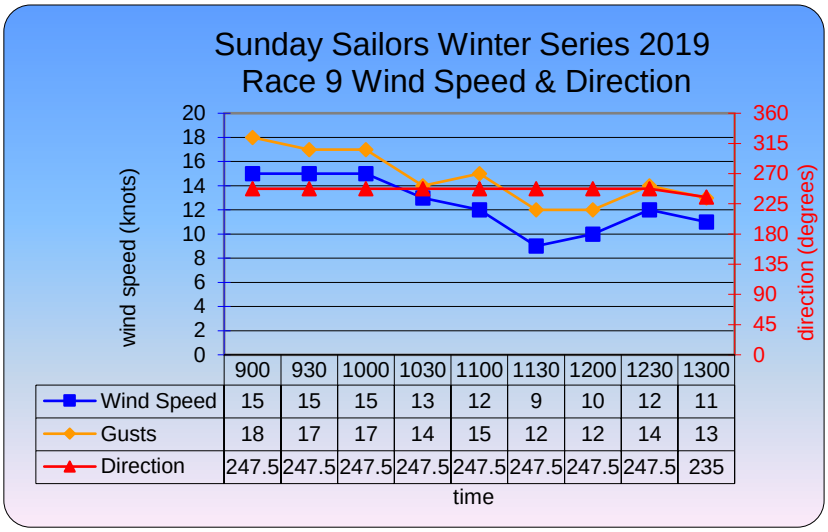
A Soldiers Course
Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2019 Race 9

Race 9 took a 17 yacht fleet around the 7 leg, 10.2 nautical mile course in a west south westerly breeze that averaged about 12 knots for the morning. This course has a northerly start and in a west south westerly over two thirds of it is a beat. Under these conditions spinnakers didn't prove to be a great advantage and with a breeze that eased throughout the morning it was difficult, particularly for the late starters to gain much ground.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	15	15	15	13	12	9	10	12	11
Gusts	18	17	17	14	15	12	12	14	13
Direction	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	247.5	235

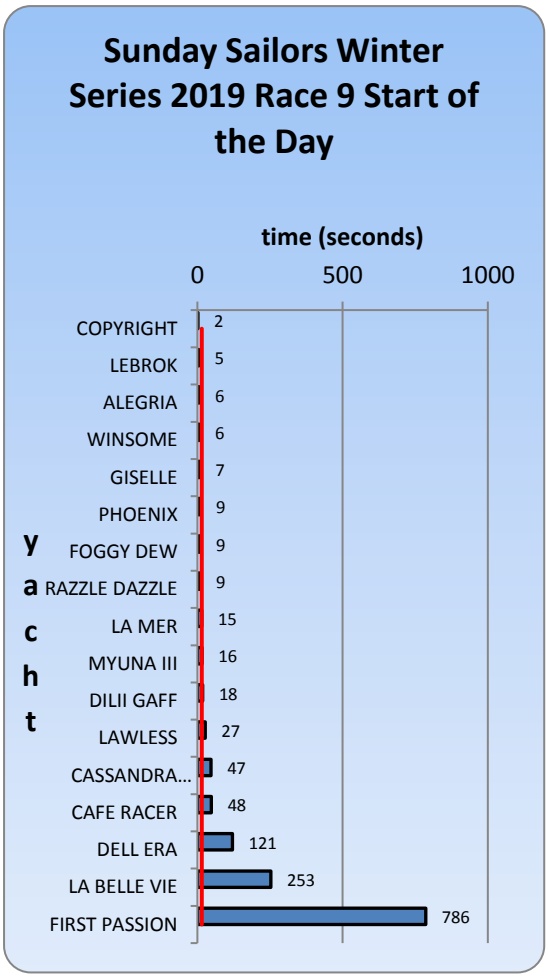
Becoming the 9th different yacht to win Start of the Day was DELL ERA (Mike Coulter) with a time of 1 second. First across the finish line was PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) for her first podium finish of the series. ALEGRIA finished 2nd to record her 3rd podium finish in as many races. FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) followed up her 2nd place in race 8 with a 3rd place in this race to record 2 podium finishes for the series.

ALEGRIA retains top place in the aggregate with a 26 point lead over CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves). CASSANDRA is the only yacht to have completed all 8 races in the series. DELL ERA finished 10th in this race but moves up into 3rd in the aggregate with a total of 41points just 1 point ahead of DILII GAFF (Paul MacBain).

PHOENIX made a great start to the series when she won Start of the Day in race 1. Throughout the series her handicap has varied from a high of 31 minutes to a low of 26 minutes. For this race PHOENIX started from 6th place 9 seconds late for her 26 minute handicap. She completed the course in 1:53:35 (the third fastest elapsed time of the race) and was first to cross the finish line at 11:49:35, 4 minutes 18 seconds ahead of her closest rival. By way of comparison she started 39 seconds before CAFE RACER (who had the same handicap) but finished 14 minutes and 50 seconds ahead. This win by PHOENIX in her 5th completed race of the series takes her from 13th to 10th in the aggregate.

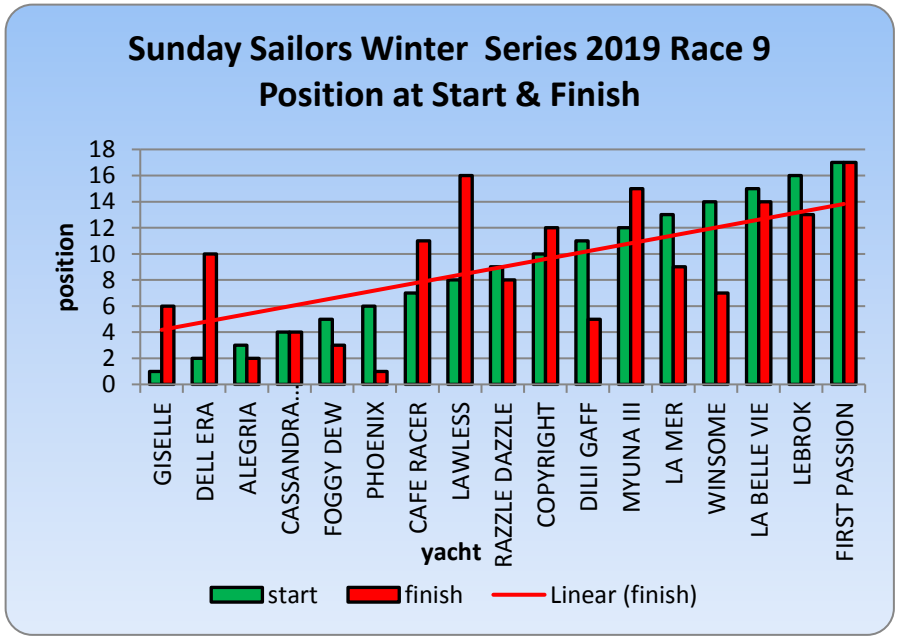
ALEGRIA took the opportunity to build upon her outstanding record of 5 podium finishes from 7 races. She won race 8; her handicap was increased by 3 minutes; she had the 3rd best start of the race; overtook 2 yachts; and was overtaken only by the race winner. ALEGRIA sailed the course in a time of 2:07:53 and was second across the finish line at 11:53:53. She started the race 1 minute 41 seconds ahead of CASSANDRA but finished 2 minutes 14 seconds ahead. ALEGRIA continues to lead the aggregate, a position she has held for the last 3 races.

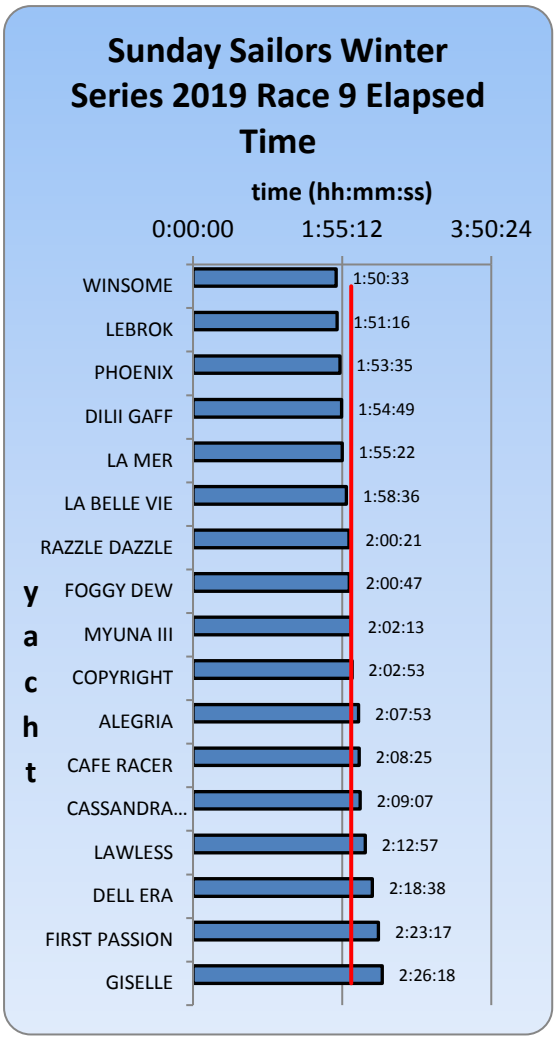
Following her 2nd place in race 8 FOGGY DEW received a 2 minute increase to her handicap for this race. She began from 5th place 9 seconds late for her 24 minute handicap. FOGGY DEW sailed the course in 2:00:47 and crossed the finish line 54 seconds behind ALEGRIA at 11:54:47. She had started 8 minutes and 3 seconds later than ALEGRIA but after sailing the course 7 minutes 6 seconds faster was closing the gap between them before the finish line brought an end to her challenge. FOGGY DEW has completed 6 races and moves from 11th to 7th in the aggregate.



In her first outing since race 5 DELL ERA won Start of the Day. Her winning time was 1 second when the median start time was 9 seconds. FIRST PASSION (Simon Lipman) earns a mention for persistence, determination and perseverance. Although she was 13 minutes 6 seconds late for her handicap (a record?); she sailed and completed the course to finish last by 19 minutes 20 seconds.

It proved difficult for the back markers to move into anything like a winning position. WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) proved to be the best of them moving up 7 places from her start position.





The median elapsed time for the race was 2:02:13 with a range of 35 minutes 45 seconds. It was the first time this series that WINSOME recorded the fastest time. It took her 1:50:53 to complete the course – 43 seconds faster than LEBROK (Theo Korbel) her closest rival.

(Left) RAZZLE DAZZLE made her best start of the series.

(Right) LA BELLE VIE is 6th in the aggregate.

Both CAFE RACER (left) & LAWLESS (right) flew spinnakers and finished 11th & 16th respectively.

(Below left) DILII GAFF slipped from 3rd into 4th place in the aggregate whilst MYUNA III (below right) went from 25th to 22nd.

Race 10 is scheduled for 8 Sept 2019

Graham Furness