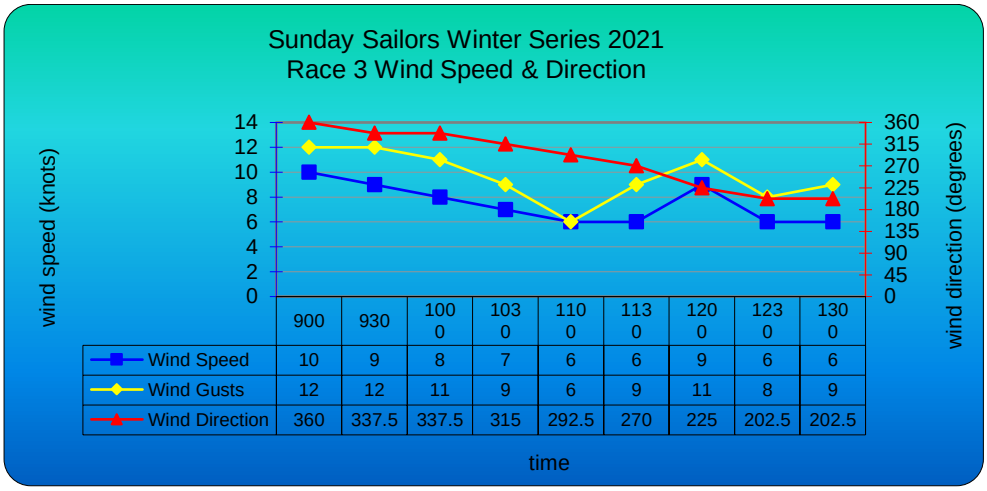
Back on the Water
Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2021 Race 3

After a 6 week layoff Sunday Sailors were back on the water for the first race of the 2021 Winter Series. It was a chilly start to the morning but the clouds slowly cleared away to let the sun shine through revealing plenty of blue sky. As the clouds cleared the wind eased and shifted from the north into the south south west. The breeze averaged about 7 knots for the morning ensuring the sea remained flat. The light breeze caused the course to be shortened from 7 to 4 legs leaving it about 6.1 nautical miles long. This enabled all fifteen yachts to complete the course but they finished almost as far apart as they were when they started. Six of the fifteen yachts flew spinnakers with the shift in wind direction allowing some to use them along 3 of the 4 legs.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	10	9	8	7	6	6	9	6	6
Wind Gusts	12	12	11	9	6	9	11	8	9
Wind Direction	360	337.5	337.5	315	292.5	270	225	202.5	202.5

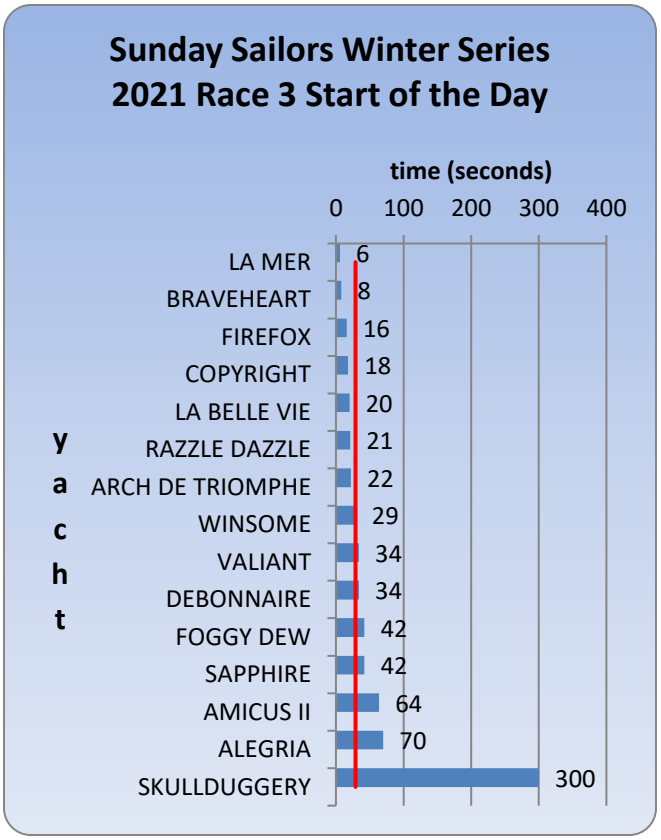
As is often the case a northerly start proved more difficult to judge than a southerly. Winning Start of the day for the first race of the series was LA MER (Michael Ebeling) with a time of 6 seconds. The race provided a good result for some of the early starters. Putting in an outstanding performance to win the race was COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack). She not only won the race (by a margin of 4 minutes 6 seconds) but sailed the course in the fastest time – 5 minutes 31 seconds faster than her closest rival. There was a closer contest for the minor placings with AMICUS II (Warwick Stenford), sailing single handed, finishing in 2nd place 61 seconds behind COPYRIGHT. ALEGRIA (Simon May) crossed the finish line 45 seconds later to collect the prize for 3rd place.

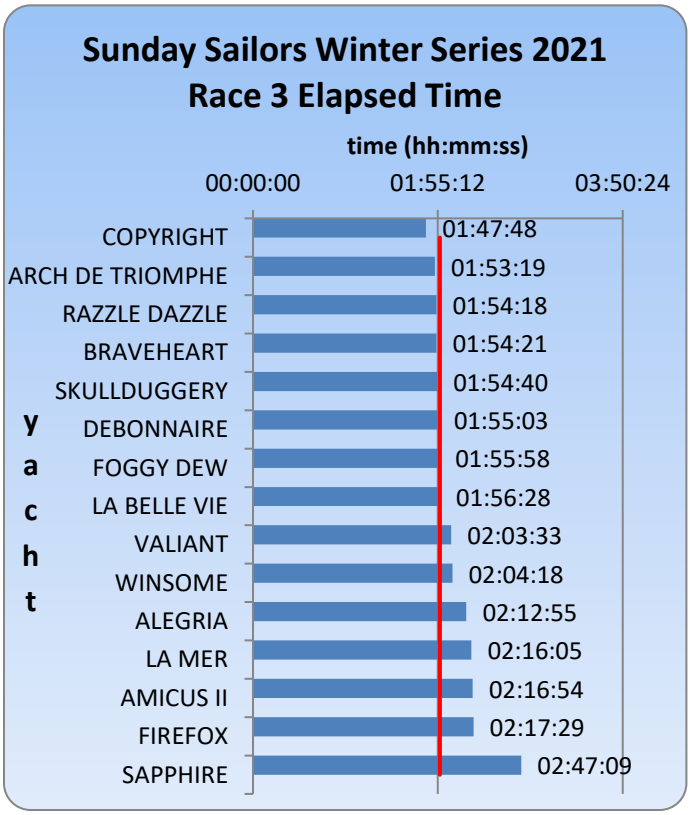
COPYRIGHT started the race from 4th place 18 seconds late for her 30 minute handicap. It took her 1:47:48 to complete the course and was first across the finish line at 11:47:48. COPYRIGHT had started 58 seconds ahead of FIREFOX and 63 seconds ahead of RAZZLE DAZZLE but sailed so well that she finished 30 minutes 41 seconds ahead of FIREFOX and 7 minutes 31 seconds ahead of RAZZLE DAZZLE.

It was the smallest yacht in the fleet, AMICUSII, that got the race underway when she was first across the start line at 9:36:04 – 64 seconds late for her 5 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 2:26:54 – a time that was better than two larger yachts and was 2nd across the finish line at 11:51:54.

ALEGRIA was the second yacht to start, 70 seconds late for a 10 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 2:12:55 and although this was 3 minutes 59 seconds faster than AMICUSII it wasn't fast enough to catch her. ALEGRIA was 3rd across the finish line at 11:53:55 just 61 seconds behind AMICUSII.

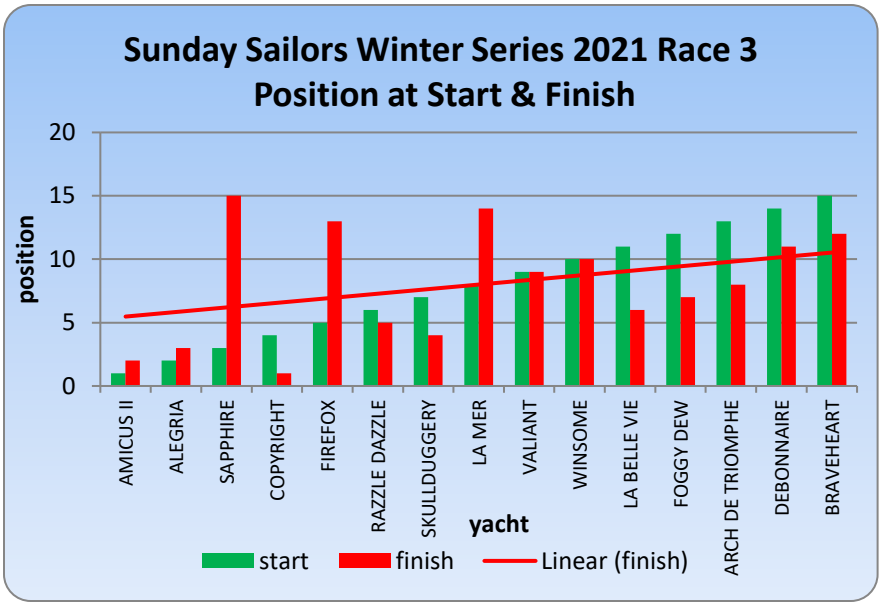
Recording a good start for this race proved to be difficult with the median start time of 29 seconds. Only 2 yachts recorded a start time better than 10 seconds – LA MER and BRAVEHEART.





The median elapsed for the race was 1:56:28 coincidentally the time recorded by LA BELLE VIE. As already noted COPYRIGHT recorded the fastest time of 1:47:48.

This was a race that favoured the early starters with 5 of them among the first yachts to finish the race. Of the six yachts that flew spinnakers – 3 finished in the first half of the fleet to cross the finish line.



(Above left) SAPPHIRE about to start her first Sunday race

(Above right) FIREFOX also new to Sunday sailing

(Right) BRAVEHEART made the 2nd best start of the race

(Above left) SKULLDUGGERY, WINSOME & LA BELLE VIE before the start
(Above right) ARC DE TRIOMPHE finished 21 seconds ahead of FOGGY DEW

(Above left) RAZZLE DAZZLE finished 5th In the race with the 3rd fastest elapsed time
(Above right) DEBONNAIRE about to cross the finish line

(Below) VALIANT leads part of the fleet to SYC 4

Race 4 is scheduled for 11 July 2021

Graham Furness