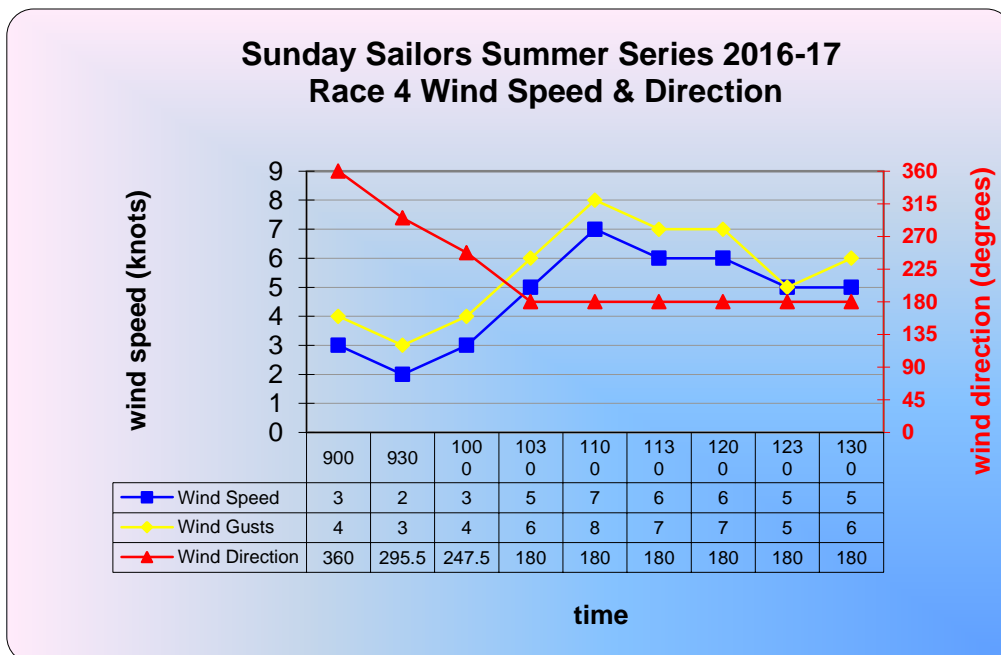


Even the Biggest Sails were just Not Enough Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2016-17 Race 4



Conditions were pleasant for a Sunday morning sail but it didn't produce the result many would have hoped for. BOM forecast breezes below 10 knots, flat seas coupled with a top temperature of 31 degrees. This encouraged the largest fleet of the series to compete in race 4. The race was around the 7 leg 8.2 nautical mile course 9. In the end this relatively short course proved too long for most of the 22 yacht fleet with only 3 yachts finishing within the 1230 time limit. The die was probably cast at the scheduled start of the race with Fawkner Beacon showing only 2 knots of breeze. It did increase and shifted south as the morning progressed and averaged around 5 knots for the morning.

All the fleet completed the first 4 legs of the race but at the first rounding of number 4 they were over 41 minutes apart. However the order had changed dramatically. HIGH HANDED (Guy Dwyer) the first yacht to start the race was 2nd last whilst the podium finishers A CUNNING PLAN (Jon Lechte), BLUE TACK (Andy Lynch) and LEBROK were already in the lead. These 3 yachts started from 21st, 19th and 18th place respectively.



With two yachts starting 2 minutes off their handicaps BLUE TACK and AMICUS II (Warwick Stenford) tied for start of the day. The fastest elapsed time of 1:50:33 was recorded by A CUNNING PLAN.



A CUNNING PLAN started the race from 21st position only 9 seconds late for her 46 minute handicap. She was one of 5 yachts that elected to fly a spinnaker and did that successfully on 3 legs of the course. A CUNNING PLAN had overtaken the majority of the fleet and was already in the lead by the first rounding of number 4. During the last 3 legs of the course she extended her lead over the rest of the fleet and crossed the finish line at 12:08:33 – 10 minutes 30 seconds ahead of her closest rival. It was the latest finish time for a winning yacht this series. This was the first race this series for A CUNNING PLAN and she is 12th in the aggregate.

This was the second podium finish this series for the casual entry BLUE TACK. She was the winner of race 3. BLUE TACK started from 19th place only 2 seconds late for her 35 minute handicap. She also elected to fly a spinnaker which worked to good effect. She was the 2nd yacht to round number 4 for the first time with a good lead over the rest of the fleet. BLUE TACK sailed the course in 2:14:03 and was the 2nd yacht across the finish line at 12:19:03. It is interesting to note that BLUE TACK started 13 minutes 7 seconds ahead of A CUNNING PLAN but finished 10 minutes 30 seconds behind.



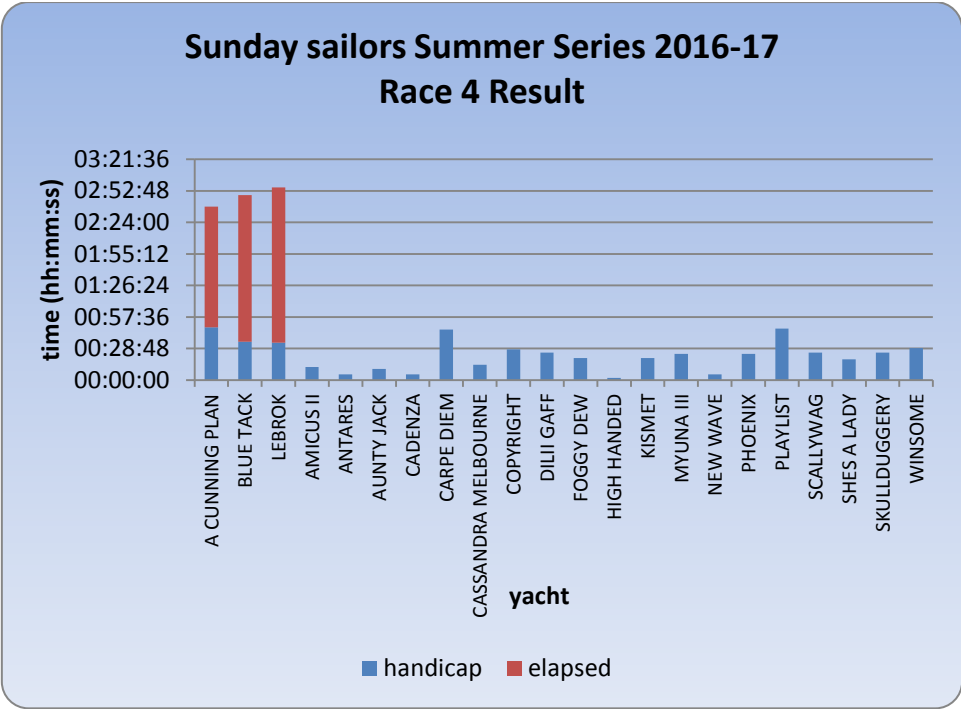
Starting 56 seconds before BLUE TACK from 18th position was LEBROK. LEBROK was only 6 seconds late for her 34 minute handicap starting from 18th place. By the first rounding of number 4 LEBROK had overtaken 15 yachts to be in 3rd place. Unlike the two yachts ahead of her she chose not to fly a spinnaker. She sailed the course in 2:21:51 and crossed the finish line at 12:25:51. LEBROK has completed all three races and is the current aggregate leader. She is also one of 6 yachts vying for the Noelle Coram Trophy awarded to the yacht with the lowest combined score based on their placing in the Wednesday Wonders Summer Series and Sunday Sailors Summer Series.

Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2016-17 Race 4 Start of the Day

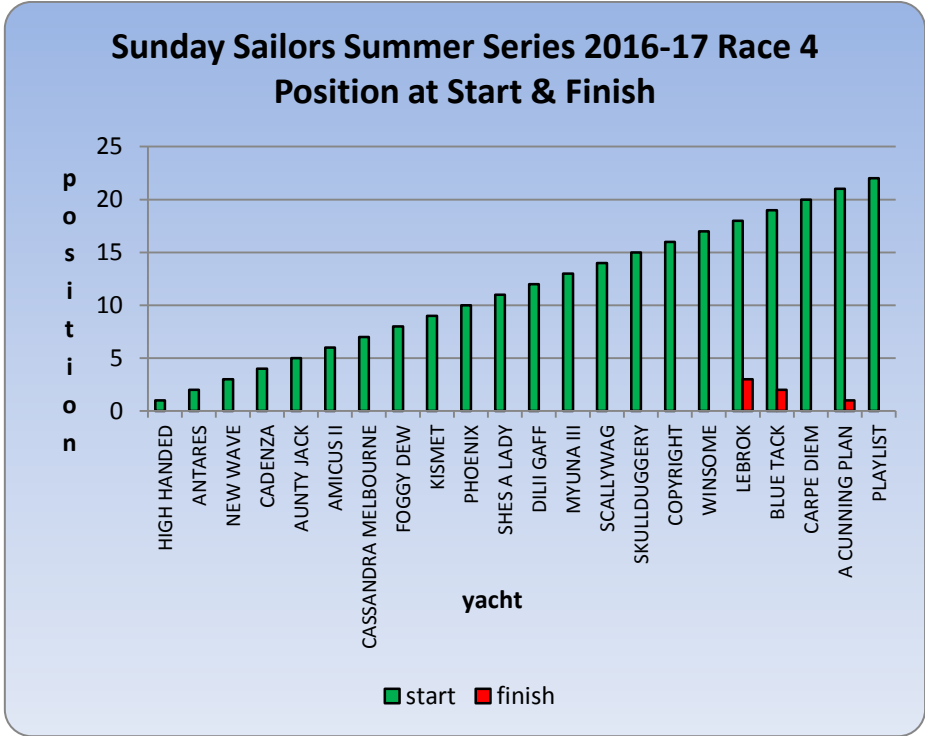


The start of the race was a mixed affair with 9 yachts starting within 10 seconds or less of their handicaps whilst 7 yachts started 60 seconds or more. Of the 7 yachts, two started more than 5 minutes late, CADENZA and SHES A LADY, both yachts were early starters when the breeze was at its least. As mentioned earlier there was a tie for the start between Blue tack and Amicus II. The median start time was 20 seconds – 5 seconds above the series average.

There was a gap of 45 minutes 31 seconds between the first and last yacht to start this race. This gap was still about 41 minutes at the first rounding of number 4. However there had been significant changes to the order in which the yachts rounded number 4. HIGH HANDED (Guy Dwyer) and ANTARES (G Stewart & D Pearce) were the first 2 yachts to start but were 21st and 22nd to round number 4. A CUNNING PLAN and PLAYLIST (Mathew Powell) were the last two yachts to start but rounded number for the first time in 1st and 7th place respectively.



Although there are exceptions the chart below tends to indicate that the later the start the earlier the finish.



The average elapsed time for the race was 2:08:49 – the slowest of the series for the second shortest course. A CUNNING PLAN recorded the best time of 1:50:33. Although only 3 yachts completed the race there was no lack of trying from the other

participants. It seems SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) saw the light breeze as an opportunity to use the largest sail possible with the jib almost eclipsing the main sail.



Race 5 is scheduled for Sunday 4 Dec 2016

*Windward
Quay*