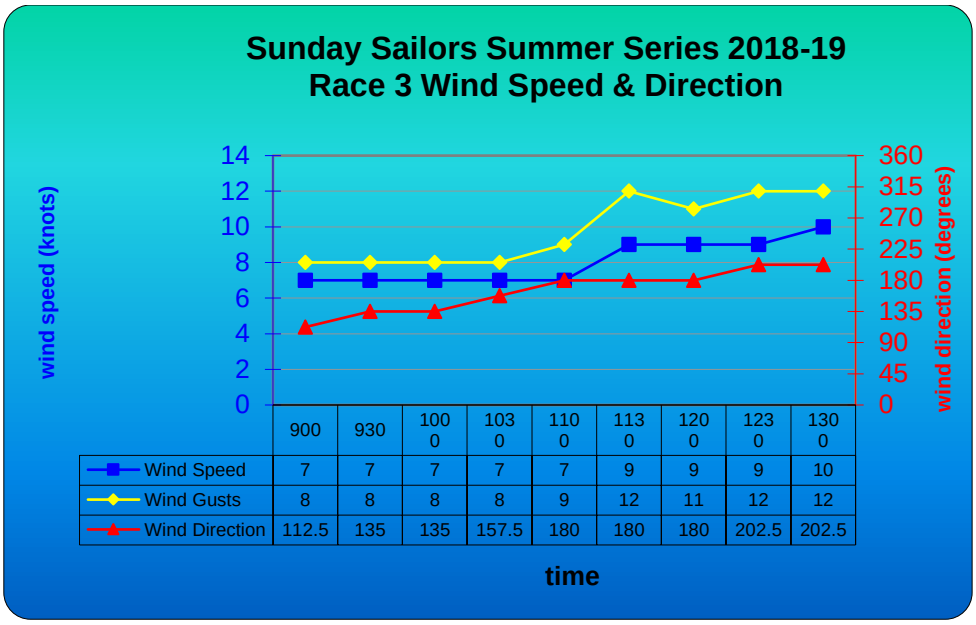
Can it Get Any Better?
Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2018-19 Race 3

Blue skies, flat seas and a light but steady breeze that shifted from the south east to the SSW were enjoyed by a 26 yacht fleet on Sunday morning. They sailed around the 9.8 nautical mile course 24 in a breeze that averaged about 8 knots for the race. With about 40% of the course downwind, conditions were suited to those who wanted to fly a spinnaker.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	7	7	7	7	7	9	9	9	10
Wind Gusts	8	8	8	8	9	12	11	12	12
Wind Direction	112.5	135	135	157.5	180	180	180	202.5	202.5

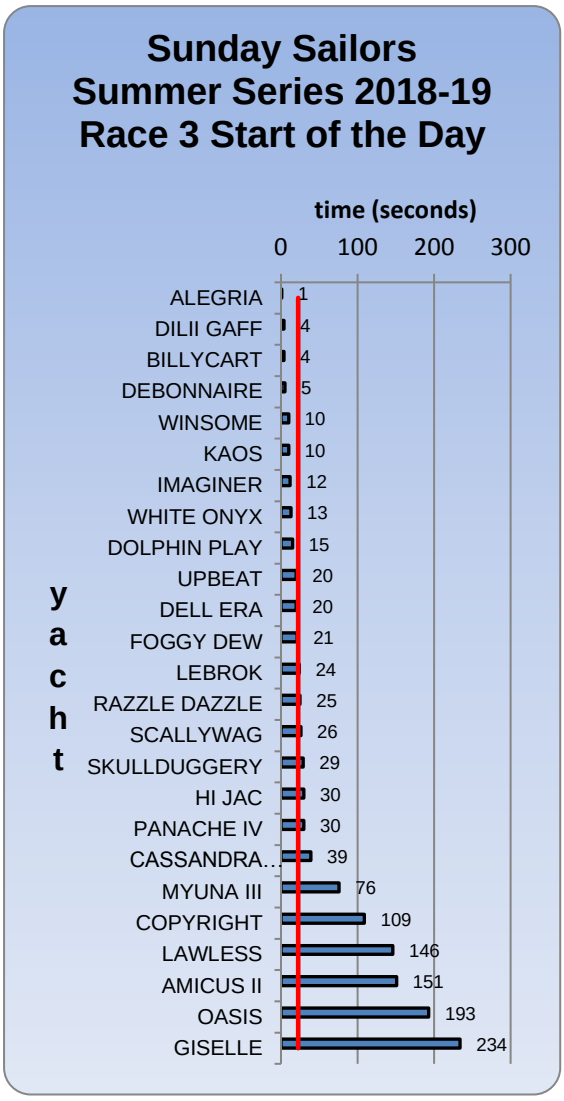
A downwind start seems to be something more of a challenge than one to windward. However, ALEGRIA (Simon May) had a very good start to win Start of the Day - only 1 second late for her 9 minute handicap. It was DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) with spinnaker in full flight that was first across the finish line. She also sailed the course in the fastest elapsed time – 9 minutes 34 seconds faster than her closest rival. The two other yachts that flew spinnakers, COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) and SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) recorded the 3rd fastest and 6th fastest elapsed times. WHITE ONYX (Ben & Katherine Solly) finished in 2nd place with SCALLYWAG (Bill Hutchison) finishing 3rd.

The win takes DEBONNAIRE to the top of the summer aggregate level on points with WHITE ONYX whilst COPYRIGHT moves up into 3rd place.

DEBONNAIRE sailed an excellent race being the last to start and first to finish. She was only 5 seconds late for her 47 minute handicap – the 4th best start of the race. She made clever use of the big red spinnaker which helped record an elapsed time of 1:52:39. DEBONNAIRE started 6 minutes 52 seconds later than WHITE ONYX but was 2 minutes 34 seconds ahead when she crossed the finish line at 12:09:39. She has sailed both races in the series recording two podium finishes – 1st and a 3rd. She leads the aggregate with a total of 4 points.

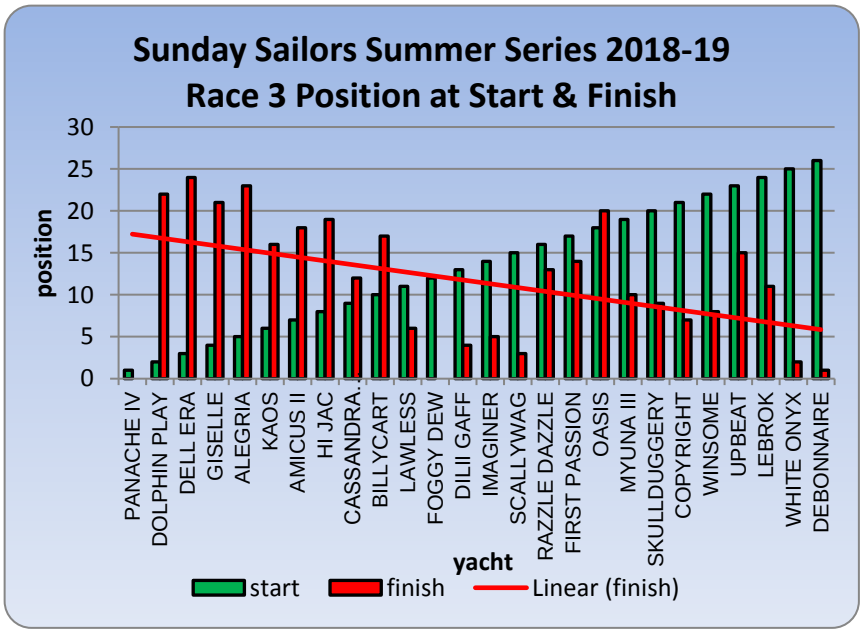
WHITE ONYX not only completed both races in the series and also recorded two podium finishes – a 2nd place in both races 1 and 3. Her handicap was increased by 3 minutes after her race 1 performance and she was the second last yacht to start 13 seconds late for her 40 minute handicap. Sailing the course in 2:02:13 WHITE ONYX had the second fastest elapsed time of the race and was second across the finish line at 12:12:13. She had started the race 49 seconds behind LEBROK (Theo Korbel) but finished 8 minutes 23 seconds and 9 places ahead. WHITE ONYX is 2nd in the aggregate (on a count back) equal on 4 points with DEBONNAIRE.

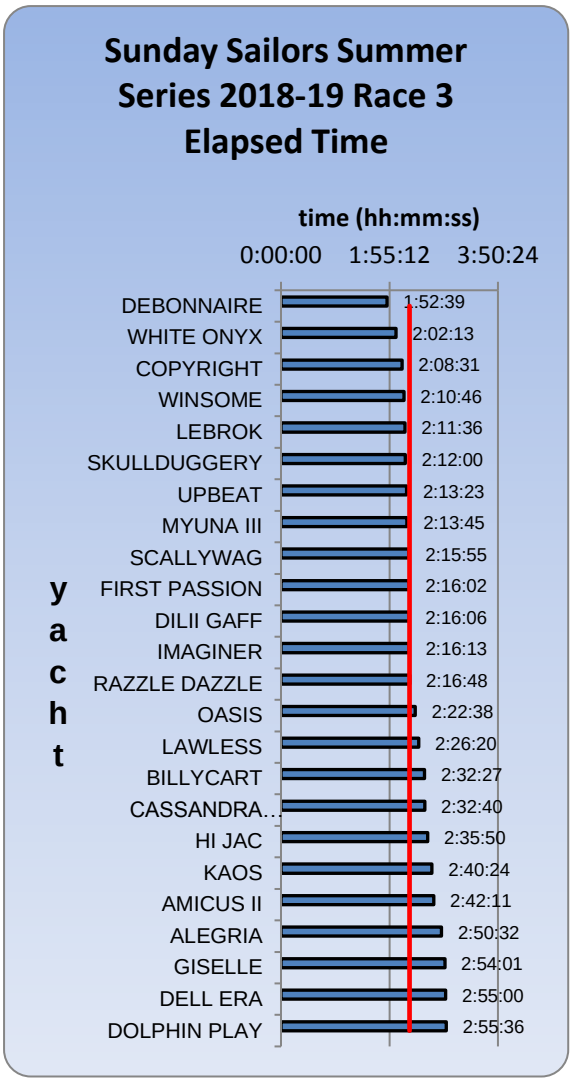
The Jeanneau 40.3 SCALLYWAG moved into 4th from 10th place in the aggregate after finishing 3rd in this race. She is one of 19 yachts to have completed both races in the series. She started from 15th place 26 seconds late for her 28 minute handicap. A handicap she shared with both DILII GAFF (Paul MacBain) and IMAGINER (Chris Byrne). SCALLYWAG sailed the course in 2:15:55 and was 3rd across the finish line at 12:13:55. Although she had started 22 and 14 seconds behind DILII GAFF and IMAGINER respectively she finished ahead of both by a margin of 11 and 18 seconds.



The median start time for the race was 22.5 seconds - the best of the series so far. ALEGRIA become the 3rd different yacht to win the start with a time of 1 second. Six yachts started within 10 seconds or less of their handicaps whilst 6 others started more than a minute late.

The race suited the mid fleet and late starters. None of the first 9 yachts to start were among the first nine to finish. The closest finish was between UPBEAT (Peter Dunne) who finished 1 second ahead of KAOS (Dawn Cleaver).





The median elapsed time was 2:16:31 with 62 minutes 57 seconds difference between the fastest and slowest elapsed times. However, the fastest yacht crossed the finish line before the 1230 finish time allowing a 30 minute extension to the race. As it was only a minute of the extension was required. With an elapsed time of 2:55:36 DOLPHIN PLAY (John Brennan) received best value for money.

Sometimes spinnakers can misbehave.

Other times they work really well.

Only 18 seconds separated IMAGINER, DILII GAFF and SCALLYWAG at the finish line.

There was plenty of "traffic" around SYC 4 on more than one occasion.

(Right) KAOS finished 1 second behind UPBEAT.

Things can get better for PANACHE VI (retired), DELL ERA (hooked a big one) and FOGGY DEW (DNF).

Photos by
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&
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Race 4 is scheduled for 25 Nov 2018