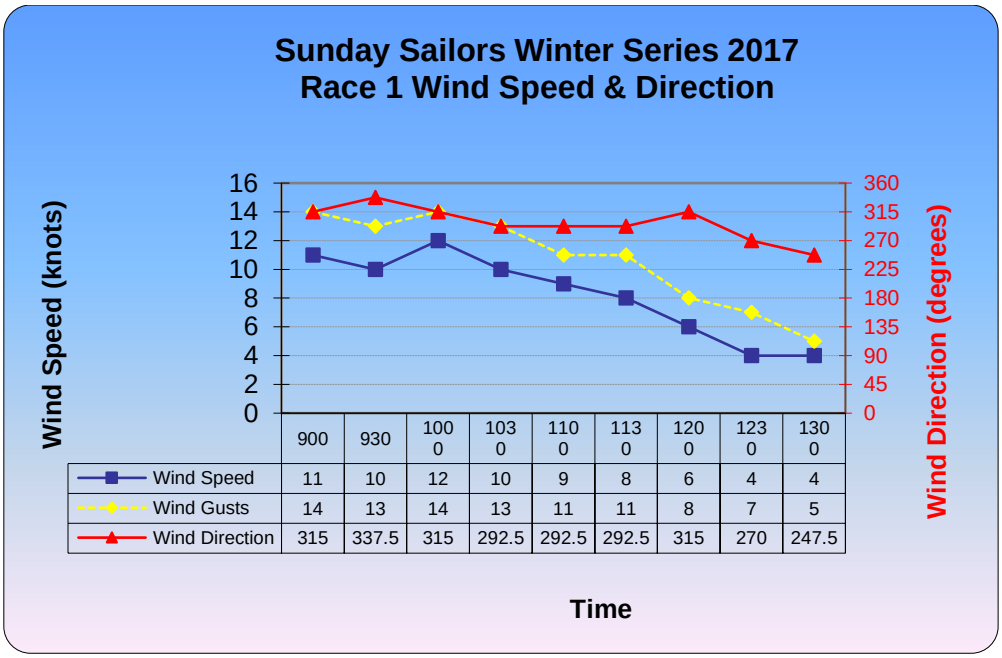
Series Opener
Sunday Sailors Winter Series Race 1

The start of the 2018 Winter Series sees 30 yachts entered in the aggregate – more than the 2017 winter series. Twenty two of the 30 as well as three casual entries took part in the opening race around the 9.9 nautical mile course 26 in amiable conditions. The course offered two good downwind legs for those wanting to fly spinnakers. The breeze averaged around 8 knots, the sea was reasonably flat and the sun shone. However, the breeze started to ease as the morning progressed and 5 yachts were unable to complete the race. As it turned out the breeze tended to favour the early starters.



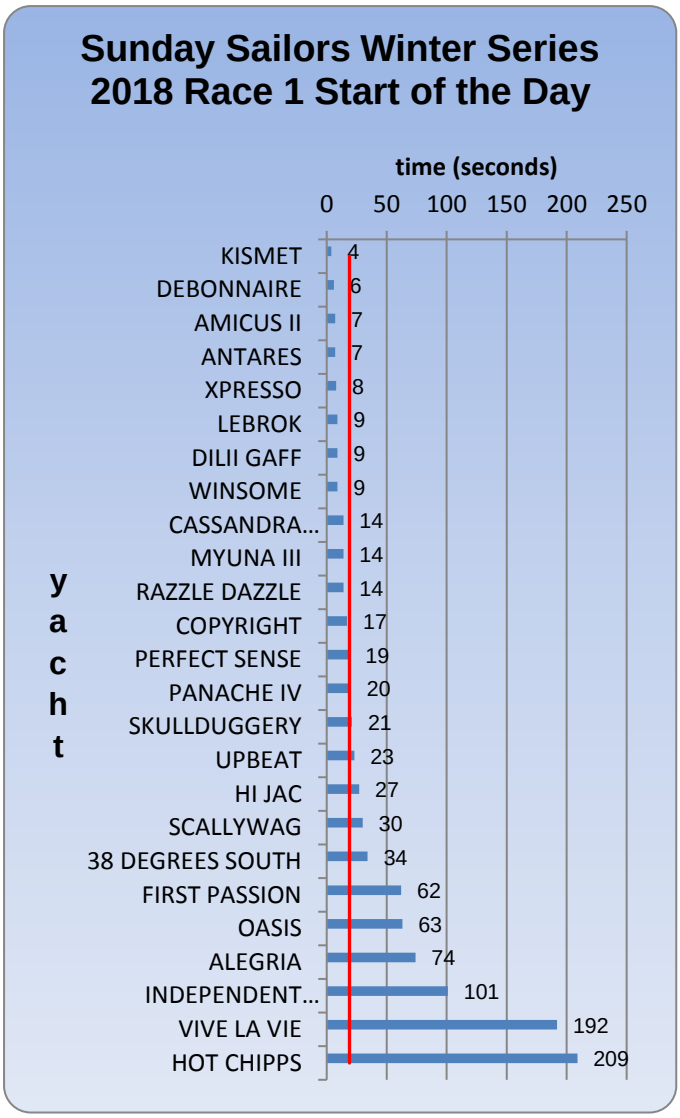
	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	11	10	12	10	9	8	6	4	4
Wind Gusts	14	13	14	13	11	11	8	7	5
Wind Direction	315	337.5	315	292.5	292.5	292.5	315	270	247.5

It was something of a fairytale start to the series for PANACHE IV (Egils E Stokans) who led the race from beginning to end. She was “joined on the podium” by CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves) and VIVE LA VIE (Mark Sutherland). Winning Start of the Day was KISMET (Doug Jackson) who was only 4 seconds late for her 21 minute handicap. Flying a spinnaker and recording the fastest elapsed time was DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) who sailed the course 3 minutes 27 seconds faster than her closest rival.

This was the first Sunday race for PANACHE IV since race 3 of the summer series. She was the first yacht to start the winter series 20 seconds late for her 1 minute handicap and 5 minutes 47 seconds before her closest rival. PANACHE IV held on to her lead for the entire race to cross the finish line at 11:47:48 in first place. She sailed the course in 2:16:48 and finished 35 seconds ahead of CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE.

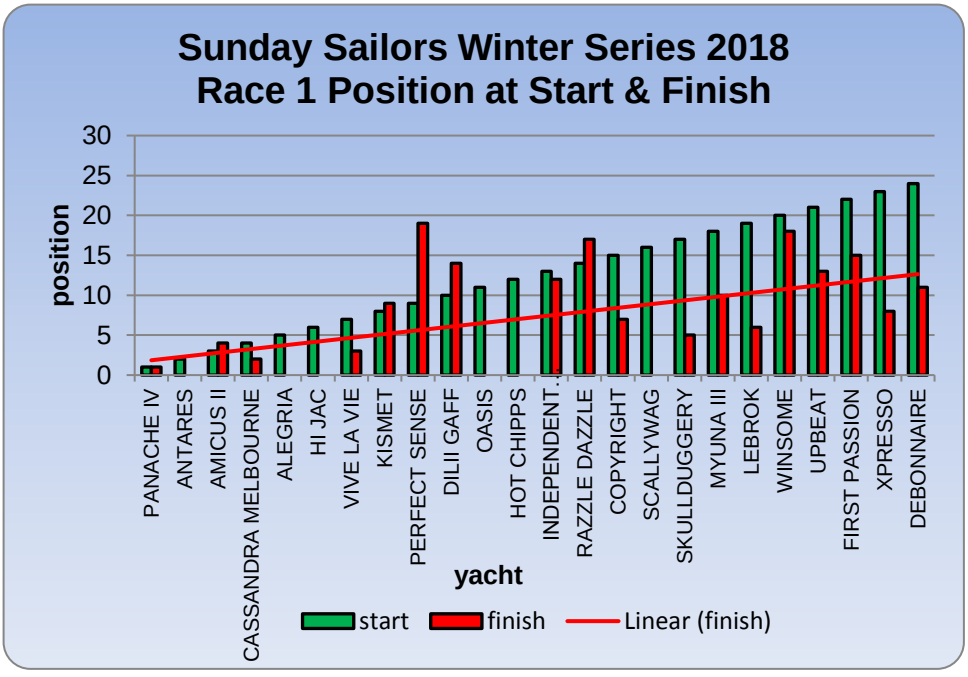
CASSANDRA started from 4th place 14 seconds late for her 14 minute handicap. This was 12 minutes 54 seconds after PANACHE IV. CASSANDRA reduced this lead as the race progressed but was unable to catch her. CASSANDRA crossed the finish line at 11:48:23 after sailing the course in 2:04:23. This was a good start to the series for CASSANDRA who finished the summer series in 14th place after completing 5 races.

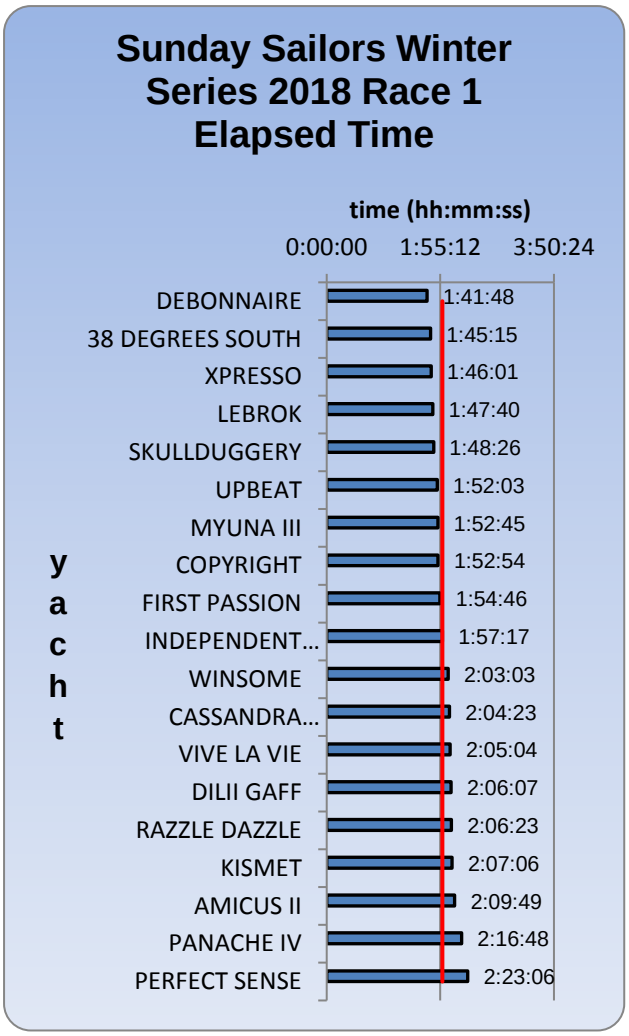
VIVE LA VIE may not have made her best start to the series when she was 3 minutes 12 seconds late for her 15 minute handicap. This put her 3 minutes 58 seconds and 2 places behind CASSANDRA at the start. However, she reduced this margin to 1 minute 41 seconds at the finish line. VIVE LA VIE finished in third place crossing the finish line at 11:50:04 after sailing the course in 2:05:04. VIVE LA VIE completed 5 races in the summer series finishing 18th in the aggregate. Her best result was a 3rd place in race 4.



Eighteen seconds was the median start time (red line) for the race with eight yachts starting less than 10 seconds from their handicap. At the other end of the scale 5 yachts started more than a minute late. KISMET won Start of the Day with a time of 4 seconds. With the aid of a spinnaker she finished 9th.

With the breeze easing as the race progressed, it proved a good day for the early starters. Four of them were among the first eight finishers.





1:57:17 was the median elapsed time (red line) for the race with a range of 41 minutes 18 seconds between the fastest and the slowest. DEBONNAIRE recorded the fastest time for the race something she achieved 3 times in 5 races during the summer series.

With two downwind legs it was a good race for spinnakers.

It was COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) who eventually won this encounter (left) with PERFECT SENSE (Peter Sutton). COPYRIGHT finished 7th whilst PERFECT SENSE finished 19th.

SCALLYWAG (Bill Hutchison) was looking in good shape at the halfway stage of the race but was unable to finish.

XPRESSO (Ari & Damian Abrahams) was able to hold onto her lead and finish ahead of both UPBEAT (Peter Dunne) and FIRST PASSION (Simon Lipman).

38 DEGREES SOUTH (J Chatham & K Mitchell) managed 2 podium finishes in 2 races in the summer series but after two handicap increases finished 16th in this race.

HOT CHIPPS (John Chipp) entered the race as a visitor and sailed extremely well before retiring from the race.

ANTARES (G Stewart & D Pearce) (right) tried valiantly to complete the race but was beaten by the clock.

Result of Noelle Coram Trophy Reviewed

The reviewed results are shown below

NOELLE CORAM TROPHY SUMMER 2017-18			
YACHT	WED WONDERS	SUNDAY SAILORS	COMBINE
LEBROK*	4	7	11
RAZZLE DAZZLE	8	3	11
FOGGY DEW	12	9	21
THE SECRETARY	9	23	32
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	31	14	45
BLUE TACK	19	27	46
ALLIANCE	27	20	47
MYUNA III	35	12	47
VIVE LA VIE	45	18	63
DOLPHIN PLAY	47	22	69
PERFECT SENSE	49	26	75

* LEBROK won being better placed in the Wednesday series

Next race is scheduled for 20 May 2018

Windward Buoy