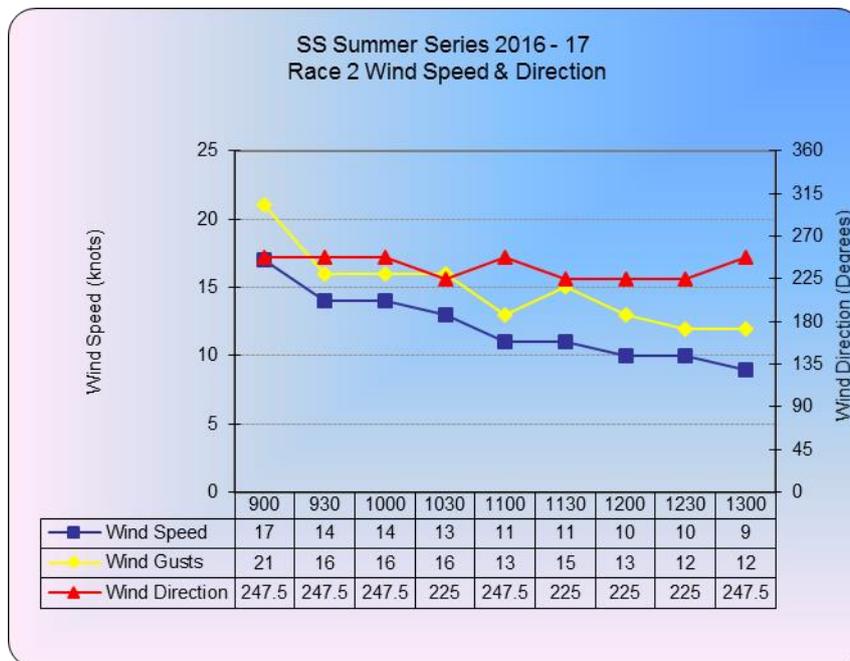


## Early Starters Pursued but Hard to Catch Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2017-18 Race 2



The dull and overcast conditions of the early morning were already clearing in time for the start of the race. Although the breeze remained in the direction of west south west to south west, observations at Fawcner Beacon showed it eased from around 15 to 10 knots as the morning progressed. This helped make the early starters even more difficult to catch with the first 5 starters all finishing in the top 6.



Sixteen yachts contested the race around the 7 leg, 8.7 nautical mile course 1, which offered the chance to fly spinnakers on 2 legs. First across the finish line was KAOS (Dawn Cleaver) who was the 2<sup>nd</sup> yacht to start. ANTARES (G Stewart & D Pearce) was first to start; won Start of the Day, and finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place was ENDURANCE (Eric Clark). ENDURANCE started from 5<sup>th</sup> place and became the first yacht to record two podium finishes in the series.

With all 16 yachts starting within 21 seconds or less of their respective handicaps this was one of the better starts for many a race. With the aid of a red spinnaker BLUE TACK (Andy Lynch) sailed the course in the fastest time of 1:26:05. She also recorded the fastest time in the first race.



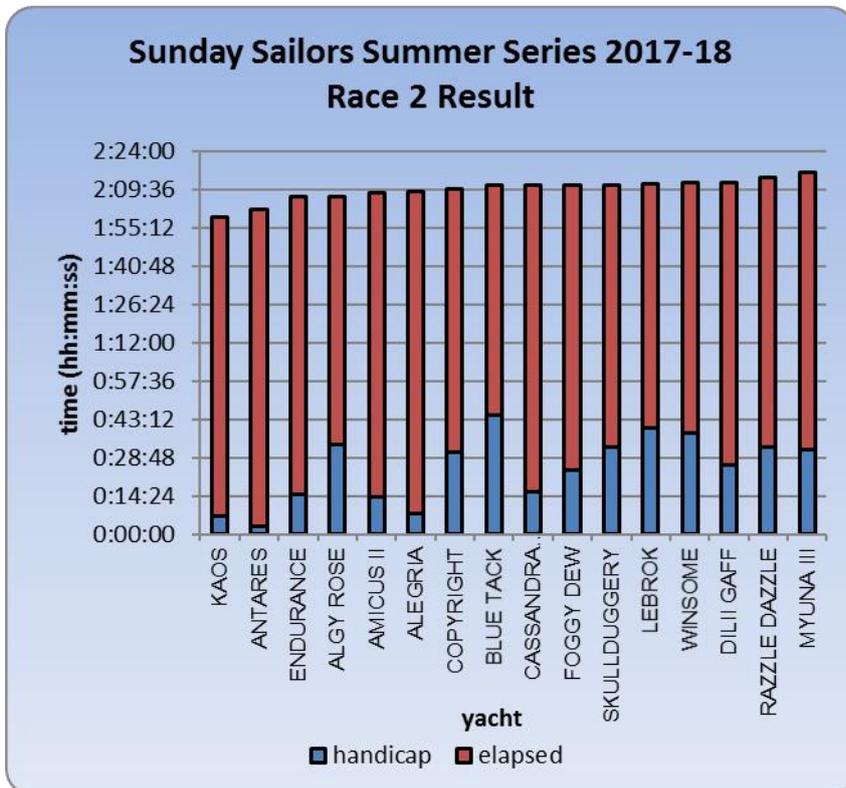
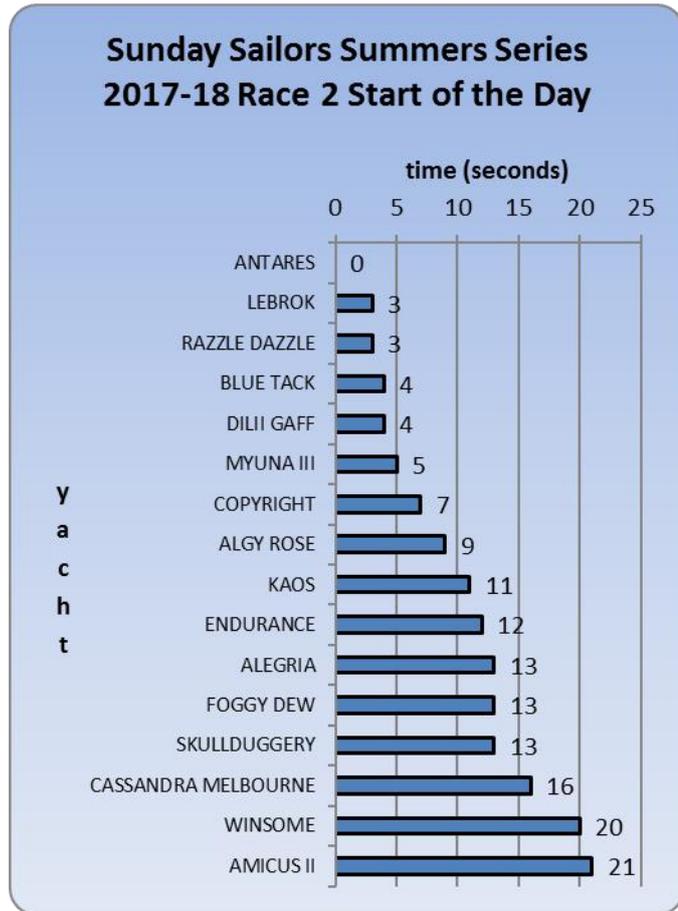
This was the first race of the series for KAOS who hadn't raced on Sunday since race 7 of the winter series. She started this race from 2<sup>nd</sup> place 11 seconds late for her 7 minute handicap and 4 minutes 11 seconds behind the leader. She was still in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the first rounding of number 4 but took the lead in the second part of the race. She crossed the finish line at 11:29:27 – 2 minutes 38 seconds ahead of ANTARES in second place. KAOS sailed the course in 1:52:27 the 12<sup>th</sup> fastest time of the race. This win lifts KAOS from 13<sup>th</sup> into 9<sup>th</sup> in the series aggregate.

This was also the first race of the series for ANTARES. Her previous Sunday race was race 2 of the winter series. She had the perfect start for this series being first across the start line right on her handicap of 3 seconds. This earned her Start of the day. She sailed the course in 1:59:05 after crossing the finish line in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at 11:32:05. Although the rest of the fleet was closing in, she was able to maintain a healthy lead at the finish line of 4 minutes 40 seconds. This 2<sup>nd</sup> place puts ANTARES in 10<sup>th</sup> place in the series aggregate.



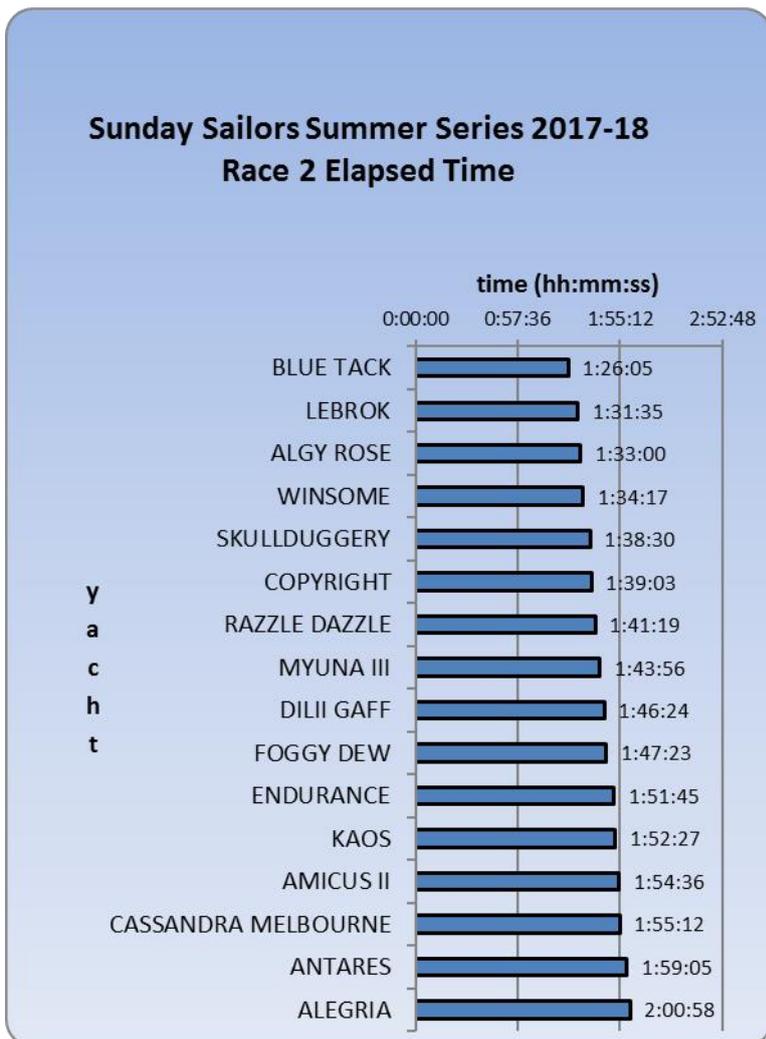
This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> race in the series for ENDURANCE and her 2<sup>nd</sup> podium finish. She started from 5<sup>th</sup> place 12 seconds late for her 15 minute handicap. This was 8 minutes and 1 second behind the race winner. ENDURANCE was able to sail the course in 1:51:45 and narrow the gap to 7 minutes 18 seconds at the finish line between her and the race winner. ENDURANCE crossed the finish line at 11:36:45 only 15 seconds ahead of ALGY ROSE (Nigel Rose) in 4<sup>th</sup> place. After race 1 ENDURANCE was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the aggregate but a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in this race puts her into top spot.

With a median start time of 10 seconds this is one of the better starts in the history of Sunday Sailors. Almost half the fleet (7 yachts) had start times of 9 seconds or better. ANTARES had the first perfect start of the series. Twenty one seconds was the latest start time.



The 16 yacht fleet started 42 minutes and 4 seconds apart but this gap was down to 16 minutes 29 seconds at the finish line. The closest finish was for 11<sup>th</sup> place with SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) (spinnaker) finishing 5 seconds ahead of LEBROK (Theo Korbel).

As previously mentioned, it was difficult for the late starters to catch those that started earlier. Five of the 8 early starters finished among the 8 early finishers whilst only 3 of the late starters finished among the first 8.



The average finish time for the race was 11:39:40 with an average elapsed time of 1:44:43. This equates to an apparent yacht speed of 5.03 knots compared to an average of 5.49 knots for race 1. There was a range of 34 minutes 53 seconds between the fastest and slowest elapsed times.

Not all spinnakers  
behave themselves all  
the time.

SKULLDUGGERY (black  
spinnaker) started 12<sup>th</sup>  
and finished 11<sup>th</sup>.



BLUE TACK (red spinnaker) did not  
want to reveal their spinnaker handling  
techniques so remained in hiding  
whilst preparing a drop.

**Many thanks go to Ian Whitbred for the photographs.**

**Race 3 is scheduled for 12 Nov 2017**

*Windward  
Buoy*