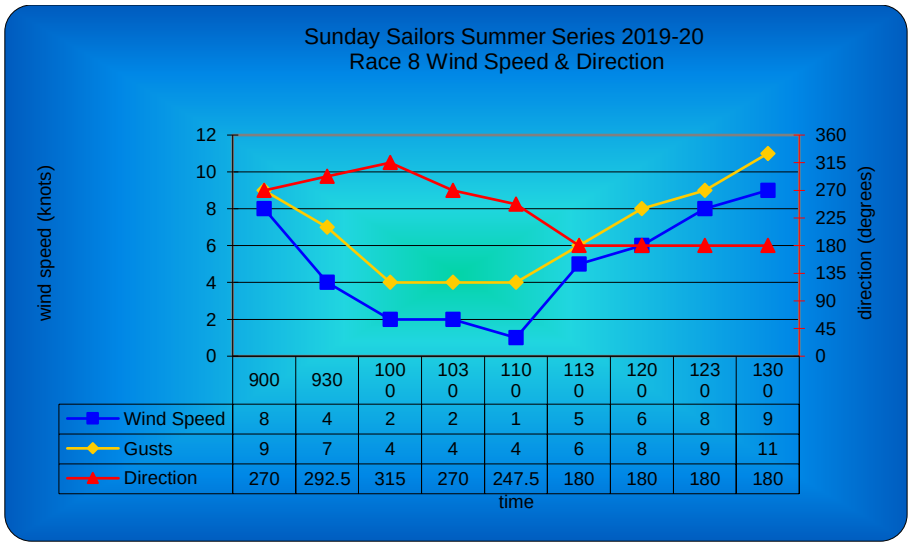
Light & Variable Winds Prove Challenging
Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2019-20 Race 8

The light and variable winds experienced on Sunday morning posed a few challenges for the 23 yacht fleet. Observations at Fawkner Beacon showed the breeze halved from about 8 to about 4 knots at the start making a good start difficult. The median start time was 28.5 seconds the slowest of the series. The breeze continued to ease and shift from the north west to the south before picking up from about 1100 onwards. This tended to reduce the value of the handicaps for early starters and even with a course shortened from 10.1 to 6.3 nautical miles some of the late starters posted good results.



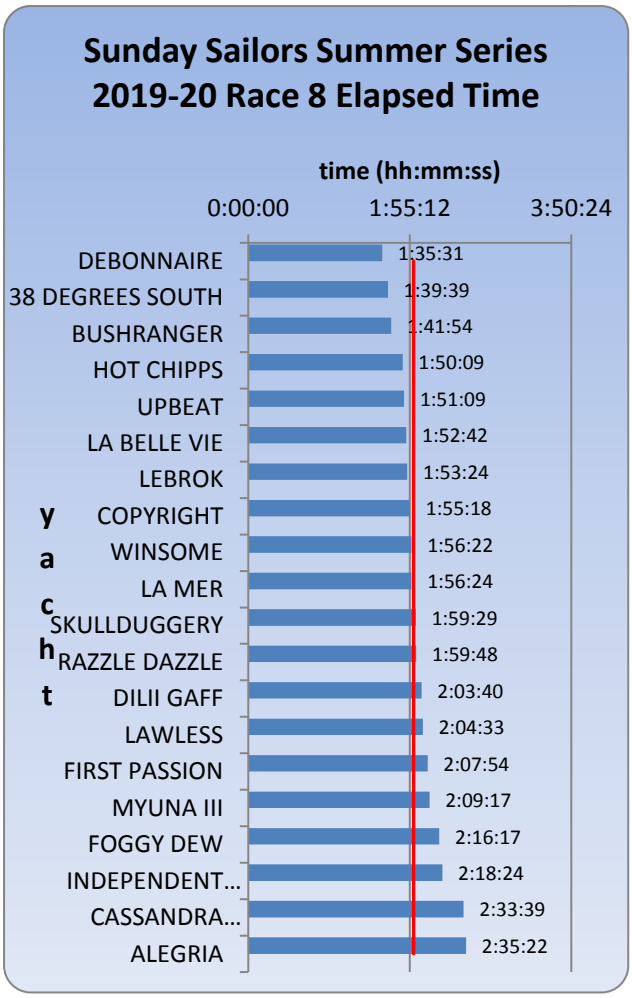
Making her best start to a race this series and winning Start of the Day with a time of 5 seconds was RAZZLE DAZZLE (Andrew Stopp & Grahame Jones). Making her way from the back to the front of the fleet in the fastest elapsed time was DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) to record her best finish of the series. In second place was 38 DEGREES SOUTH (John Chatham & Kate Mitchell) who also had her best result of the series as did UPBEAT (Peter Dunne) who finished 3rd.

LA BELLE VIE (Grant &Nathan Anderson) finished 6th in the race but remains at the top of the series aggregate for the second successive week. After finishing 5th in the race HOT CHIPPS (John Chipp) is still 2nd in the aggregate only 4 points behind the leader with COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) in 3rd place 6 points from the top.

This was the 6th race this summer for DEBONNAIRE and was her best result so far. She was the last yacht to start the race 40 seconds late for her 48 minute handicap. With the help of the familiar red spinnaker DEBONNAIRE sailed the course in the fastest elapsed time of 1:35:31 and was first across the finish line at 11:53:31 – 68 seconds ahead of her closest rival. This win takes her from 13th to 10th in the series aggregate still 34 points behind the leader. She is also 10th in the contest for the Sunday Plate.

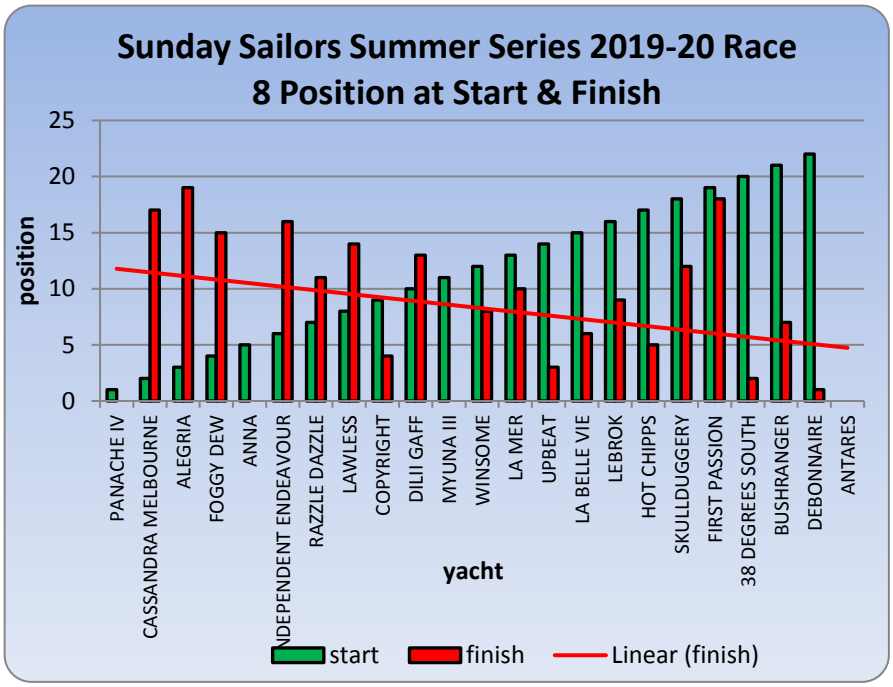
Following a 3rd place in race 4 this is the second podium finish in 5 completed races this series for 38 DEGREES SOUTH. She started the race from 20th place 21 seconds late for her 45 minute handicap. She completed the course (without a spinnaker) in 1:39:39 – the 2nd fastest elapsed time of the race and crossed the finish line in 2nd place at 11:54:39. 38 DEGREES SOUTH moves up from 14th to 11th in the series aggregate and is currently 14th in the contest for the summer plate.

UPBEAT'S results have improved as the series has progressed. She now has 3 top ten and 1 podium finish from 5 races. She began this race from 14th place only 6 seconds late for her 35 minute handicap – the 2nd best start of the day. She completed the course in 1:51:09 to be 3rd across the finish line at 11:56:09. UPBEAT sailed the course 2 minutes 15 seconds faster than her sister yacht LEBROK and remains 16th in the aggregate and is 19th in the Sunday Plate.



Only 5 yachts made starts of 10 seconds or less; two yachts started too soon; another was judged DNS; with 4 other yachts starting more than a minute late. RAZZLE DAZZLE became the 9th yacht this summer to post a winning start time to claim Start of the Day.

Of the first 8 yachts to cross the finish none were among the first 8 to start. The first 8 yachts to finish started mid to late fleet. Sixty four minutes thirty four seconds separated the yachts at the start but they came together during the race to be 25 minutes 51 seconds at the end. The closest finish was for 8th place with WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) crossing the line 2 seconds ahead of LEBROK.



The median elapsed time for the race was 1:57:57 with a range of 59 minutes 51

seconds. At 1:56:22 WINSOME (handicap 33 minutes) sailed the course 2 seconds faster than LA MER (handicap 34 minutes). As already mentioned DEBONNAIRE was the fastest around the course for the 4th time this series. However, this was the slowest race of the series.

(Below) BUSHRANGER made her best start to a race this summer.
(Right) INDEPENDANT ENDEAVOUR in her first race of the summer.

(Above) HOT CHIPPS recorded the 4th fastest elapsed time of the race.

(Left) DEBONNAIRE finds a way past SKULLDUGGERY on the downwind leg.

(Left) DILII GAFF rounding SYC1 with LA MER (right) on her way to finishing 10th.

(Below left) LA BELLE VIE leads the aggregate whilst MYUNA III (below right) completes her first race of 2020.

(Left) ANTARES started way too soon but is still 9th in the aggregate.
(Below) WINSOME wins a tight finish with LEBROK.

(Left) FIRST PASSION finishes 18th and moves up the aggregate 2 places.

(Below) CASSANDRA heads for the finish line.

Race 9 is scheduled for 2 Feb 2020

Graham Furness