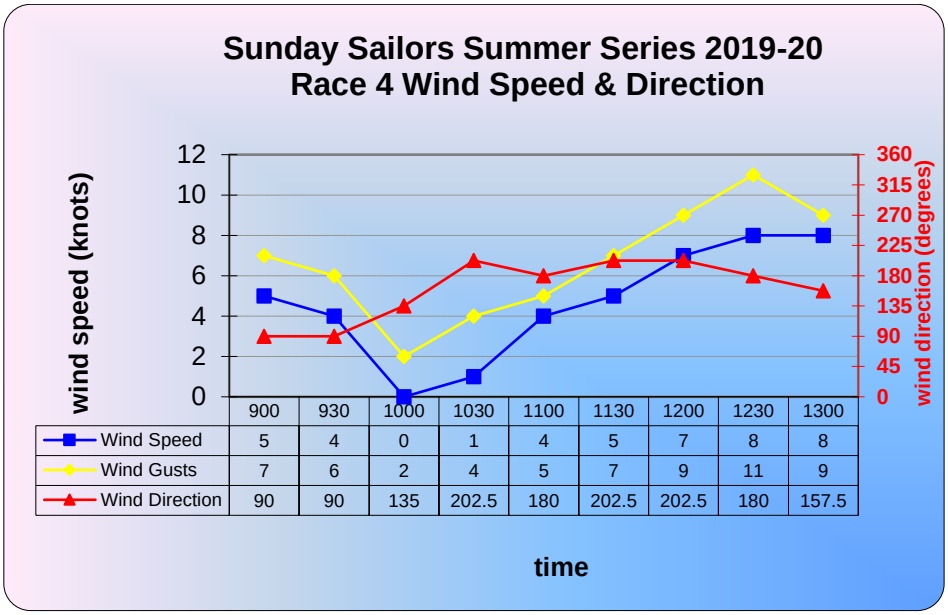
The Handicapper Has a Win!
Sunday Sailors Summer series 2019-20 Race 4

It's not unusual for a handicapper to be on the receiving end of friendly gripes, grumbles and grizzles but he had a win with this race when COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) was first across the finish line. On board were three generations of Morrison Jacks'. Three generations of any family on the winning yacht has to be a rare event. Nevertheless, it is unlikely to put an end to and could increase the seemingly endless gripes, grumbles and grizzles about handicaps. This race took place in light and variable winds that averaged about 5 knots at Fawkner Beacon. There were frequent knocks and lifts and tacking on the knocks usually resulted in tacking back shortly afterwards. The light breeze resulted in a shortened course 31 completed by 22 of the 23 starters.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	5	4	0	1	4	5	7	8	8
Wind Gusts	7	6	2	4	5	7	9	11	9
Wind Direction	90	90	135	202.5	180	202.5	202.5	180	157.5

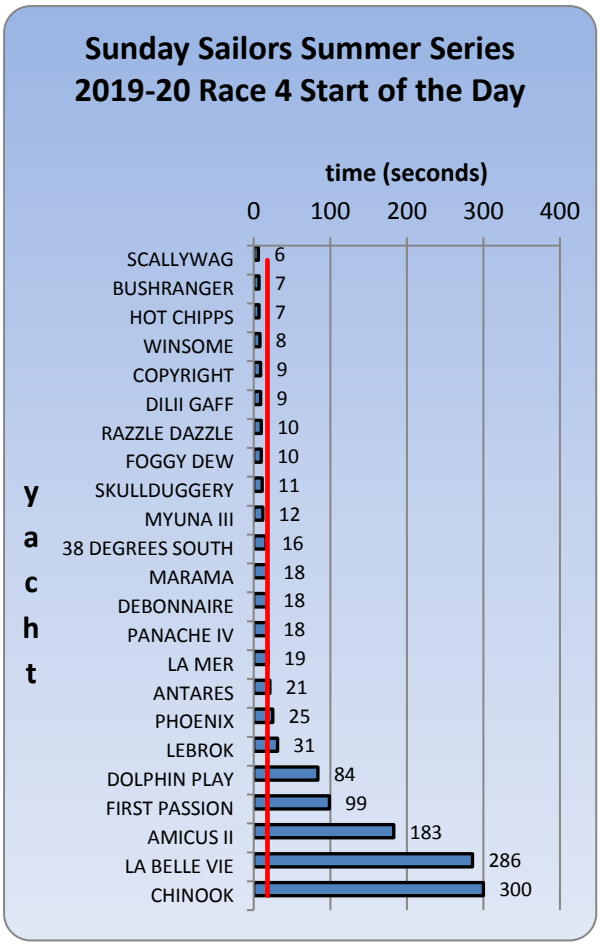
With a time of 6 seconds SCALLYWAG (Bill Hutchison) won Start of the Day. Following COPYRIGHT across the finish line in 2nd place was the Beneteau First 40.7 BUSHRANGER (Tim Pearce) with 38 DEGREES SOUTH (John Chatham & Kate Mitchell) recording the fastest elapsed time of the race finishing 3rd.

A 6th place in this race was enough to take LA BELLE VIE (Grant & Nathan Anderson) not only to the top of the series aggregate but also puts her in the lead of the contest for the Sunday Plate. With a total of 18 points SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) leads the contest for the Noelle Coram Trophy followed by DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) on 23 points with RAZZLE DAZZLE (Andrew Stopp & Grahame Jones) on 30 points.

This was the first podium finish for COPYRIGHT since race 5 held on 9 Dec 2018. She began the race from 10th place 9 seconds late for her 30 minute handicap. This was her lowest handicap since her last podium finish. COPYRIGHT sailed the shortened course in 2:00:54 and crossed the finish line at 12:00:54 – 3 minutes 13 seconds ahead of her closest rival. By comparison SCALLYWAG started 3 seconds ahead of COPYRIGHT but finished 24 minutes 21 seconds later in 19th place. COPYRIGHT moved up from 10th into 2nd place in the aggregate and is now 9th in the contest for the Sunday Plate.

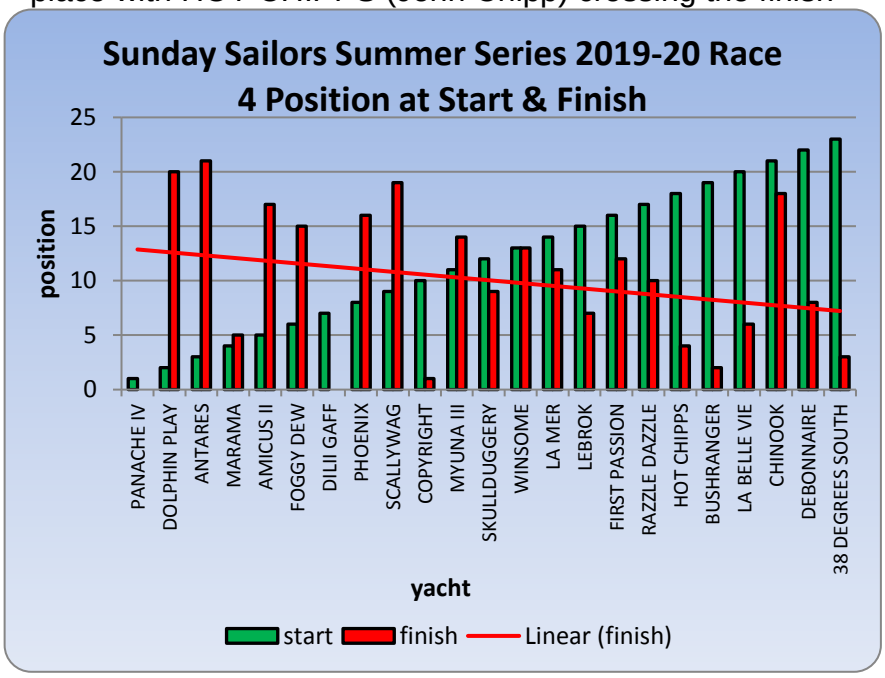
Despite a 5 minute increase to her handicap after finishing 3rd in race 3, BUSHRANGER went one better to finish 2nd in this race. She started from 19th place 7 seconds late for her 40 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 1:54:07 – the 3rd fastest time of the race and crossed the finish line at 12:04:07. BUSHRANGER has completed all three races in the series and is now 5th in the aggregate and 17th in line for the Sunday Plate.

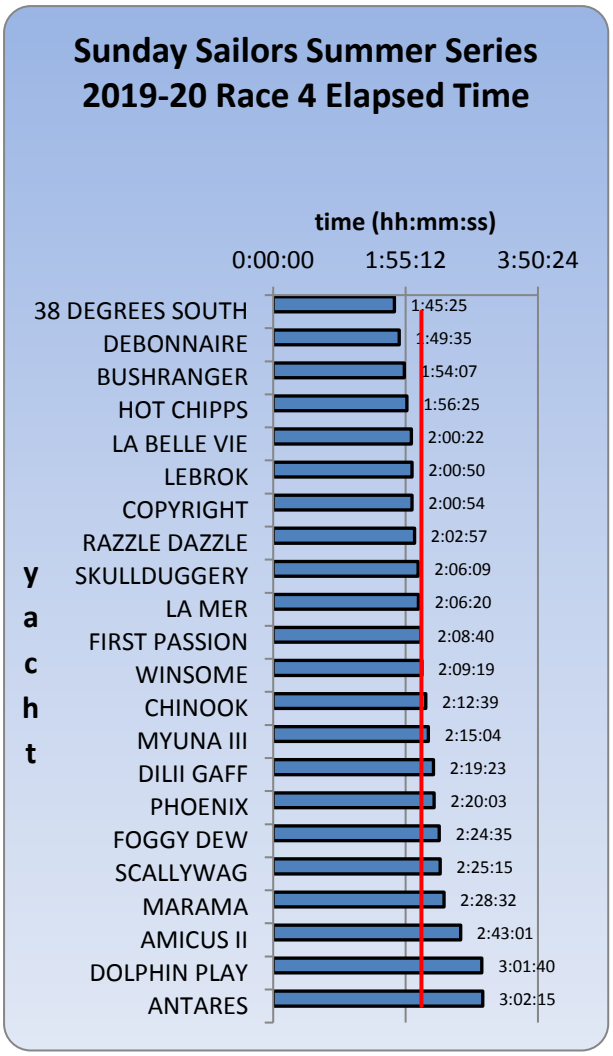
This was the 2nd outing this summer for 38 DEGREES SOUTH. She was the last yacht to start the race 16 seconds late for her 49 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 1:45:25 the fastest elapsed time in the race and 4 minutes 10 seconds faster than her closest rival DEBONNAIRE. After improving on her start position by 20 places – the most of any yacht in the race - 38 DEGREES SOUTH crossed the finish line 18 seconds behind BUSHRANGER at 12:04:25. She moves up from 28th to 20th in the aggregate.



Eighteen seconds was the median start time for the race and SCALLY WAG became the 3rd yacht this series to win Start of Day. CHINOOK (Doug Jackson) started only 2 seconds too soon which was enough to receive a 5 minute penalty.

The 23 yacht fleet started 59 minutes 58 seconds apart and finished 35 minutes 21 seconds apart. Although it was a shortened course there was enough opportunity for 5 of the late starters to be among the first 8 yachts to cross the finish line. The closest finish was for 4th place with HOT CHIPPS (John Chipp) crossing the finish line 7 seconds ahead of MARAMA (Catherine Dawson). Both were among 6 yachts that choose to fly spinnakers and it was the first Sunday race of the summer for MARAMA.





The median elapsed time for the race was 2:08:59. As already mentioned 38 DEGREES SOUTH recorded fastest elapsed time with ANTARES (G Stewart & D Pearce) taking 76 minutes 50 seconds longer to complete the race.

(Below) DILII GAFF, RAZZLE DAZZLE & WINSOME all made starts of 10 seconds or less.

(Below) AMICUS II started from 5th place & finished 17th.
(Right) DEBONNAIRE overtook LA MER to finish in 8th place.

MARAMA (left) & HOT CHIPPS finished ahead of the other 4 yachts that flew spinnakers.

(Left) SKULLDUGGERY leads the challenge for the Noelle Coram Trophy whilst LA BELLE VIE (below) heads both the aggregate & the contest for the Sunday Plate.

DOLPHIN PLAY (left) sailed for over 3 hours in her first race of the summer.
(Below) FOGGY DEW had her longest sail in her 3 races.

Following a 12 minute handicap increase CHINOOK (below) was still able to finish 18th.
(Right) FIRST PASSION found a good patch of breeze on the last leg of the race.

Race 5 is scheduled for 8 Dec 2019

Graham Furness