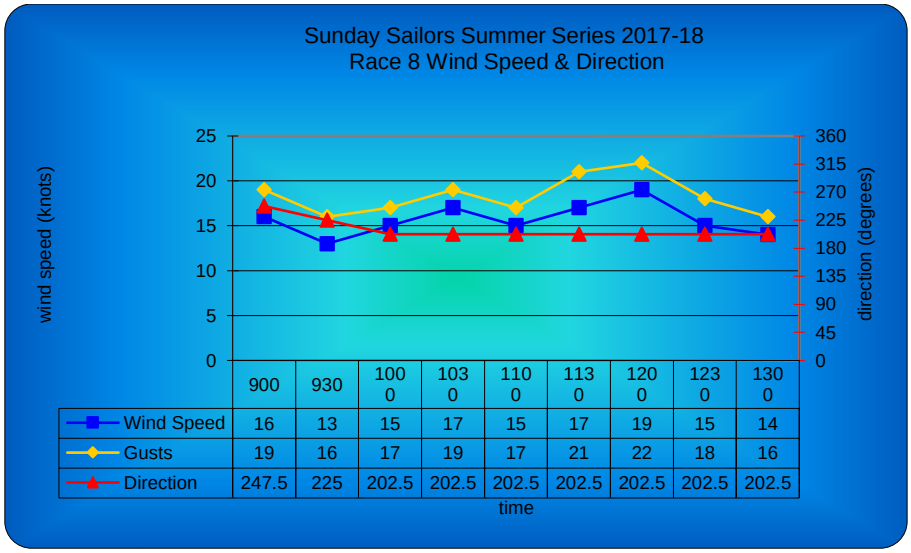
**Biggest Fleet of the Series**
**Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2017-18 Race 8**

The BOM forecast a variable breeze around 10 knots for the morning. Observations at Fawkner Beacon indicated a breeze averaging about 16 knots was received. Nevertheless, the largest fleet (25 yachts) of the series contested a race around the 8.2 nautical mile course number 8. The same course was selected for race 7 but with a different result.
Three yachts opted to fly spinnakers, ALLIANCE (Alex Hall) retired about 40 minutes into her race. This was not before giving the spinnaker an airing on the first downwind leg from 1 to 7.



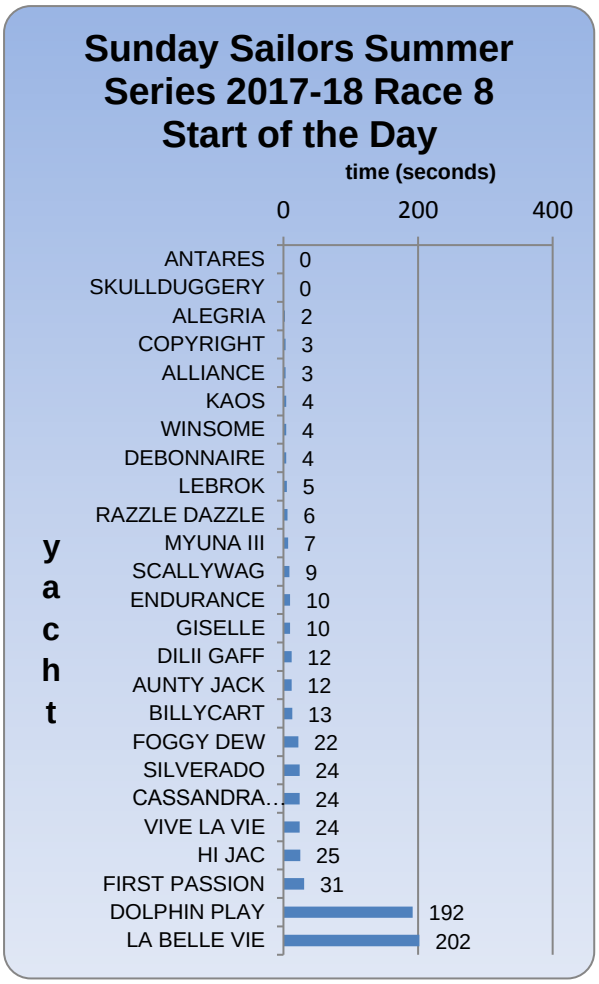

SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) demonstrated that winning Start of the Day is not just luck. She won the start for the 3rd successive race. This time she tied with ANTARES (G Stewart & D Pearce). Both yachts started exactly on their respective handicaps. SILVERADO (John Barbieri) had a belated but great start to the series by winning her first race. ALEGRIA (Simon May) followed up her win in race 7 with a 2nd place in race 8. DOLPHIN PLAY (John Brennan) finished 3rd – her first podium finish of the series. LEBROK (Theo Korbel) recorded her best result in 5 races when she crossed the line in 5th place. DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) improved on her result in race 7 recording her best result of the series – an 11th place.

KAOS (Dawn Cleaver) moved into top spot in the aggregate equal on points with ANTARES.

SILVERADO hasn't raced since race 6 of the winter series in which she finished 5th in a fleet of 10 yachts. She started this race from 7th place 24 seconds late for her 16 minute handicap. SILVERADO crossed the start line at exactly the same time as CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE. She was able to sail the course 10 minutes 2 seconds faster than CASSANDRA and crossed the finish line 12 places ahead. SILVERADO had won her first race of the series by a margin of 1 minute 7 seconds. This win lifts her 3 places in the aggregate from 32nd to 29th place.

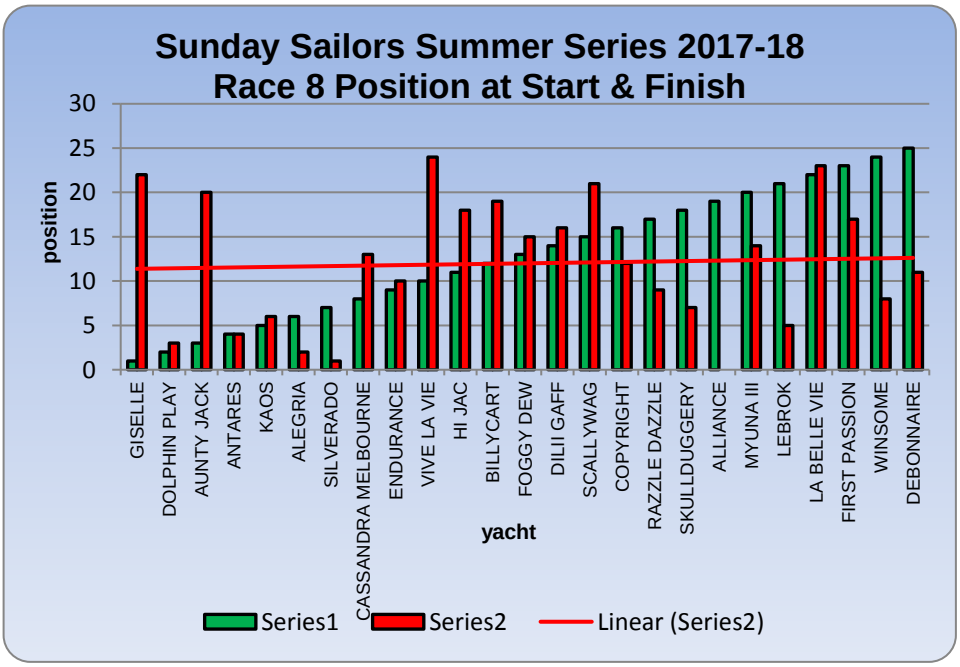
ALEGRIA won race 7 around the same course as race 8. She sailed this race 11 minutes 11 seconds faster (2.5 knots more breeze) and finished second. She did have a 3 minute increase to her handicap and started from 6th place only 2 seconds late. ALEGRIA sailed the course in 1:48:45 – the 13th fastest time of the race and crossed the finish line at 11:30:45. ALEGRIA had started 58 seconds later than KAOS but finished 7 minutes 29 seconds ahead. This was the second podium finish this series for ALEGRIA and she moves from 10th to 7th in the aggregate.

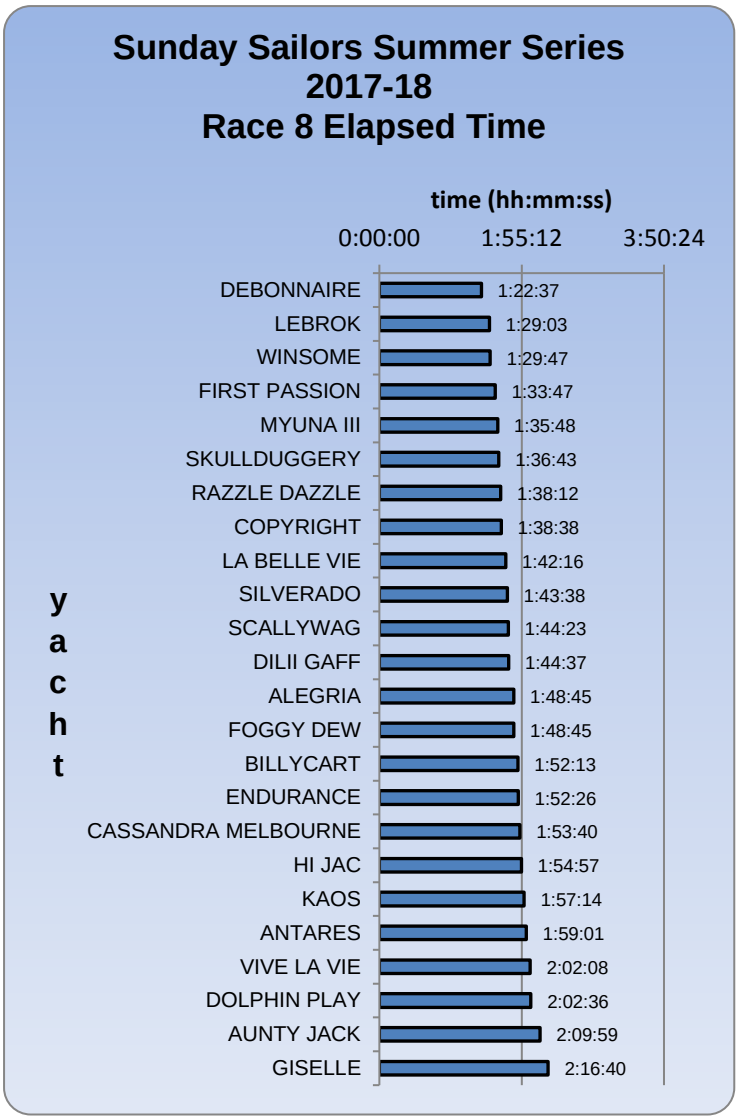
This is the 3rd race completed by DOLPHIN PLAY this series and her first podium finish. She started from 2nd place 3 minutes 12 seconds late for her 1 minute handicap. This could have been a costly start for DOLPHIN PLAY who finished only 2 minutes 51 seconds behind ALEGRIA. However, she did overtake GISELLE who started 4 minutes 2 seconds ahead but finished 13 minutes 4 seconds behind. DOLPHIN PLAY sailed the course in 2:02:36 crossing the finish line in 3rd place at 11:33:36. She improved her aggregate position by 5 places moving into 14th place.



Between them ANTARES and SKULLDUGGERY have won Start of the Day on 7 occasions. The winning time has been either 0 (3 times) or 1 second.

Mid fleet starters found difficulty finishing in the top 8 across the line. The first eight were comprised of 5 early and 3 late starters.






DEBONNAIRE sailed the course 6 minutes 26 seconds faster than her closest rival and finished in 11th place. Remarkably FOGGY DEW and ALEGRIA sailed the course 1:48:45. They finished 15th and 2nd respectively.

ALLIANCE was able to fly her spinnaker before having to retire.

KAOS finished 6th and shares the lead on points in the aggregate with ANTARES.

DEBONNAIRE (11th) won this 4 way contest from COPYRIGHT (12th), CASSANDRA (13th hidden) and MYUNA III (14th). Only 11 seconds separated the 4 at the finish.

RAZZLE DAZZLE kept her narrow lead to cross the finish line 14 seconds ahead of ENDURANCE.

ANTARES hung on to her lead to beat LEBROK by 2 seconds.

**RACE 9 is scheduled for 4th Feb 2018**