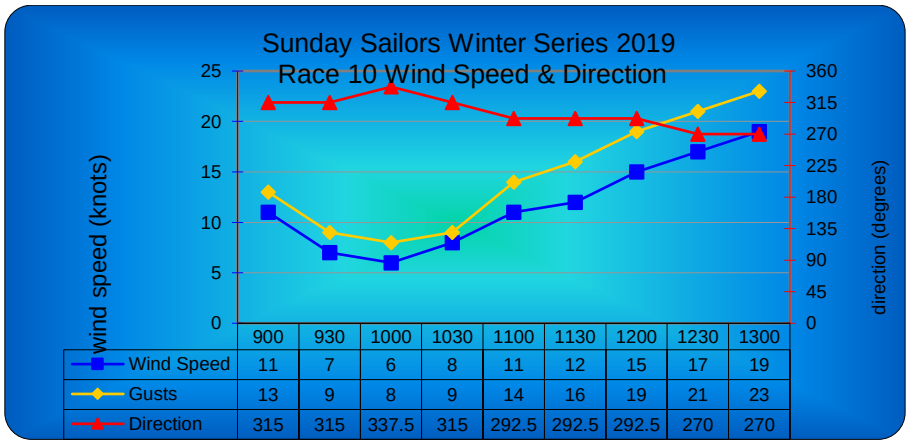
A Race with a Twist
Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2019 race 10

Making a good start was a key factor in the outcome of this race. The skippers and crew of the 16 yacht fleet were unaware that 3 yachts had started too soon. What was a disappointment to those four yachts was good news for the remaining yachts who received an unexpected boost to their aggregate scores. First across the finish line with a healthy lead was WINSOME (Simon Hemingway). Unfortunately she was judged DNS as was LA MER (Michael Ebeling) who crossed the finish line in 9th place. DELL ERA (Mike Coulter) also started too soon and received a 5 minute penalty. (A strong tide was mentioned as a contributing factor to the early starts). Nevertheless all four yachts completed the longest course of the series in a breeze that shifted from the north west to the west and strengthened as the race progressed. It averaged about 12 knots for the morning at Fawkner Beacon but the race was over before the breeze strengthened further and the rain commenced.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	11	7	6	8	11	12	15	17	19
Gusts	13	9	8	9	14	16	19	21	23
Direction	315	315	337.5	315	292.5	292.5	292.5	270	270

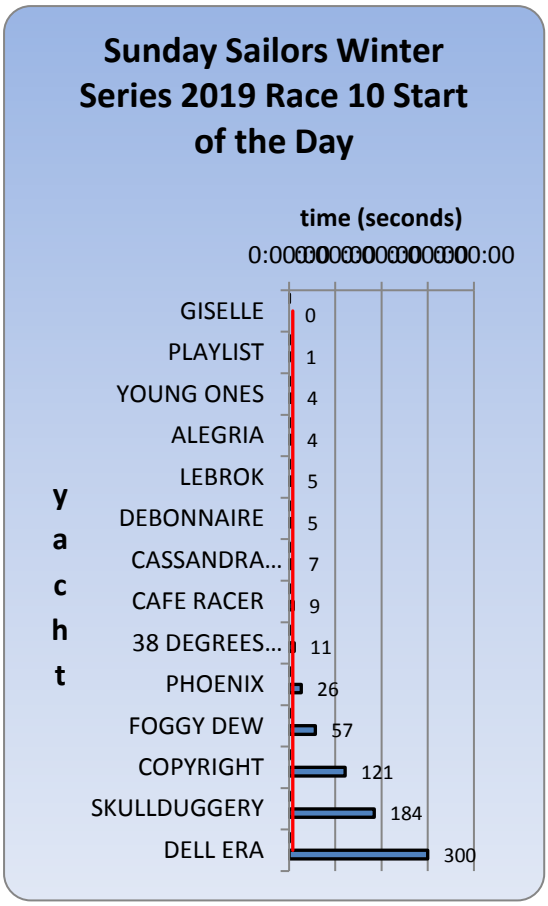
Recording the first perfect start of the series and winning Start of the Day was GISELLE (Robert Freeman). Winning her 2nd race of the series and sailing the course in the fastest elapsed time was PLAYLIST (Matthew Powell) with LEBROK (Theo Korbel) in 2nd place and YOUNG ONES (Ian Miller) 3rd.

With only one race left in the series the result of this race did not alter the top five in the aggregate. ALEGRIA (Simon May) stays at the top with an increased lead on points. CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) is 2nd, with DELL ERA 3rd, DLLII GAFF (Paul MacBain) 4th, and LA MER 5th.

The J111 PLAYLIST was second across the finish but was declared the winner after WINSOME had stated more than a minute too soon. PLAYLIST was the 15th yacht to start the race only 1 second late for her 50 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 1:47:36 and crossed the finish line at 12:07:36 to give her 2 wins from 2 races. In her first win of the series she completed the 9.8 nautical mile course 12 in 1:47:32 – 4 seconds faster than her time for this race. PLAYLIST has only sailed 2 races but moved up from 29th to 25th in the aggregate.

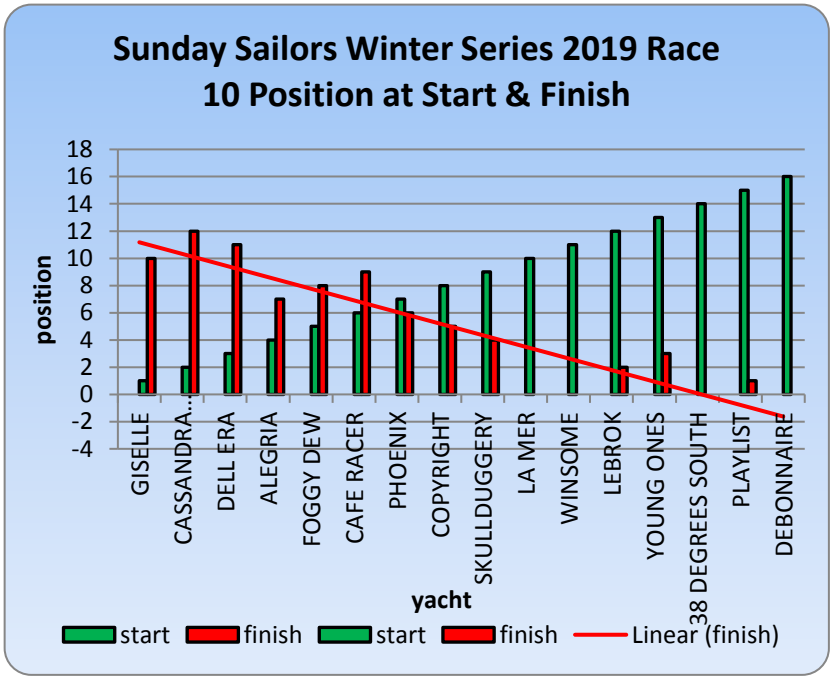
LEBROK completed her 7th race for the series and recorded her best result so far. She made a good start to the race from 12th place only 5 seconds late for her 44 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 1:57:10 (the 3rd fastest elapsed time of the race) and crossed the finish line at 12:11:10 – 3 minutes 34 seconds behind PLAYLIST. LEBROK now has 2 podium finishes from her 7 races and moves up 1 place from 15th to 14th in the aggregate.

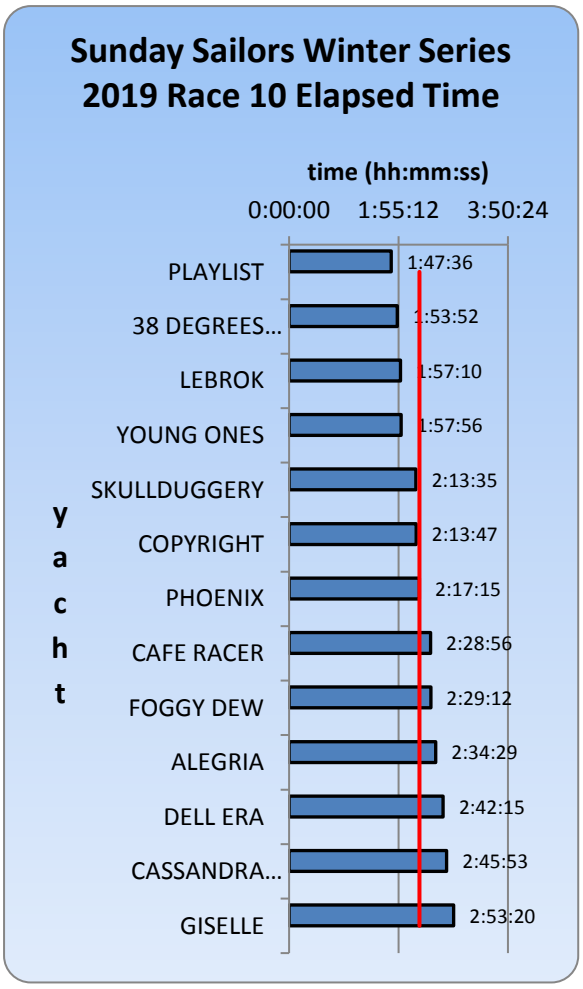
The Young 11 YOUNG ONES has also completed 7 races and accumulated 3 top ten finishes including 3rd place in this race. She also had a good start being 1 second late for her 45 minute handicap from 13th place. She sailed the course in 1:57:56 and crossed the finish line at 12:12:56 – 1 minute 46 seconds behind LEBROK. YOUNG ONES moved from 14th to 12th in the aggregate.



The median start time for the race was 8 seconds the best so far this series. Ten yachts started within 26 seconds or less of their handicaps but 3 yachts started too soon. Winning her first Start of the Day was GISELLE who started right on her handicap.

The long course and increasing wind speed gave plenty of opportunity for the late starters to get a good result. None of the first 5 yachts across the finish line were among the first five to start. The best finishers were among the mid fleet and late starters.





The median elapsed time for the race was 2:17:15 – the time sailed by PHOENIX. PLAYLIST sailed the course in the fastest time with 38 DEGREES SOUTH next and LEBROK third.

(Below) CASSANDRA (left) & ALEGRIA (right) made good starts with times of 7 and 4 seconds respectively.

"The tide" took WINSOME, LA MER & DELL ERA over the start line too soon.

(Below) SKULLDUGGERY & CAFE RACER added a dash of colour by flying spinnakers.

(Left) 38 DEGREES SOUTH recorded the 2nd fastest elapsed time.

(Right) PHOENIX & YOUNG ONES about to round SYC 1.

Challenging times for COPYRIGHT, PLAYLIST and PHOENIX (above) also for DELL ERA & SKULLDUGGERY (below).

(Left) FOGGY DEW is one of 11 yachts to have completed 7 races this series.

The last race of the winter series is scheduled for 22 September 2019

Graham Furness