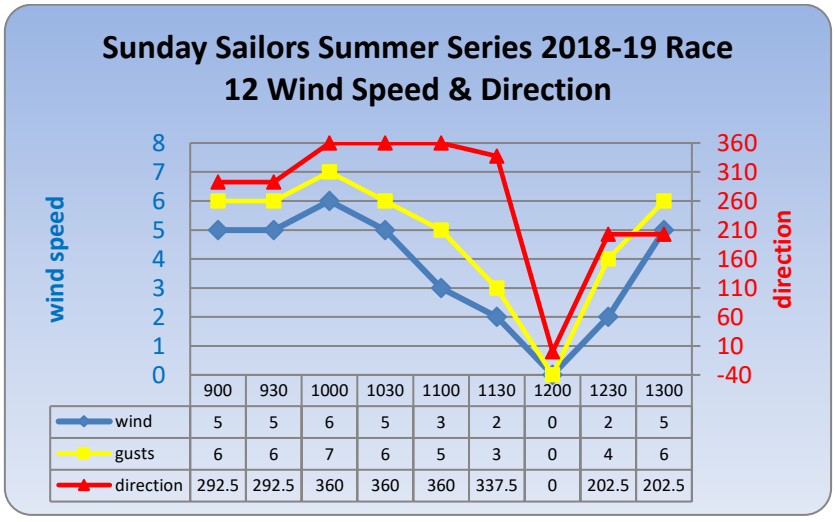
A Challenging Morning
Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2018-19 Race 12

A hazy and humid Saint Patricks Day morning greeted the 22 yachts assembled for the 12th Sunday Sailors race of the series. The light and variable conditions made a good start challenging and getting the best out of a fickle breeze was equally difficult. Observations from Fawkner Beacon indicated the breeze averaged about 4 knots for the morning with no wind recorded around midday. The race around course 17 was shortened from 6 to 5 legs which allowed all but one of the 22 starters to finish the race.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
wind	5	5	6	5	3	2	0	2	5
gusts	6	6	7	6	5	3	0	4	6
direction	292.5	292.5	360	360	360	337.5	0	202.5	202.5

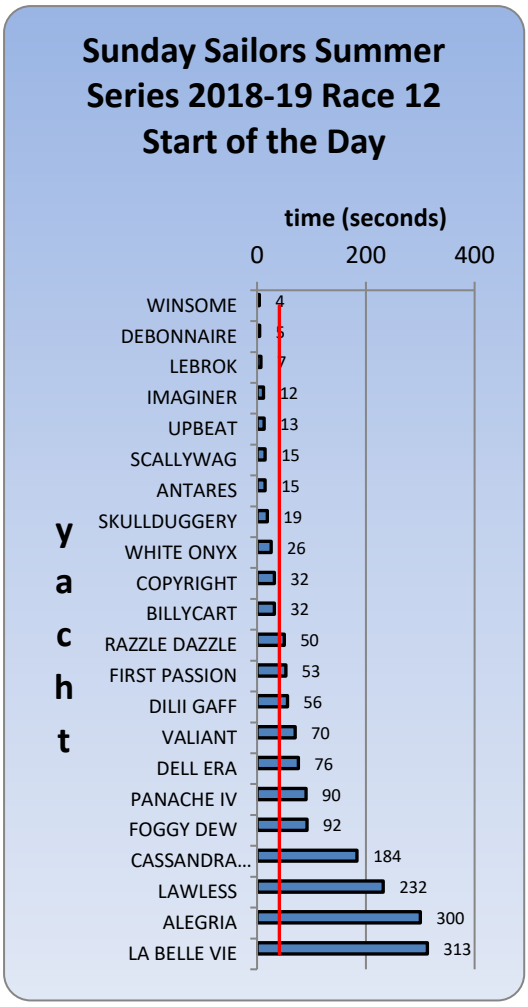
With a time of 4 seconds WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) won her first Start of the Day for the series. It was LAWLESS (Boyd Coulter) who was first across the finish line to win her 3rd race of the summer. She was followed by IMAGINER (Chris Byrne) who recorded her 2nd podium finish of the series. DILII GAFF (Paul McBain) also collected her 2nd podium finish of the summer by finishing 3rd. WHITE ONYX (Ben & Katherine Solly) sailed the course in the fastest time of 1:54:43. This is the third time this series she has recorded the fastest elapsed time.

LEBROK (Theo Korbel) remains at the top of the aggregate for the third successive week but with a reduced margin –down from 14 to 6 points. After her win LAWLESS is in 2nd place on 49 points with DILII GAFF third on 56 points.

LAWLESS has completed all eleven races this series and accumulated 8 top ten finishes including three wins. She began the series with an 18 minute handicap this increased to 28 minutes in race 8 but reduced to 24 minutes for this race. She started this race from 8th position 3 minutes 52 seconds late for her handicap. She sailed the shortened course in 2:02:45 – the third fastest elapsed time of the race and was first across the finish line at 11:56:45. This ensured a thirty minute extension of the finish time. LAWLESS has been in the aggregate top ten all series and this win kept her in 2nd position.

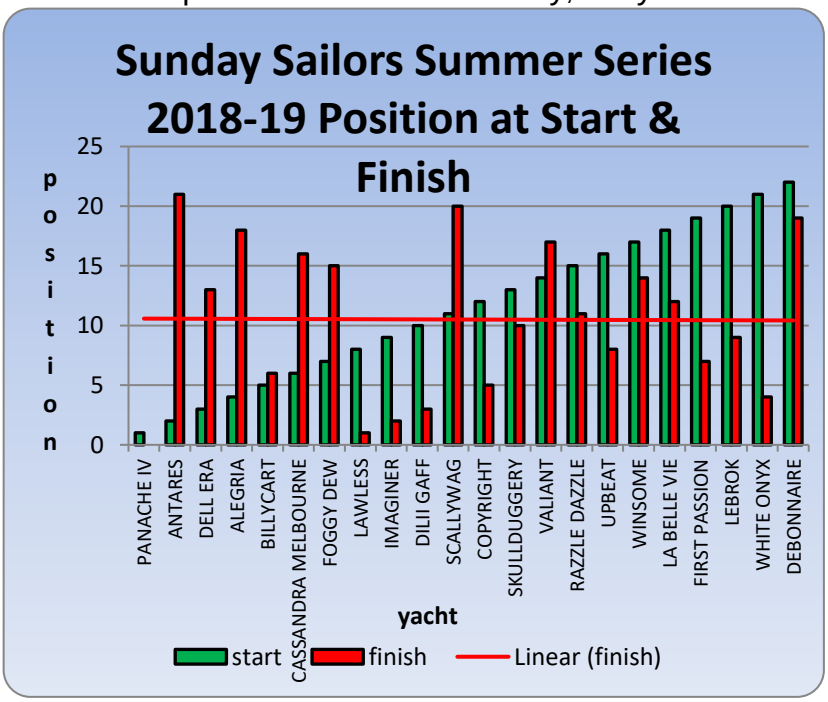
The S80, IMAGINER has completed 3 races this summer and finished 5th, 3rd and now 2nd. Her handicap has increased for each race. She started this race from 9th place 12 seconds late for her 31 minute handicap this was 3 minutes 20 seconds after LAWLESS. IMAGINER sailed the course in the second fastest time of the race only 98 seconds slower than WHITE ONYX. She was “closing in” on LAWLESS when she crossed the finish line in second place at 11:57:21 only 36 seconds behind the winner. With only 3 completed races IMAGINER is now 27th in the aggregate up 3 places from 30th.

DILII GAFF is one of 7 yachts to have completed all 11 races this series. She has 8 top ten finishes including a 2nd and 3rd place. For this race she started from 10th place 56 seconds late for her 31 minute handicap – the same handicap as IMAGINER. DILII GAFF sailed the course in 2:09:50 – 13 minute 29 seconds slower than IMAGINER but crossed the finish line in 3rd place at 12:10:50. The three podium finishers had started 8th, 9th and 10th and finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd. DILII GAFF has been in the aggregate top ten since race 3 and she moves up from 4th to 3rd place 113 points behind the leader.

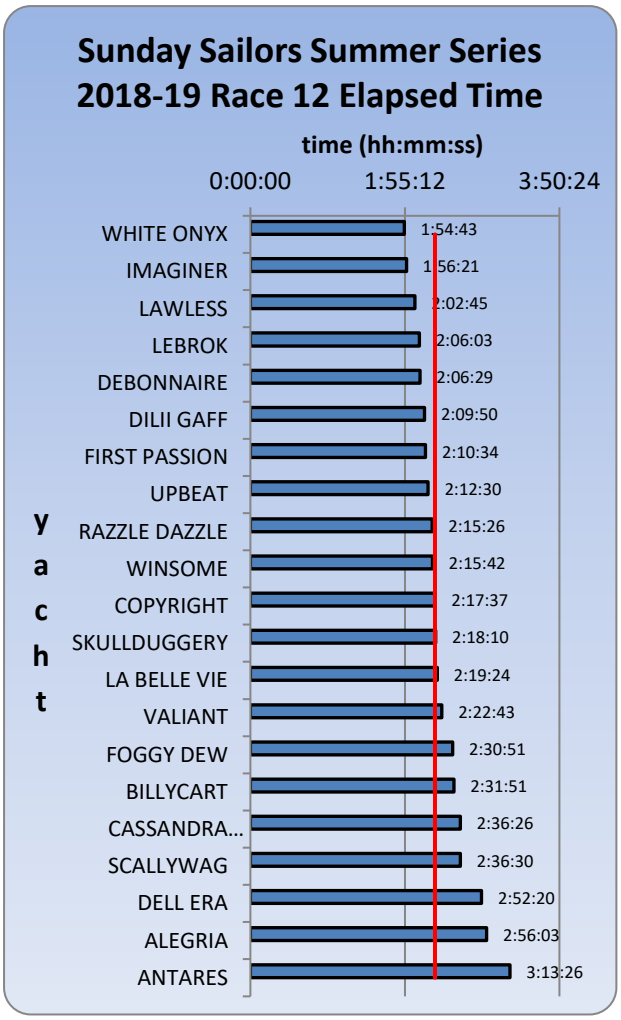


It was probably the light and variable breeze that made the start difficult for some of the yachts. Seven were more than a minute late for their start with another, (ALEGRIA) starting 6 seconds too soon and attracting the 5 minute penalty. The median start time was 41 seconds –the second slowest of the series. As mentioned the start was won by WINSOME.

The 22 yachts started 65 minutes 35 seconds apart and although the gap did reduce they were still 47 minutes 41 seconds apart at the finish. Generally, the yachts that started mid fleet finished best. Only one yacht among the first seven to start was among the first seven to finish. Only two of the late starters were among the early finishers. The closest finish was 7 seconds between LEBROK and SKULLDUGGERY who finished 9th and 10th.



This was the 3rd time in 8 races that WHITE ONYX had recorded the



fastest elapsed time. She was 98 seconds faster than her closest rival. The median elapsed time was 2:17:37 and there was a differance of 78 minutes 43 seconds between the fastest and slowest yacht around the course.

PANACHE IV (left) ANTARES (above) & DELL ERA were the first three to start.

SKULLDUGGERY, FIRST PASSION & RAZZLE DAZZLE were three yachts to fly spinnakers.

VALIANT (left) finished 17th whilst LA BELLE VIE finished 12th.

CASSANDRA (left) overtook three yachts that started ahead whilst WINSOME (below) held off the challenge from DEBONNAIRE.

(Left) The finish line is slowly becoming closer.
(Below) Made it at last. WHITE ONYX finishes 1 place ahead of COPYRIGHT with UPBEAT in 8th place.

(Left)FOGGY DEW remembered Saint Patricks Day – the start of another big week.

Final race of the series is scheduled for 31 Mar 2019

Windward Buoy