

Fickle Breeze makes a Big Impact Sunday Sailors Winter Series Race 9

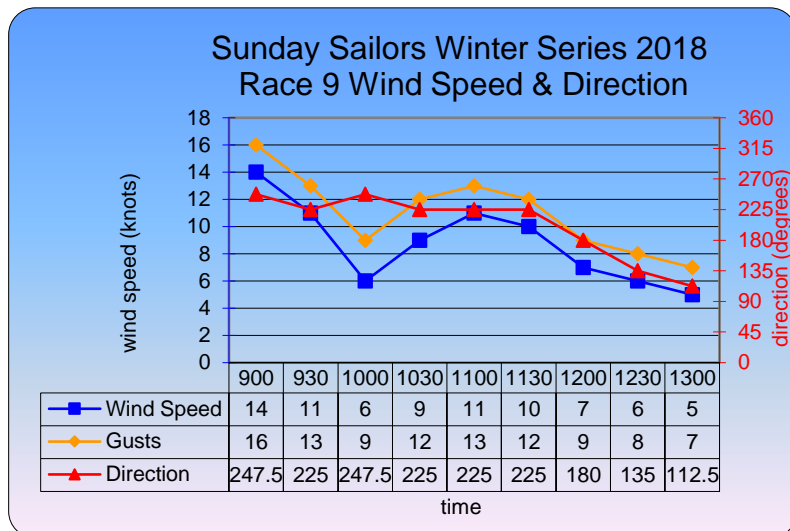


Following 2 abandoned Sunday races, the smallest fleet of the series 15 yachts, assembled for what was to become the 5th completed race. (Five is the minimum number needed to constitute a series.) The race was hampered by fickle winds making the start very difficult for some yachts and it became a very slow process. It took more than 80 minutes for a yacht to reach the first mark of the course (SYC 1) by which time AMICUS II (Warwick Stenford) had already opted for “early retirement”. The fleet

became strewn out along three different legs before the race was shortened. The wind eased and shifted more to the east in the latter stages of the race and despite numerous tacks the 9 backmarkers were unable to complete the race within the time limit. Only 5 yachts completed the race.

Each of the five races this series have had a different winner of the start and ALEGRIA (S. May & O. Orton) won this one. She was only 1 second late for her handicap. 38 DEGREES SOUTH (J Chatham & K Mitchell) won her first race of the series whilst WHITE ONYX (Ben & Catherine Soll) collected her first podium finish when she was second across the finish line. DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) received her first podium finish when she finished third.

The result of this race caused some re-arrangement of the aggregate. All five finishers improved their positions including DEBONNAIRE who is now equal on points with CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves). Three yachts that did not complete the race: ALEGRIA; KISMET (Doug Jackson); and AMICUS II improved their positions by 1, 2 and 1 place respectively. Two yachts that did not sail, LEBROK (Theo Korbel) and COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) also improved their aggregate positions by 4 and 2 places respectively.





38 DEGREES SOUTH was first to finish after being the next to the last yacht to cross the start line - 25 seconds late for her 49 minute handicap. Observations at Fawkner indicated that the breeze had eased from about 10 knots at 930 to 6 knots about 1000 by which time most of the fleet had started but were struggling to make head way. 38 DEGREES SOUTH managed to find and hold on to some breeze and went on to sail the 6.6 nautical mile course in 1:53:30 – the fastest time of the race. She crossed the finish line at 11:53:30 to win the race by a margin of 61 seconds. This was the 3rd race in 5 starts 38 DEGREES SOUTH has completed and she

moves from 18th to 12th place in the aggregate.

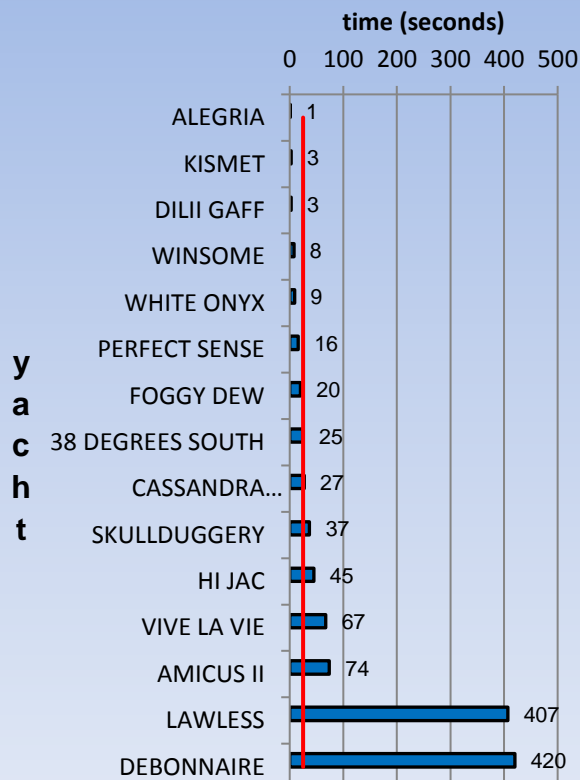
This was the 2nd race in 3 starts completed by WHITE ONYX. She had her best start of the series when she started from 11th place 9 seconds late for her 35 minute handicap. She was overtaken by 38 DEGREES SOUTH during the second leg of the race and went on to sail the course in 1:49:31 the third fastest time of the day. WHITE ONYX crossed the finish line in 2nd place at 11:54:31. She now has a 2nd and 4th place in the series and moves from 21st to 17th in the aggregate.



DEBONNAIRE was one of two yachts who had the advantage of flying a spinnaker in this race. It helped her into 3rd place during the penultimate leg of the race. A position she continued to hold when she crossed the finish line. DEBONNAIRE did not have the best possible start to the race being 7 minutes late for her 45 minute handicap. She did sail the course in 1:46:38 – the second fastest time of the race and cross the finish line at 12:01:38. DEBONNAIRE has completed all 5 yachts in the series and is level on points at the top of the aggregate.



Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2018 Race 9

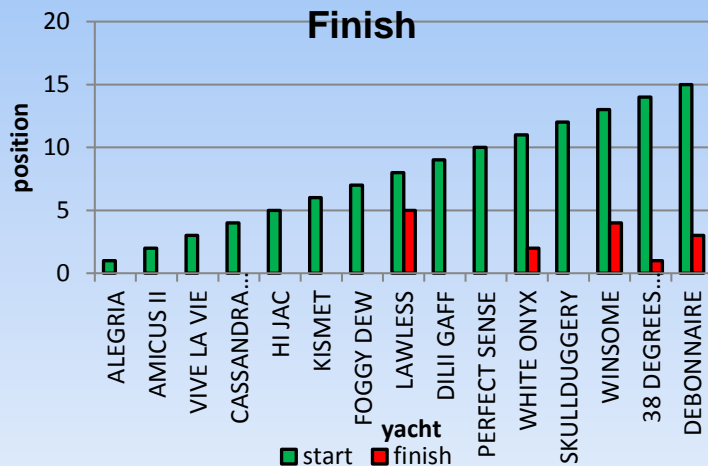


There was a wide variation in start times ranging from 1 second to 7 minutes. ALEGRIA had the best start of the race which is the second best of the series. The median start time (red line) was 25 seconds.

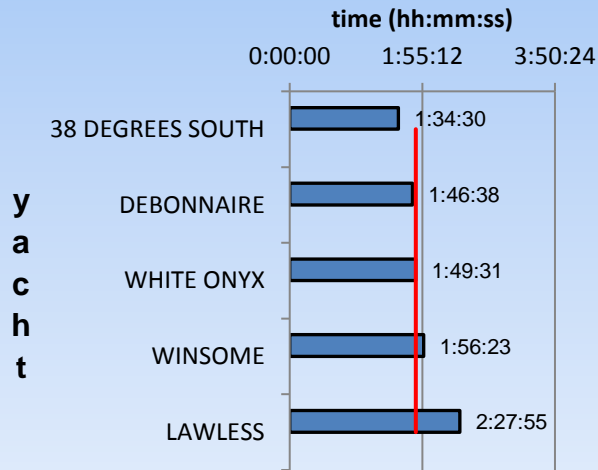


Despite some valiant efforts it was a disappointing outcome for the first half of the fleet to start the race who were beaten by the time limit. LAWLESS (Boyd Coulson) proved to be something of an enigma by starting in the middle of the fleet and became one of the 5 yachts who finished.

Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2018 Race 9 Position at Start & Finish



Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2018 Race 9 Elapsed Time



There was 53 minutes 25 seconds between the elapsed times of the 5 finishers. This race had the second slowest median elapse time of the series.



Apart from the 3 podium finishers WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) & LAWLESS were the only other finishers.



AMICUS II retired early.





(Left) Both PERFECT SENSE and SKULLDUGGERY made numerous tacks as they approached the finish line. But time beat them by 21 and 35 seconds respectively.

(Below) DEBONNAIRE eventually overtook WINSOME; they finished in 3rd & 4th places.

Pointing in opposite directions but both yachts are on their way to SYC 1.



Race 10 is scheduled for 16 Sep 2018

Windward Buoys