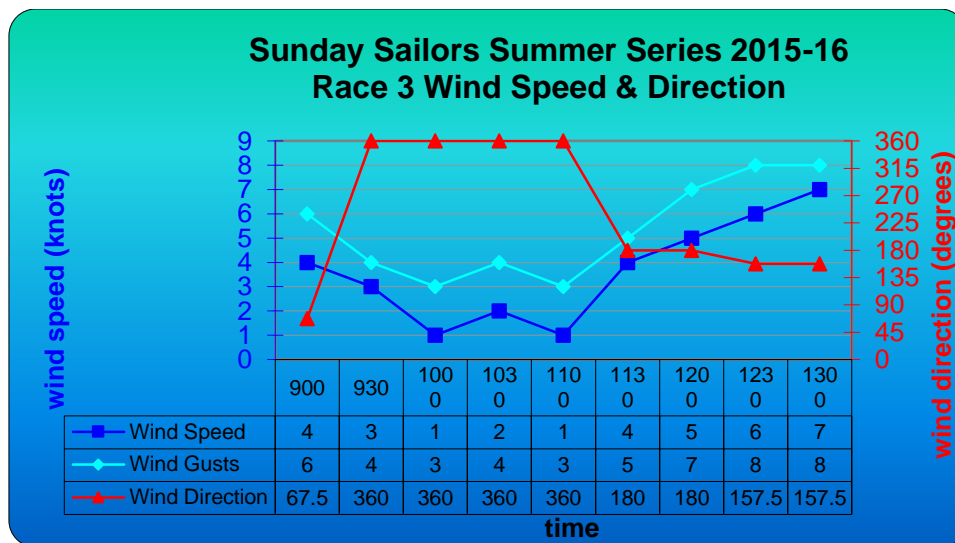


A Good day for a Spinnaker

Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2015-16 Race 3



It was a magnificent day for a sail, warm, with blue skies and flat seas. Unfortunately, the breeze was as forecast – light and variable – and didn't become established until later in the morning. Some areas of the bay were like glass whilst others had a ripple effect caused by the breeze. Searching and finding the most breeze was always going to be advantageous. Observations at Fawkner Beacon indicated the breeze eased from the start of the race until about 1100 when it shifted from around the north to the south and gradually increased. It averaged a little under 4 knots for the morning. How well these Fawkner Beacon observations represented the variable conditions faced by the 22 yacht fleet further inshore is questionable.



The light breeze could have affected the start times with only 3 yachts starting within 10 seconds or less of their handicaps. The course selected for the race was relatively short, the 7 leg 8.1 nautical mile course 32, but even this had to be shortened to allow all the yachts to finish. The final yacht did make it in time with 7 minutes 20 seconds to spare. Two of the three podium finishers flew a spinnaker indicating this choice could have been an advantage.



It was the S&S Defiance 30, KAOS (Dawn Cleaver) that won the race by a margin of 28 seconds. This was her first podium finish of the series in three races. KAOS was the 6th yacht to start the race 48 seconds late for a 4 minute handicap - her lowest of the series. She sailed the shortened course in 2:18:22 and was first across the finish line at 11:52:22. KAOS is in 6th place in the aggregate with a total of 27.5 points.

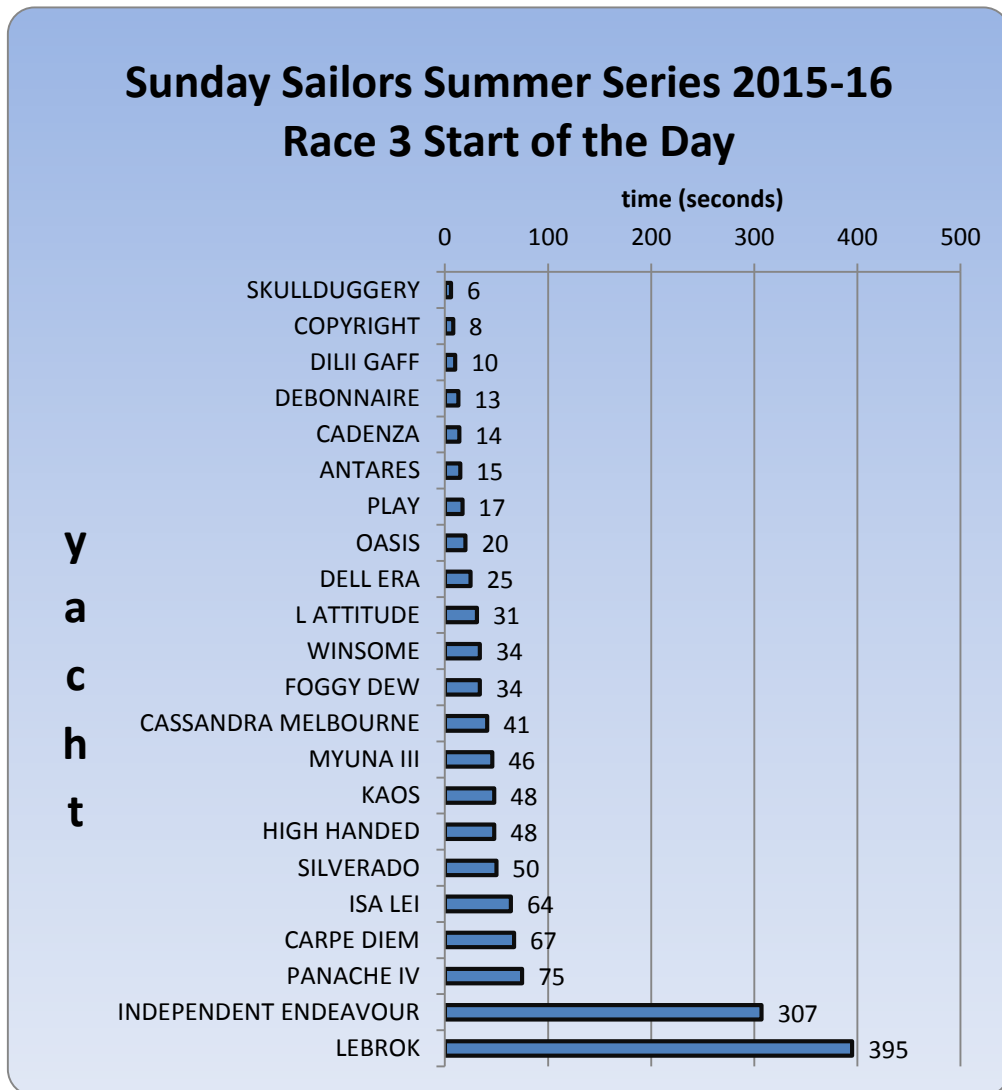
One of the yachts to fly a spinnaker was the Wright 10 COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack). She started the race from 14th place 8 seconds late for her 25 minute handicap. This was the second best start of the day. With an elapsed time of 1:57:50 she was one of only 6 yachts to complete the course in less than 2 hours. COPYRIGHT made this her 2nd podium finish of the series when she crossed the finish at 1:52:50 in 2nd place. She is placed 3rd in the aggregate on 21 points.



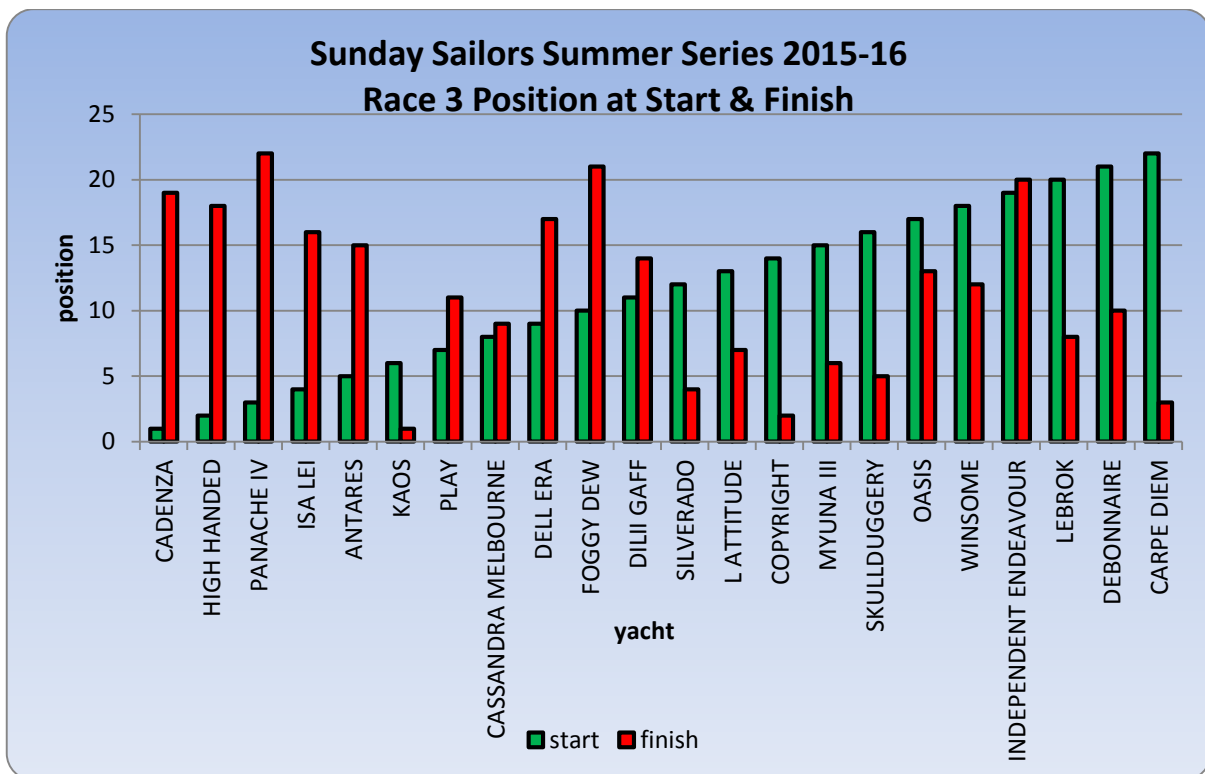
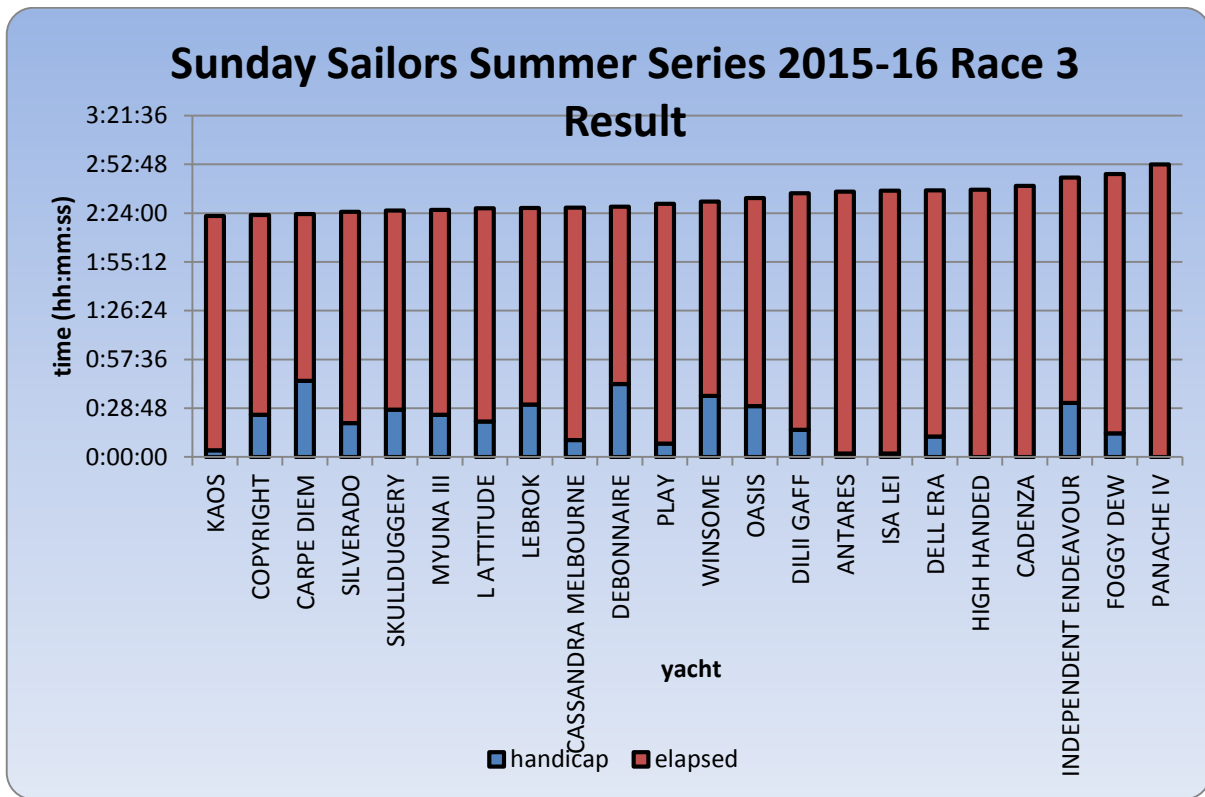
The Beneteau First 50 CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) entered this race as a visitor and not only recorded a 3rd place but also sailed the course in the shortest time. She was 67 seconds late for her 45 minute handicap and was the last yacht to start. She was another yacht to fly a spinnaker and sailed the course in 1:38:32 crossing the finish line at 11:53:32 only 45 seconds behind COPYRIGHT. This was the 2nd race in this series for CARPE DIEM and her best result.



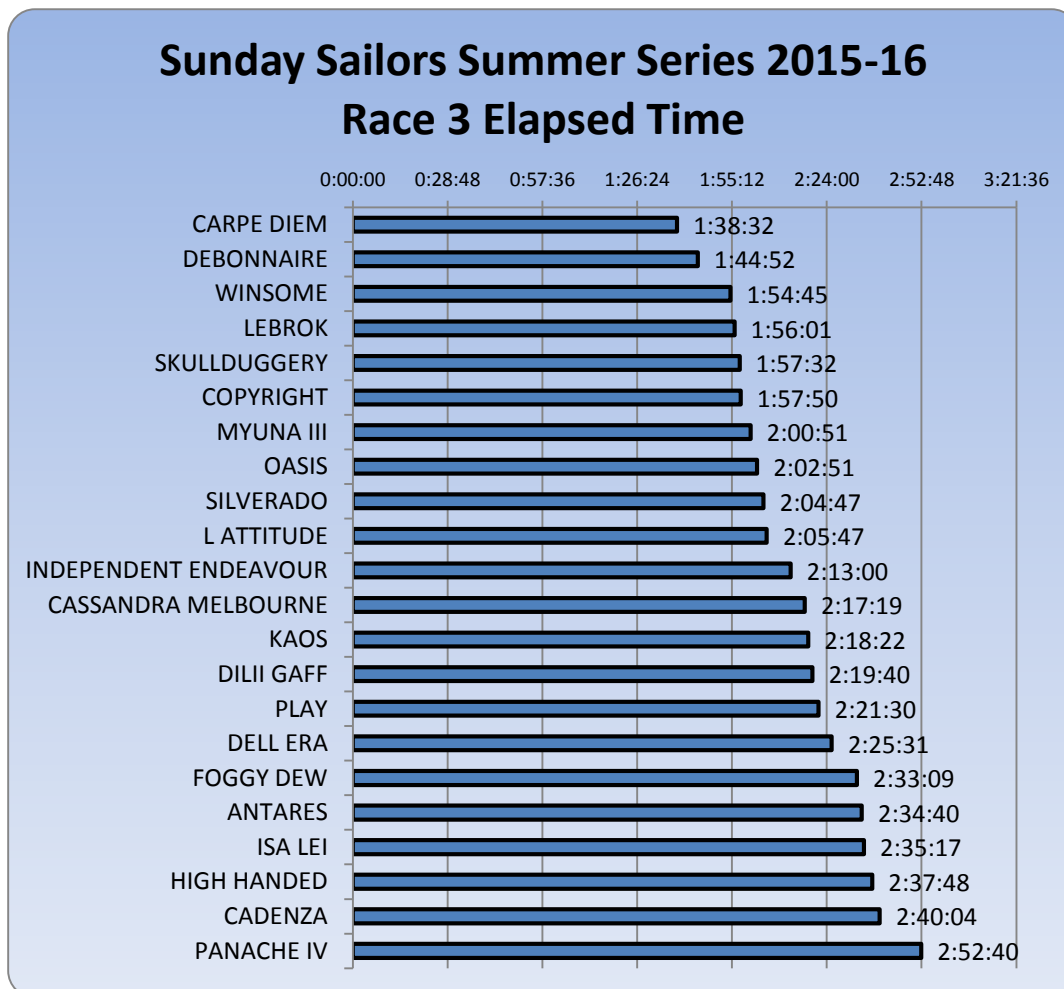
With a time of 6 seconds it was the Jeanneau 44 SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) that won Start of the Day. The median start time for this race was 34 seconds compared with 20 seconds for race1 and 10 seconds for race 2. There were 5 yachts that were 60 seconds or more late for their handicaps with two of those yachts more than 5 minutes late.



There was 45 minutes 53 seconds separating the yachts at the start of the race but the gap closed and the fleet finished 30 minutes 18 seconds apart. The closest finish was 14 seconds between L'ATTITUDE (Peter Grey) and LEBROK (Theo Korbel).



With the exception of the winner KAOS, most of the yachts among the early starters finished among the mid fleet and late finishers. It was the mid fleet starters that found themselves among the early finishers.



CARPE DIEM recorded the shortest elapsed time of 1:38:32 being 6 minutes 20 seconds faster than the Beneteau 45 DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez). The average elapsed time was 2:14:13 which was 4 minutes 30 seconds faster than the slowest average elapsed time recorded in race 1.

The next race is scheduled for 22 November 2015.

*Windward
Buoy*