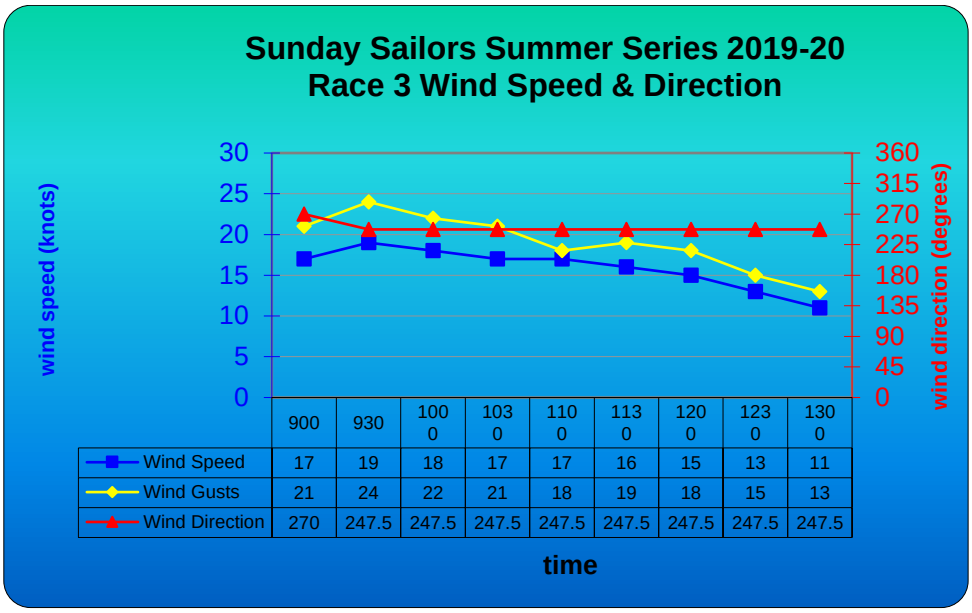
A Good Start to Sunday
Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2019-20 Race 3

The strong winds which blew across the bay on both Friday and Saturday had eased for the start of Sunday Sailors but the seas remained choppy. Over the weekend the wind averaged 22 knots with a maximum gust of 43 knots at Fawkner Beacon. It had eased by the start of the race and continued to ease during the course of Sunday morning and averaged about 16 knots for the race. This was enough to power a fleet of 26 yachts around the 10.2 nautical mile course 38.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	17	19	18	17	17	16	15	13	11
Wind Gusts	21	24	22	21	18	19	18	15	13
Wind Direction	270	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5

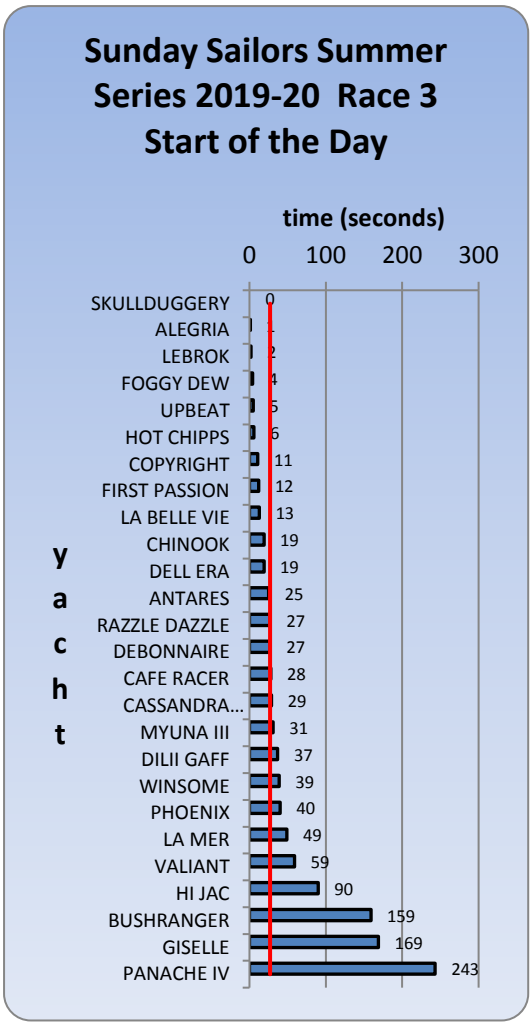
SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) made the first perfect start of the series starting right on her 33 minute handicap to win Start of the Day. The race was won by GISELLE (Robert Freeman) followed over the finish line by CHINOOK (Doug Jackson) with BUSHRANGER (Tim Pearce) in 3rd place. DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) was the fastest yacht around the course with a time of 1:34:52.

The win takes GISELLE to the top of the aggregate with ANTARES (G Stewart D Pearce) 2nd and ALEGRIA (Simon May) 3rd. It is ALEGRIA who leads the competition for the Sunday Plate followed by LA BELLE VIE (Grant & Nathan Anderson) then LA MER (Michael Ebeling). The contest for the Noelle Coram Trophy is led by SKULLDUGGERY with 16 points from DEBONNAIRE with 30 points and UPBEAT (Peter Dunne) with 32 points.

GISELLE didn't make her best start to a race. With a 2 minute handicap she should, in theory, have been the 2nd yacht to start. However, being 2 minutes 49 seconds late for her handicap meant she started from 4th rather than 2nd place. It really didn't matter at the finish line as GISELLE sailed the course in 2:11:03; overtook the 3 yachts that started ahead of her and was first across the finish line at 11:43:03. This was her first podium finish of the series and combined with her 4th place in race 2 puts her on top of the aggregate with a total of 5 points. GISELLE is now 5th in the contest for the SUNDAY PLATE and 11th in the contest for the Noelle Coram Trophy.

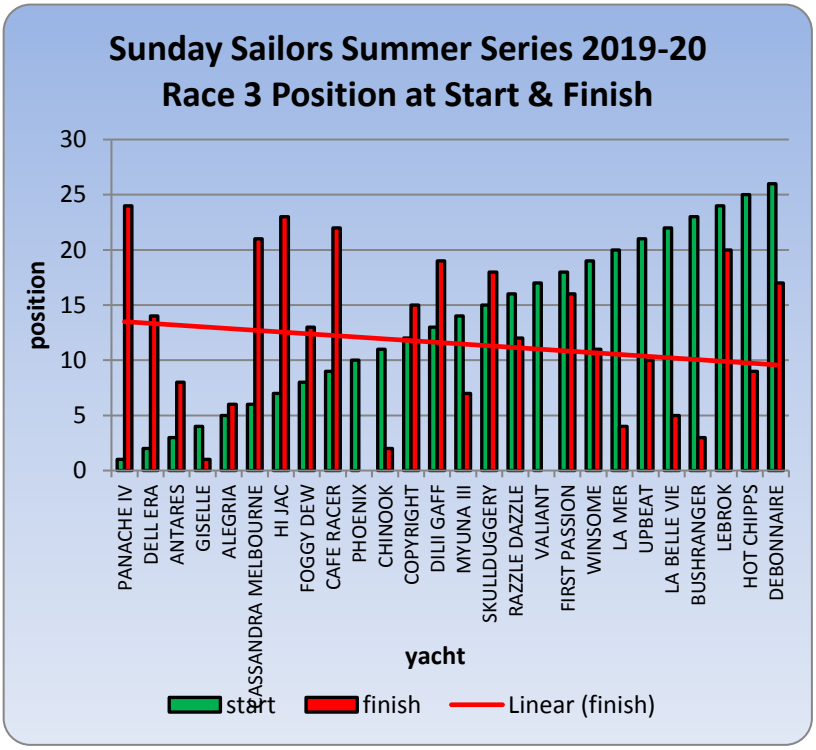
This was the first race of the series for the Oceanis 41.1 CHINOOK. She was the 11th yacht to start the race 19 seconds late for her 27 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 1:46:47, the 9th fastest time of the race and was 2nd across the finish line at 11:43:47 – 44 seconds behind GISELLE. CHINOOK moves up from 25th to 19th in the aggregate and with a total of 41 points she is 19th in the contest for the Sunday Plate.

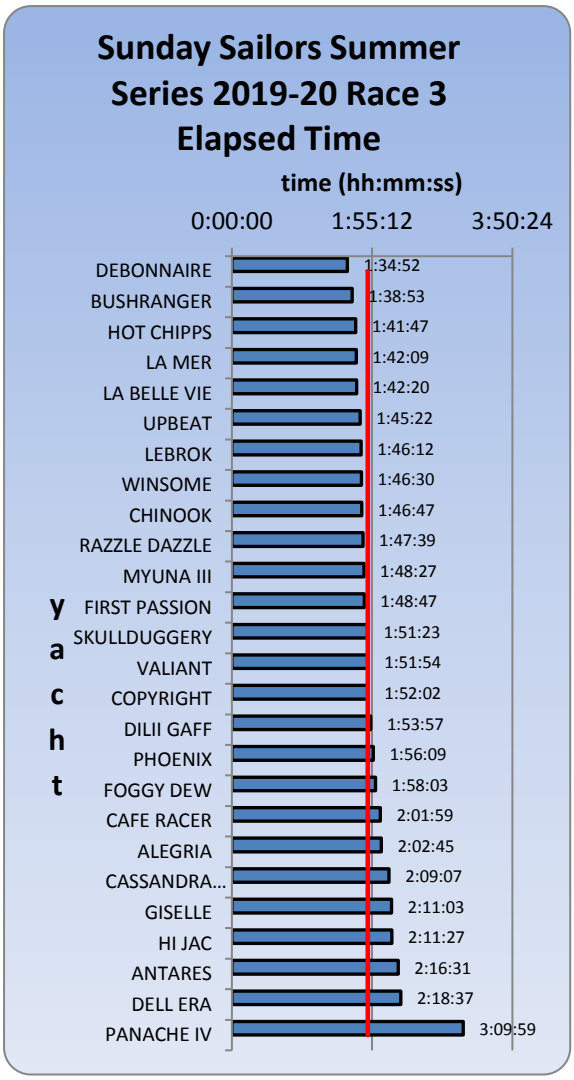
Following race 2, Bushranger received a generous 7 minute handicap reduction taking her from 42 to 35 minutes. She started the race from 23rd place 2 minutes 39 seconds late. She recorded the 2nd fastest elapsed time of the race and was 3rd across the finish line at 11:43:53 – only 6 seconds behind CHINOOK. On paper it looks as though the start cost BUSHRANGER the race. Had she started 51 seconds earlier she would have won the race. As it was she crossed the line ahead of the 3 other yachts with 35 minute handicaps. She moved from 21st to 9th in the aggregate and is now 20th in the contest for the Sunday Plate.



The median start time for the race was 27 seconds with 7 yachts starting within 11 seconds or less of their handicaps. SKULLDUGGERY won Start of the Day with a perfect start but was challenged by ALEGRIA with a 1 second start and LEBROK making a 2 second start.

The closest finish of the race was for 7th place between MYUNA III who finished 4 seconds ahead of ANTARES. Both PHOENIX and VALIANT were judged not to have signed on member point and each had 5 points added to their respective scores. More than half the fleet, 14 yachts finished within 10 minutes of the winner.





The median elapsed time for the race was 1:51:38 – a fast time considering the length of the course. DEBONNAIRE recorded the fastest time of 1:34:52 whilst PANACHE IV enjoyed a sail of over 3 hours.

(Below left) PANACHE IV was the first yacht to start whilst ALEGRIA (below right) made the 2nd best start of the day.

FOGGY DEW (left) & UPBEAT (below) were two yachts that started with a tuck in the main.

WINSOME (left) moved up from 9th to 7th in the aggregate.

(Right) HOT CHIPPS was the only yacht to fly a spinnaker and finished 9th after starting from 25th place.

Both CASSANDRA (below) & DELL ERA (left) improved their aggregate positions by 1 place.

(Below) Yachts preparing to tack & round SYC 6.

(Right) DILII GAFF heading for SYC 1.

(Left) La BELLE VIE finished 5th & is now 4th in the aggregate. (Below) FIRST PASSION was able to keep ahead of VALIANT at the finish.

Race 4 is scheduled for 24 Nov 2019

Graham Furness