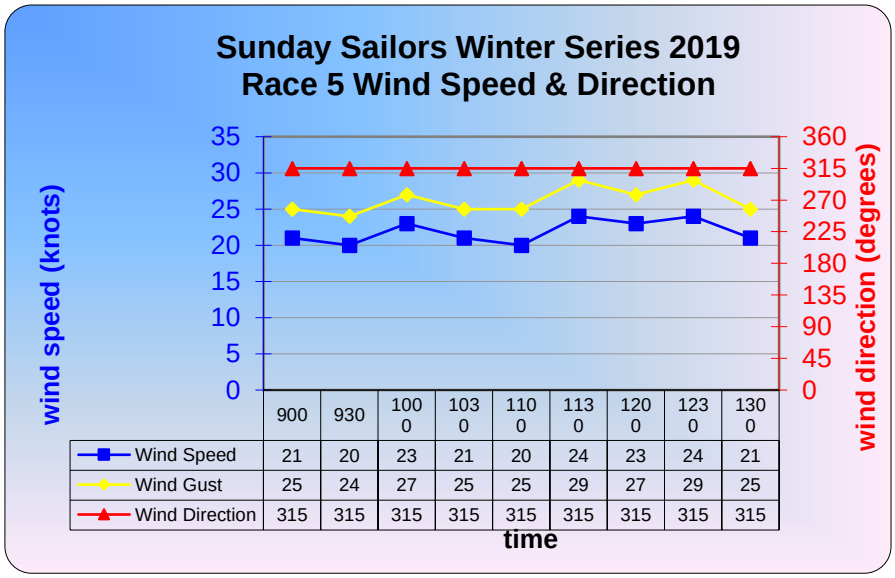
An Eventful Mornings Racing
Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2019 Race 5

DELL ERA (Mike Coulter) sailed brilliantly to post his fourth podium finish from 4 races this series in an event filled morning. The course was the longest; the breeze the strongest; and, the finish the closest of the winter. A 15 yacht fleet that saw 5 retirements made it the smallest of the series and the median start time of 45 seconds was the highest of the winter. The race came to a close when the last of the reduced fleet of 10 yachts crossed the finish line at 11:51:39. Perhaps the biggest disappointment was SKULLDUGGERY (Gary McCarten) who made a good start, sailed well, and was second across the finish line only to discover the crew were not signed on – a five point penalty.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	21	20	23	21	20	24	23	24	21
Wind Gust	25	24	27	25	25	29	27	29	25
Wind Direction	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315

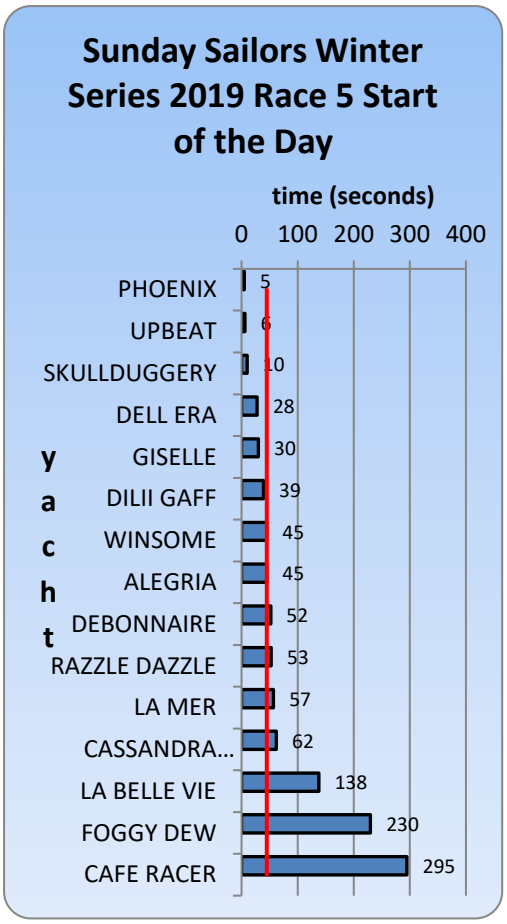
Start of the Day was won by PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) with a time of 5 seconds. First across the finish line was DELL ERA with CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) awarded 2nd place and DILII GAFF (Paul McBain) 3rd. Although she was the last yacht to start the race DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) was the fastest around the course for the 4th consecutive race.

DELL ERA's win puts her on top of the series aggregate with ALEGRIA (Simon May) slipping down into 2nd place and DILII GAFF moving up into 3rd.

DELL ERA has the remarkable record of improving her finish position after each handicap increase. She has completed all 5 races and began the series with a 3 minute handicap. She finished 23rd in her first race. Her handicap has gone from 3 to 5 then 7 and with a 10 minute handicap for this race finished she finished 1st. DELL ERA was the 2nd yacht to start the race 28 seconds late for her handicap. She led the fleet at the first rounding of SYC 4 and with a reefed main and partially furled jib went on to sail the course in 2:02:00 and was first across the finish line at 11:42:00. DELL ERA moved from 2nd to become top of the aggregate.

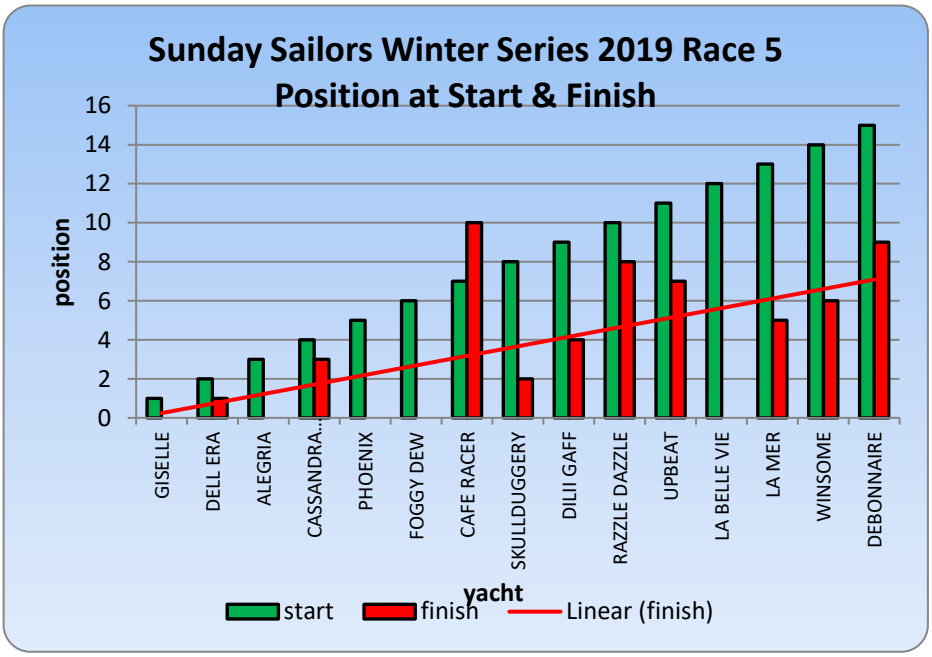
CASSANDRA has also sailed all five races in the series but in contrast to DELL ERA her handicap has decreased from 19 minutes at the start of the series to be 16 minutes for this race. She started the race from 4th place 62 seconds late for her handicap – her worst start of the series. Nevertheless, CASSANDRA sailed the course in 1:56:29 and crossed the finish line at 11:42:29. She started 6 minutes 34 seconds after DELL ERA but finished only 29 seconds after her. This was the first podium finish this series for CASSANDRA and takes her from10th to 7th in the aggregate.

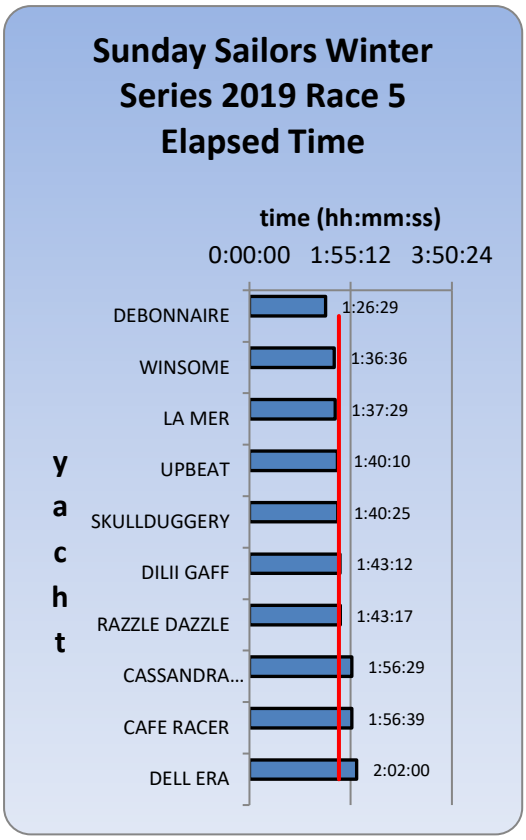
This was the best result in 5 races for DILII GAFF. Her handicap hasn't changed since the start of the series. She started this race from 9th place 39 seconds late for her 32 minute handicap. This was 29 seconds after SKULLDUGGERY who had the same handicap. DILII GAFF sailed the course in a time of 1:43:12 and crossed the finish line at 11:45:12. She was unable to reduce the gap between herself and SKULLDUGGERY who sailed the course 2 minutes 47 seconds faster. DILLII GAFF's results have been improving since the start of the series and she has 4 top ten finishes. These have helped her to 3rd in the aggregate.



After winning Start of the Day in race1 PHOENIX becomes the second yacht to win two starts in the series. The median start time was 45 seconds with 4 yachts starting more than a minute late.

The fleet of 15 yachts started the race 51 minutes 22 seconds apart with the 10 yachts completing the course finishing within 9 minutes 39 seconds of each other. The widest gap between yachts at the finish line was the 3 minutes that separated RAZZLE DAZZLE from DEBONNAIRE.





The median elapsed time for the race was 1:41:48 – the second fastest this winter. DEBONNAIRE sailed the course in the fastest time – 10 minutes 7 seconds faster than her closest rival.

The northerly start proved challenging for all the fleet particularly CAFE RACER (left), LA BELLE VIE (centre) & FOGGY DEW (right).

(Below) SKULLDUGGERY made her best start for the series. (Right) UPBEAT finished 7 seconds ahead of RAZZLE DAZZLE.

(Right) LA MER finished 5th – her best result of the series.

(Far right) An 8th place for WINSOME lifted her from 12th to 8th in the aggregate.

(Left) DILII GAFF overtook CAFE RACER & crossed the finish line 6 places ahead.

Race 6 is scheduled for 14 July 2019

Graham Fenness