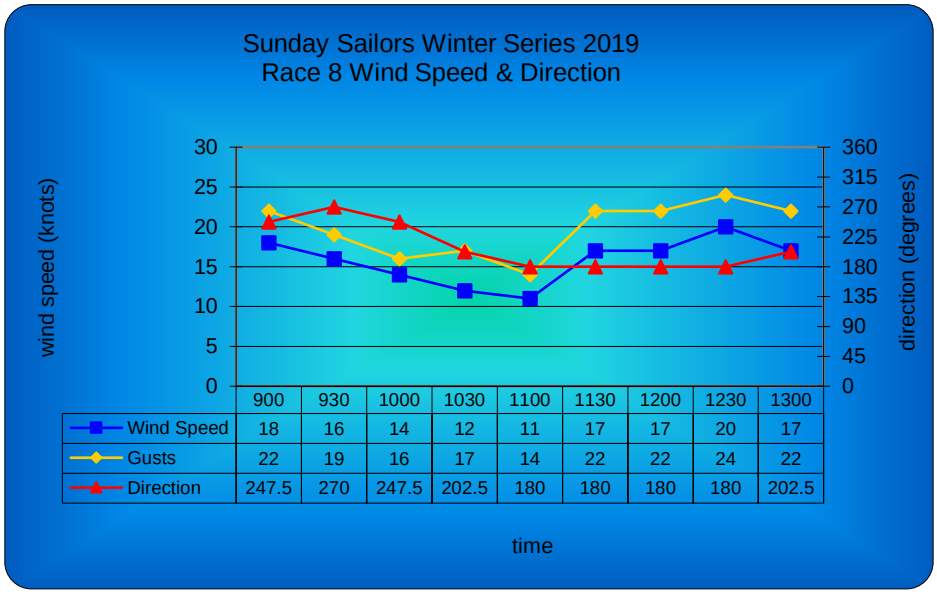
Good One for the Aggregate
Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2019 Race 8

Some ominous signs faced Sunday sailors before the start of this race. A strong wind warning had been issued for Port Philip; showers and thunderstorms were forecast; and, the temperature had only reached 7.5° C by 0930. As it turned out the wind averaged only 16 knots for the morning; there were neither showers nor thunderstorms; and, there was plenty of sunshine to raise the temperature. Nine yachts were out on the water to contest a race around the 7 leg, 9.8 nautical mile course 12. It started on time, was completed by 1200 with every yacht recording a top ten finish. The first yacht to start was the first to finish whilst the last yacht to start was the last to finish but every yacht maintained or improved their aggregate position.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	18	16	14	12	11	17	17	20	17
Gusts	22	19	16	17	14	22	22	24	22
Direction	247.5	270	247.5	202.5	180	180	180	180	202.5

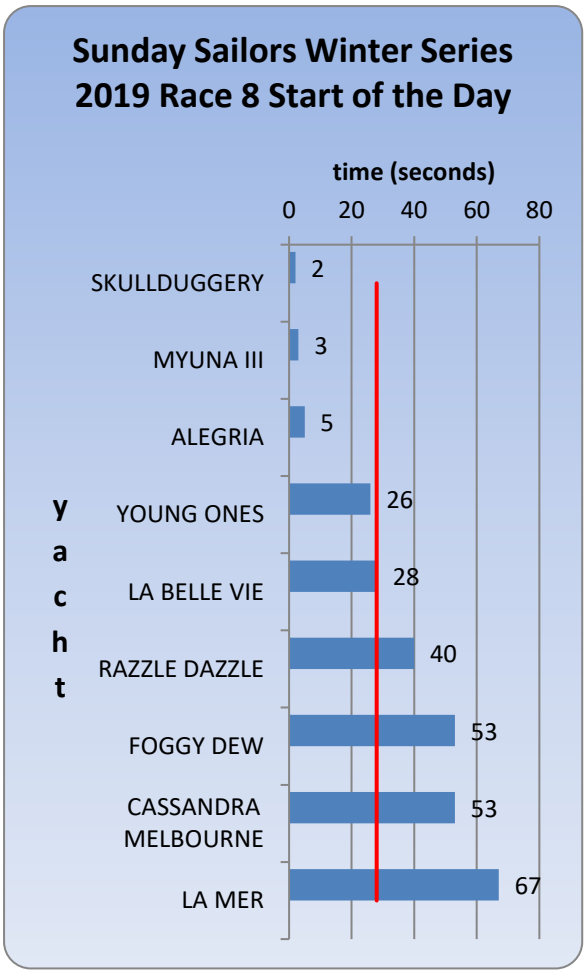
Start of the Day was won by SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) with a time of 2 seconds. ALEGRIA (Simon May) recorded her 4th podium finish when she crossed the line in first place. Second was FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) with LA BELLE VIE (Grant Anderson) not only finishing third but also recording the fastest elapsed time for the race.

The win by ALEGRIA saw her remain at the top of the aggregate with CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) moving up into 2nd place and DILII GAFF (Paul McBain), who didn't race, holding onto 3rd place.

ALEGRIA is putting together “a very good set of numbers.” Her 6 completed races have yielded 5 top ten finishes including 4 podium finishes. She began the series with a 5 minute handicap which has increased as the series progressed. After her 2nd place in race 7 her handicap was increased by 3 minutes and she was the first yacht to start this race, 5 seconds late for her 13 minute handicap. ALEGRIA started the race 4 minutes 48 seconds before the next yacht, led the fleet throughout the entire course to be first across the finish line at 11:46:50 – 54 seconds ahead of FOGGY DEW. ALEGRIA is at the top of the aggregate with a total of 24 points – 30 points ahead of her closest rival.

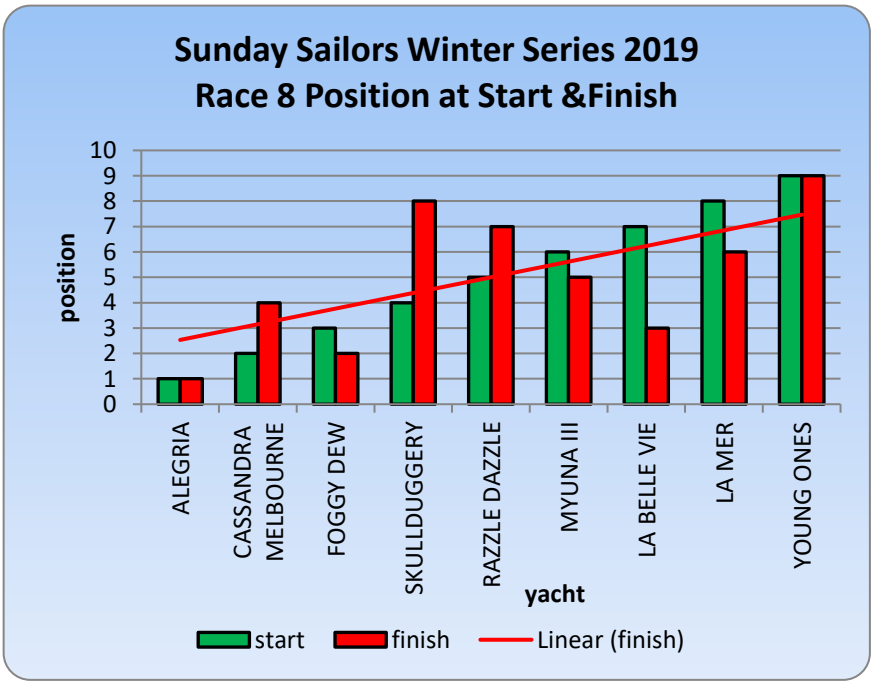
This was the 5th race to be completed this series by FOGGY DEW and her best result of the series so far. She started the race from 3rd place 53 seconds late for a 22 minute handicap – her lowest of the series. FOGGY DEW sailed the course in 1:55:44 – the 7th fastest elapsed time of the race and crossed the finish line in 2nd place at 11:47:44. This was her best result of the winter series. She now has a total of 75 points in the aggregate and this podium finish helped her up from 17th to 11th position.

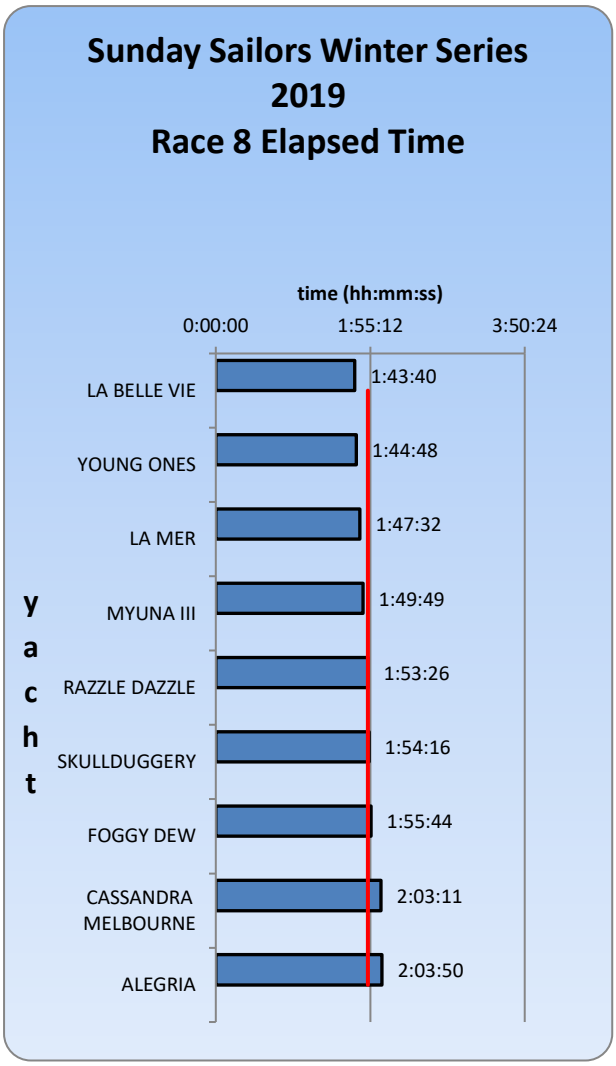
This was the 6th completed race by LA BELLE VIE this series and it had the highest wind speed and provided her with her best result so far. She started this race from 7th place 28 seconds late for her 36 minute handicap. LA BELLE VIE sailed the course in 1:43:40 and crossed the finish line in 3rd place at 11:49:40. In doing so she overtook more yachts than any other in this race. She moved from 8th to 5th in the aggregate with a total of 58 points.



The median start time for the race was 28 seconds with 3 yachts starting within 5 seconds or less of their handicaps and only one starting more than a minute late. SKULLDUGGERY won Start of the Day (her first of the series) with a time of 2 seconds.

After starting 32 minutes 21 seconds apart the 9 fleet came closer together to finish 12 minutes 58 seconds apart. On average, each yacht finished within 2 places of where they started. The closest finish was for 3rd and 4th places when LA BELLE VIE crossed the finish line 31 seconds ahead of CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE.





The median elapsed time for the race was 1:53:26 with only 20 minutes 10 seconds separating the fastest from the slowest. The fastest elapsed time for the race was 1:43:40 recorded by LA BELLE VIE. RAZZLE DAZZLE recorded the median elapsed time for the race and had her best result of the winter.

With times of 2 & 3 seconds respectively both SKULLDUGGERY (left) & MYUNA III made their best starts of the series.

Both YOUNG ONES (left) & LA MER (right) recorded fast elapsed times but couldn't overcome their handicaps.

CASSANDRA (left) had her 2nd best result of the series.

(Below) Neither MYUNA III nor SKULLDUGGERY could hold back LA BELLE VIE.

(Below) SKULLDUGGERY tried a range of foresails.

(Above left) CASSANDRA rounded SYC 3 in 3rd place & finished 4th.
(Above centre & right) RAZZLE DAZZLE began with a reef in the main but shook it out before the finish.

LA MER (left) & YOUNG ONES (right) head for the finish line.

Sunday Sailors Race 9 is scheduled for 25 Aug 2019

Graham Furness