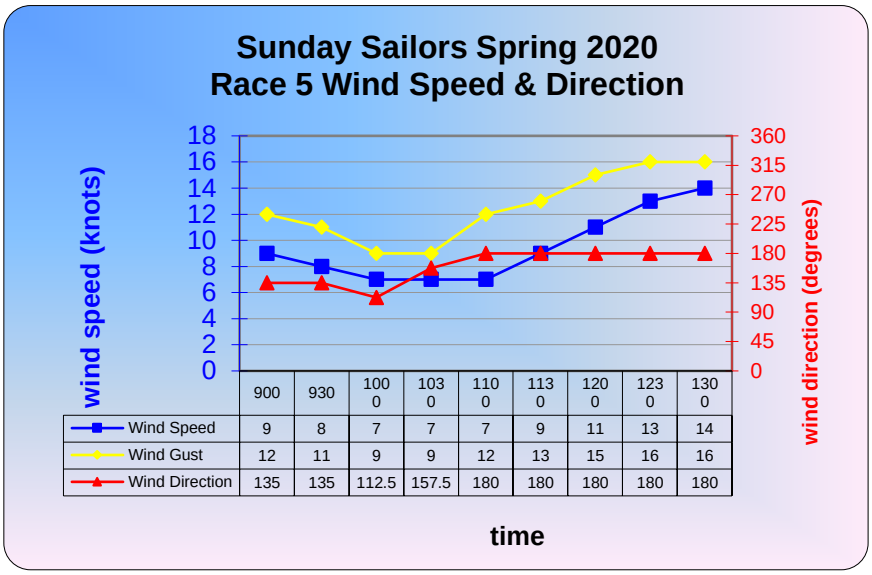
Good Course for Spinnakers
Sunday Sailors Spring 2020 Race 5

On a partly cloudy Sunday morning 20 yachts took part in the final race of the spring programme. PANACHE IV (Egils Stokans) was first to start. She later retired but not before becoming one of four yachts in a tie for Start of the Day. The other three yachts in this unusual start were FIRST LIGHT (Mike Coulter), SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) and WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) all starting 5 seconds from their handicap. The race was around the 10.8 nautical mile course 41in an increasing south easterly to southerly breeze that averaged about 9 knots for the morning. The combination of wind direction and course layout resulted in 4 of the 7 legs becoming “spinnaker runs”. Four yachts took this option with good results - three of them finished in the top five.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	9	8	7	7	7	9	11	13	14
Wind Gust	12	11	9	9	12	13	15	16	16
Wind Direction	135	135	112.5	157.5	180	180	180	180	180

It was the first time on the podium for 2 of the first 3 across the finish line. MYUNA III (Geoffrey Nixon) won the race without a spinnaker. Sailing 4 legs with a spinnaker was DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) who finished 2nd. Finishing 3rd and becoming the second yacht to record 2 podium finishes was WINSOME.

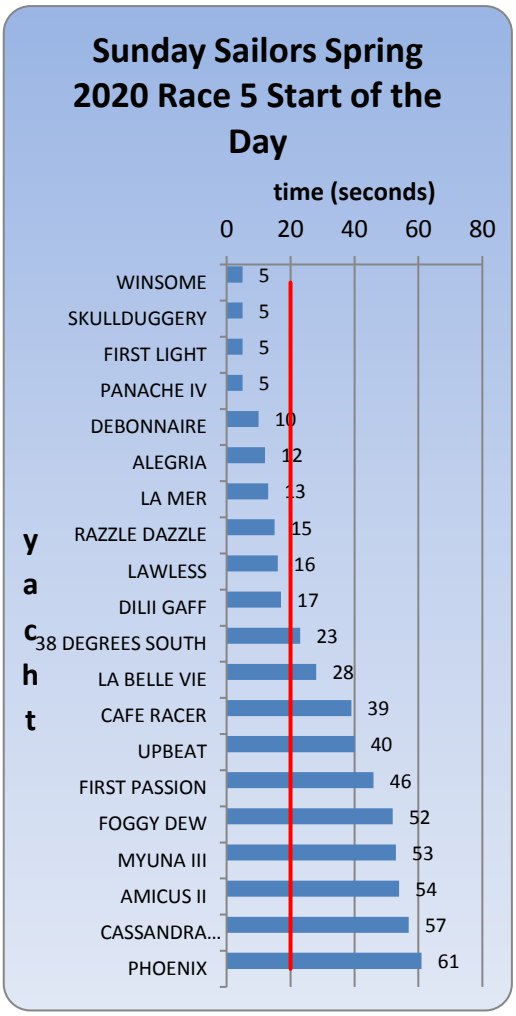
For the first time in 3 races DEBONNAIRE was fastest around the course. She completed the course 8 minutes 40 seconds faster than her closest rival.

This was the 2nd race of the spring for MYUNA. She started from 7th place 53 seconds late for her 26 minute handicap. After sailing the first 4 legs of the race in 1:30:53 MYUNA led the fleet around SYC 4 for the first time by a margin of 74 seconds. It took a further 42 minutes 13 seconds to complete the course and crossed the finish line at 12:19:59. She was 5th in her previous race – race 2.

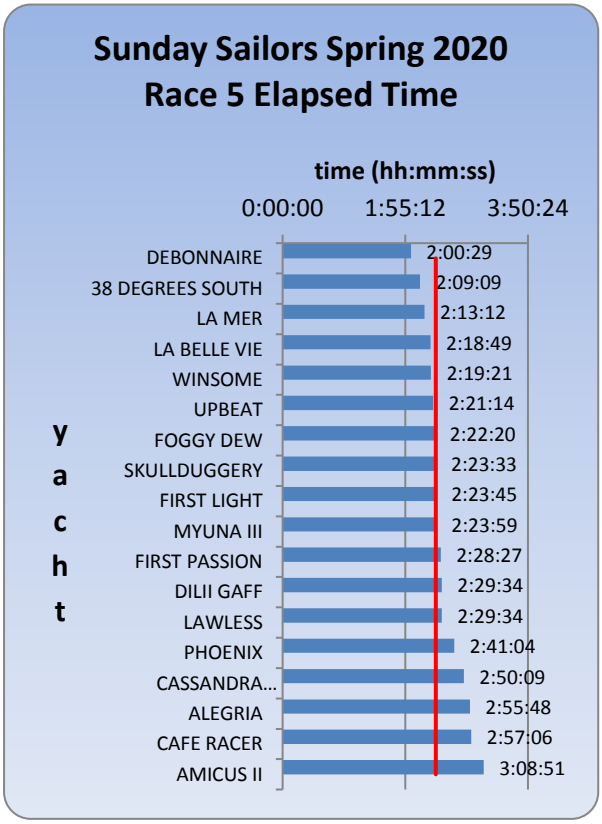
DEBONNAIRE has completed all three races this spring finishing 10th in races 1 and 2. She was the last yacht to start this race 10 seconds late for her 50 minute handicap. After sailing 50 minutes 30 seconds she rounded SYC 4 for the first time in 7th place. It took DEBONNAIRE a further 36 minutes 6 seconds to complete the course and crossed the finish line at 12:21:21 – 30 seconds after MYUNA.

WINSOME has also completed all three races this spring recording a 2nd and 5th place in races 1 and 2. She started this race from 12th place 5 seconds late for her 32 minute handicap. WINSOME was the second yacht to round SYC 4 for the first time and after sailing a further 42 minutes 21 seconds was 3rd across the finish line at 12:21:21. She finished 52 seconds behind DEBONNAIRE and 72 seconds ahead of SKULLDUGGERY.

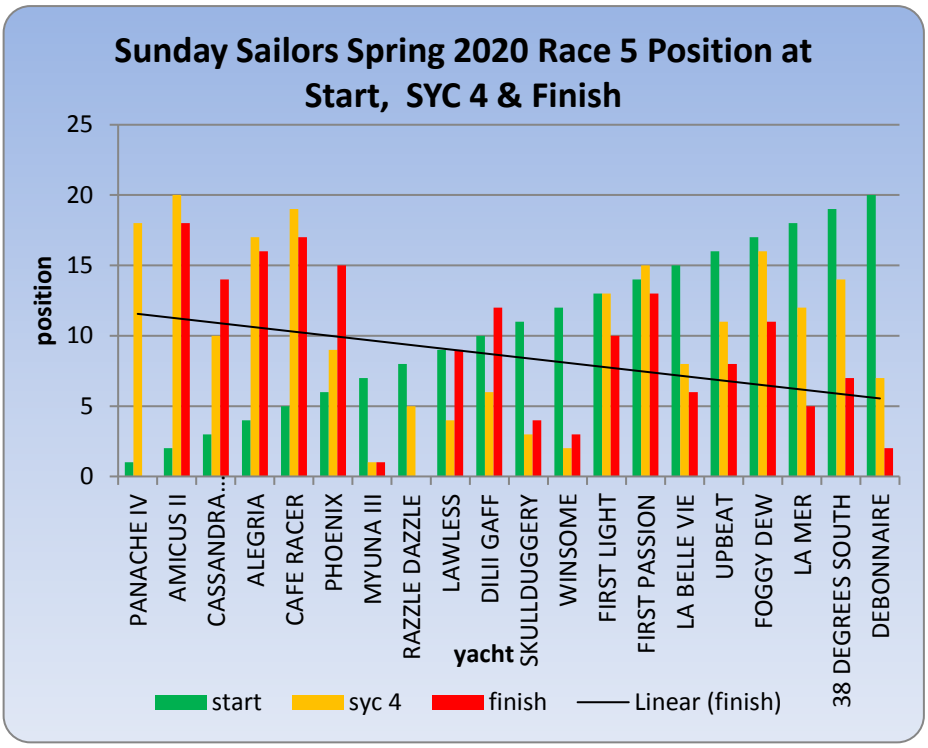
The median start time for the race was 22 seconds - the best of the spring programme. This is unusual as downwind start times are normally later than those into the wind.



AMICUS II had the longest sail of the race and was able to finish 3 minutes 9 seconds before the 1300 time limit. The median elapsed time was 2:23:52.



With 8 of the last ten yachts to start among the first 10 to finish this was a better result for some of the late starters compared to the early starters. The closest finish was for 9th place with LAWLESS (Boyd Coulson) crossing the line 11 seconds ahead of FIRST LIGHT.



FIRST LIGHT (below left) and SKULLDUGGERY (below right) were 2 of the 4 yachts that tied for Start of the Day

(Above left to right) LAWLESS, FOGGY DEW & 38 DEGREES SOUTH were 3 of 4 yachts that sailed their first race of the spring

(Right) PHOENIX unable to stay alongside LA MER

(Left) FIRST PASSION on her way to SYC 1

Both DILII GAFF (left) & LA BELLE VIE (below) made their 1st starts to a spring race

(Left) CASSANDRA & UPBEAT stayed together for some of the time

(Far left) CAFE RACER completed all 3 spring races

Summer Series is scheduled to begin 3 Jan 2021

Graham Furness