prizes for first, second and third in each race there is the Sunday Plate and Noelle Coram Trophy to be won.

NEXT SCHEDULED RACE 22 Oct 2017

