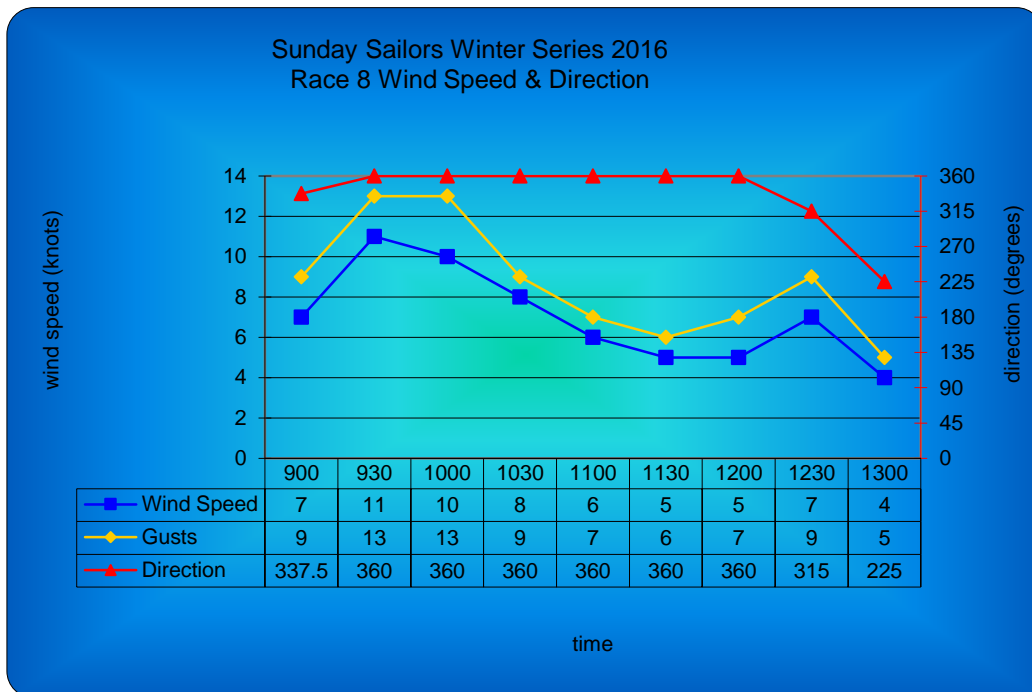


Easing Breeze Slows The Fleet



The fleet of a pursuit race is expected to finish closer than when it started. This race turned that idea on its head with 23 yachts starting 47 minutes 30 seconds apart and 22 finishing 66 minutes 32 seconds apart. Despite the course being shortened one yacht failed to finish in a breeze that eased as the morning progressed. Observations at Fawkner Beacon indicated the breeze made the forecast 10 to 15 knots around the race start but subsequently eased. The gentle breeze, blue sky and flat seas may have been the encouragement needed for 7 yachts to fly a spinnaker. Nevertheless, only 2 of the 7 yachts finished in the top ten.



The winner of race 8 was CAFE RACER (Rob Hartnett) sailing in her first race of the series. KAOS (Dawn Cleaver) and XPRESSO filled the other podium finishes. There was a dead heat for 9th place when FOGGY DEW (Joe O'Grady) and PLAY (Ian Pridgeon) crossed the finish line together. There was also a tie for Start of the Day with LEBROK (Theo Korbel) and CARPE DIEM (Paul Commins) starting the race 3 seconds late for their respective handicaps.

PLAYLIST (Mathew Powell) sailed the course in the fastest time of 1:27:20 – a little over twice as fast as the longest elapsed time recorded by SHILO (Doug Jackson).

Although there were some positional changes the yachts that were in the aggregate top ten after race 7 remain the same. XPRESSO is on top of the aggregate with CARPE DIEM 2nd and COPYRIGHT moving up into 3rd place.



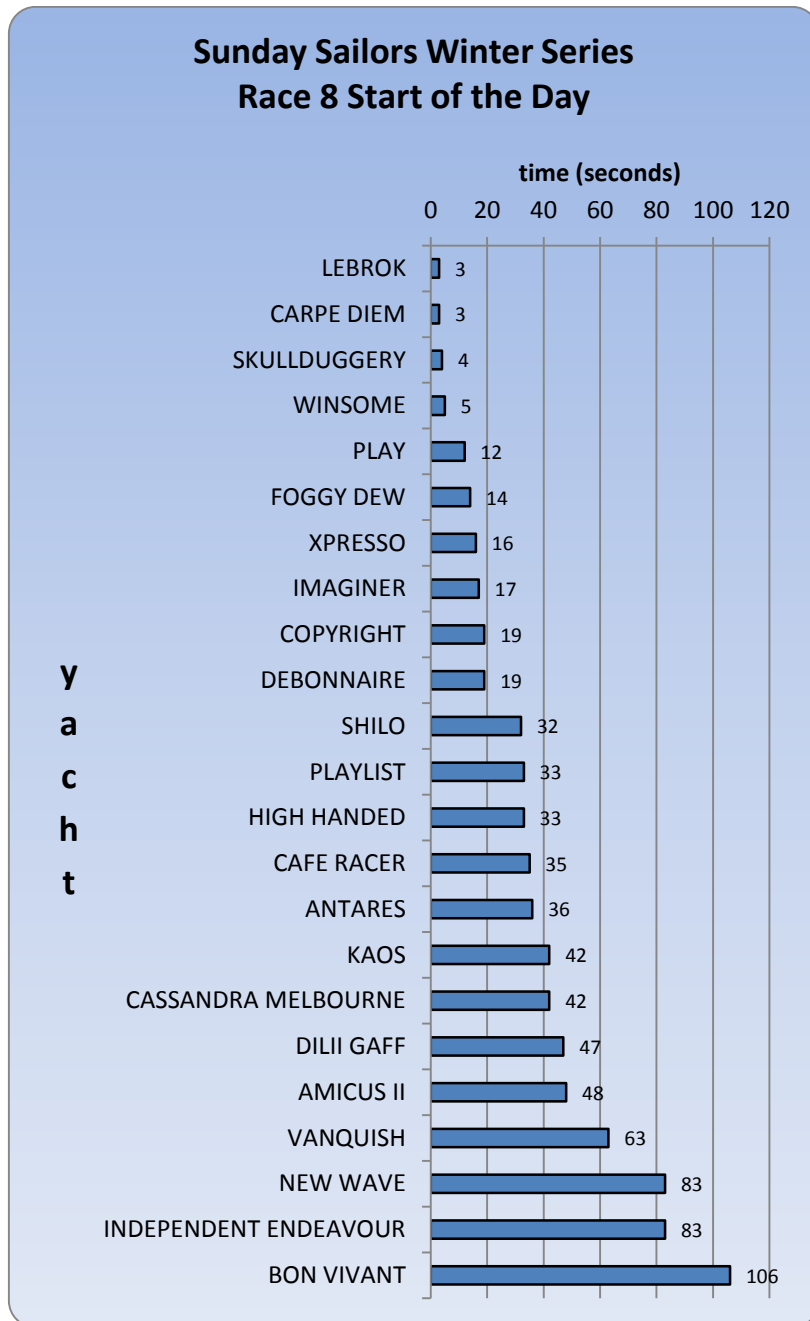
Winning her first race in the series was the ideal debut for CAFE RACER. She started from 7th place 35 seconds late for her 10 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 1:42:35 – the 5th fastest elapsed time beating some of the far larger yachts. CAFE RACER crossed the finish at 11:22:35 which was 10 minutes 34 seconds ahead of her closest rival KAOS. KAOS had started 2 minutes ahead of CAFE RACER but was unable to match her speed around this course. CAFE RACER was racing as a visitor so is not included in the aggregate.

KAOS seems to have a liking for this course, finishing 2nd in this race after a win around the full course in race 7. She started from 5th place 42 seconds late for her 7 minute handicap. KAOS crossed the finish line at 11:33:09 after sailing the 4 legged shortened course in 1:56:09. Although KAOS has completed only 3 races she has moved from 21st to be 17th in the aggregate. KAOS is one of a number of yachts that sails double handed but is the only one in the Sunday Sailors fleet with a lady skipper.



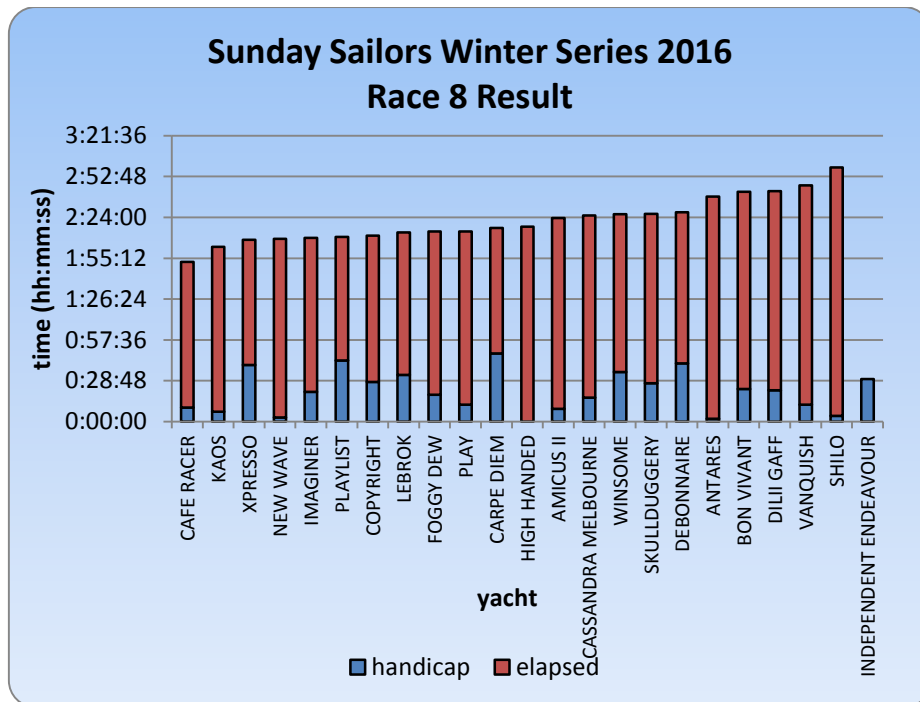
XPRESSO was the only podium finisher to fly a spinnaker in the race but still finished 5 minutes 1 second behind KAOS. XPRESSO started from 20th place 16 seconds late for a 40 minute handicap. She was 2nd fastest around the course with an elapsed time of 1:28:10 and crossed the finish line at 11:38:10. XPRESSO is building an impressive record as she now has 3 podium finishes from 6 completed races. It is perhaps no surprise that she leads the aggregate with a total of 26 points – 17 ahead of her closest rival.

This is the 4th time this series there has been a tie for START of the DAY. On this occasion the tie was between LEBROK and CARPE DIEM with a start of 3 seconds – the best this series. The median start time was 33 seconds with 19 yachts starting within 48 seconds of their handicaps?

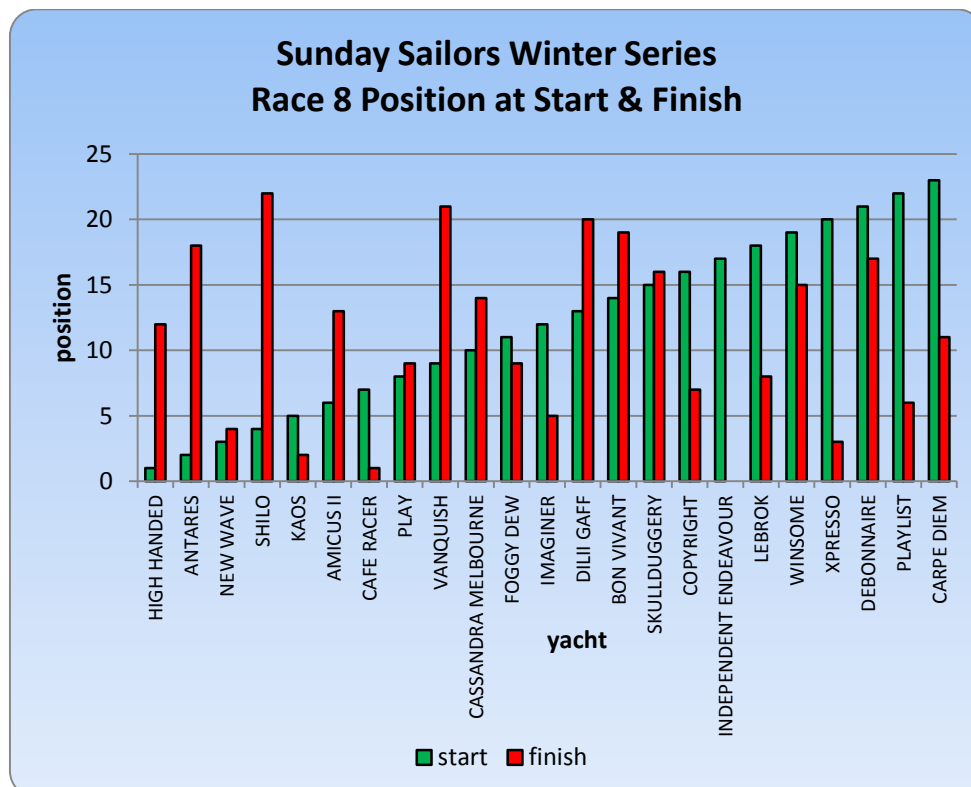


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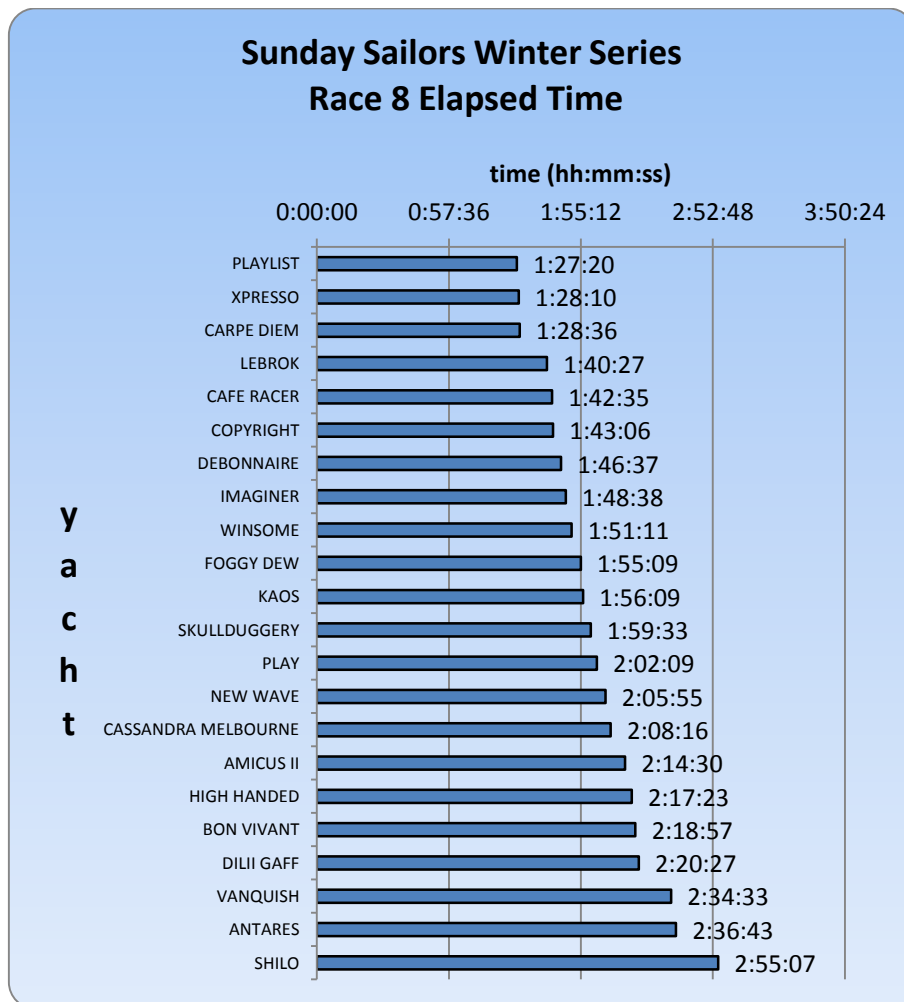
The decreasing breeze played a significant part in the result of this race. There were large gaps (greater than 5 minutes) in finishing times between 1st and 2nd; 2nd and 3rd; 12th and 13th; 17th and 18th; and, 21st and 22nd. The largest gap was 12 minutes 34 seconds between 21st and 22nd.



Even with a shortened course, 4 of the last 8 yachts to start were among the first 8 to finish. The other early finishers included 3 early starters but only 1 that started mid fleet.



The average elapsed time of 2:00:59 was the third slowest of the series. However it did have an unusually wide range of 1:27:47. As mentioned earlier PLAYLIST recorded the fastest time, 51 seconds faster than XPRESSO who was 26 seconds faster than CARPE DIEM and both these two yachts flew spinnakers. There were ten yachts in the fleet who sailed for over 2 hours.



CARPE DIEM is the only yacht to have completed all seven races in this series. There have been a total of 14 podium finishers including 6 different winners. There are only two multiple podium finishers: VANQUISH (Bob Beresford) the only yacht to have two wins and XPRESSO with two 3rd places. A table of podium finishers is shown on the following page.

Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2016 – Podium Finishers				
YACHT	Total Podium Finishes	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
CAFE RACER	1	1		
CARPE DIEM	2	1		1
COPYRIGHT	1		1	
DEBONNAIRE	1			1
DILII GAFF	1		1	
KAOS	2	1	1	
PANACHE IV	1			1
PHOENIX	1		1	
PLAY	1	1		
SILVERADO	1	1		
SKULLDUGGERY	1		1	
VANQUISH	3	2	1	
WINSOME	1			1
XPRESSO	3		1	2

Race 9 is scheduled for 28 August 2016

*Windward
Buoy*