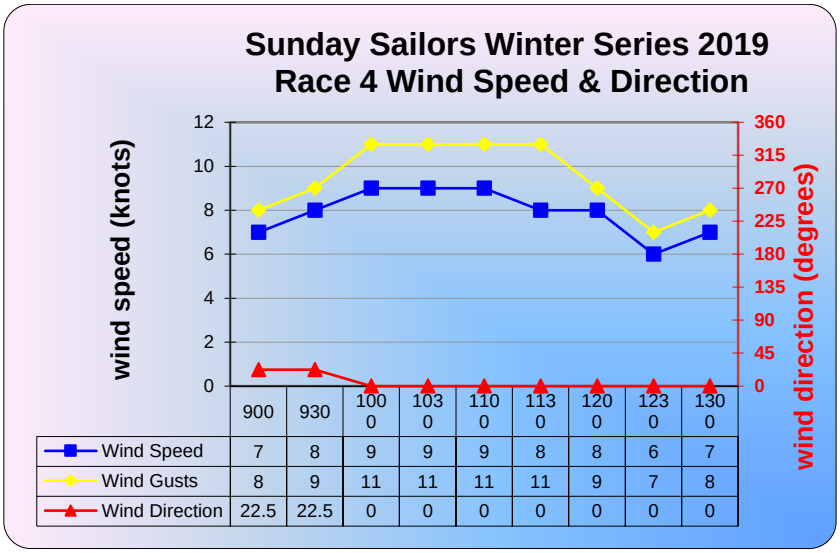
Still a Hint of Summer Weather
Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2019 Race 4

Mild winter weather welcomed Sunday Sailors to race 4 of the series. A fleet of 24 yachts contested a race that had plenty of sunshine and a light northerly breeze that averaged about 8 knots with gusts up to 11 knots at Fawkner Beacon. The breeze tended to ease as the race progressed. What started as 6 leg 9.9 nautical mile race around course 26 was shortened to a 5 leg race finishing at SYC 1.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	7	8	9	9	9	8	8	6	7
Wind Gusts	8	9	11	11	11	11	9	7	8
Wind Direction	22.5	22.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

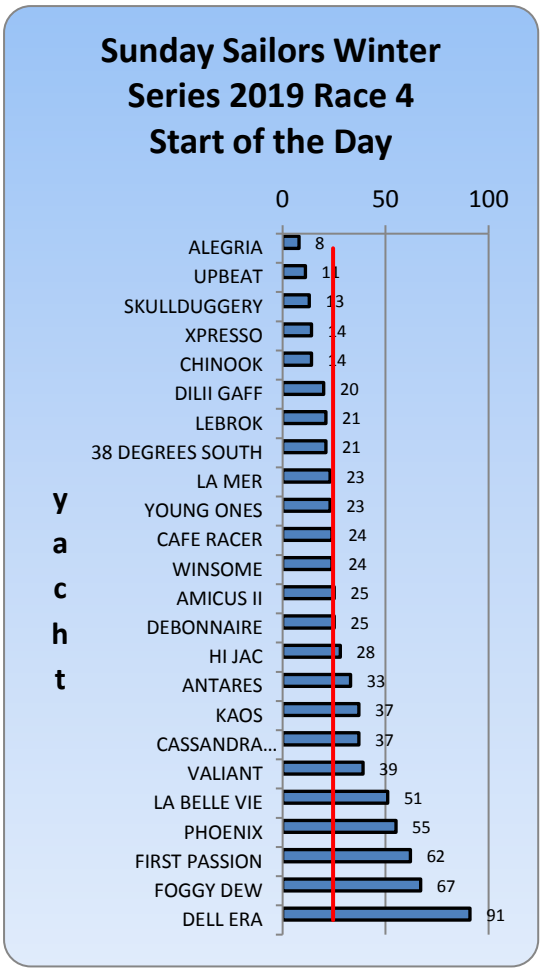
ALEGRIA (Simon May) was one of three winners of the start in race 3 but became the outright winner of Start of the Day for this race. XPRESSO (Ari Abrahams) claimed her second podium finish of the series when she was first across the finish line. DELL ERA (Mike Coulter) recorded her 3rd podium finish of the series by finishing 2nd. KAOS (Dawn Cleaver) finished third recording her first podium finish of the series. With the help of a spinnaker DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) sailed the course in the fastest time.

There's just over a third of the series complete and ALEGRIA is at the top of the aggregate equal on 7 points with DELL ERA. With a total of 16 points XPRESSO is third.

XPRESSO started the race from 20th place 14 seconds late for her 43 minute handicap. However, she sailed the course in 1:52:40, the second fastest time of the race, and was first across the finish line at 12:05:40. XPRESSO started the race 7 seconds ahead of LEBROK (Theo Korbel), who had the same 43 minute handicap, but sailed the course 15 minutes 50 seconds faster to finish 13 places ahead. This was the second podium finish for XPRESSO following on from her 2nd place in race 1. The win helped her from 5th to 3rd in the aggregate.

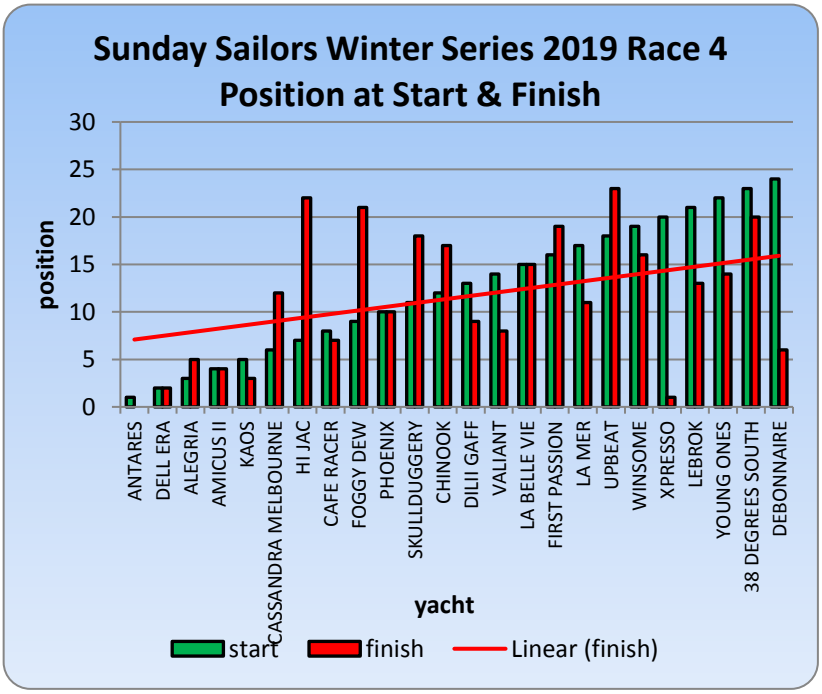
DELL ERA continued her good start to the series following up 2 successive 3rd places in races 2 and 3 with a 2nd place in this race. She started the race from 2nd place 91 seconds late for her 7 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 2:28:45 and crossed the finish line at 12:05:45 only 5 seconds behind XPRESSO. DELL ERA had started the race 8 minutes 58 seconds behind ANTARES (G Stewart D Pearce), the first yacht to start, but finished 14 minutes 51 seconds ahead. DELL ERA remains in 2nd place in the aggregate for the 2nd successive week.

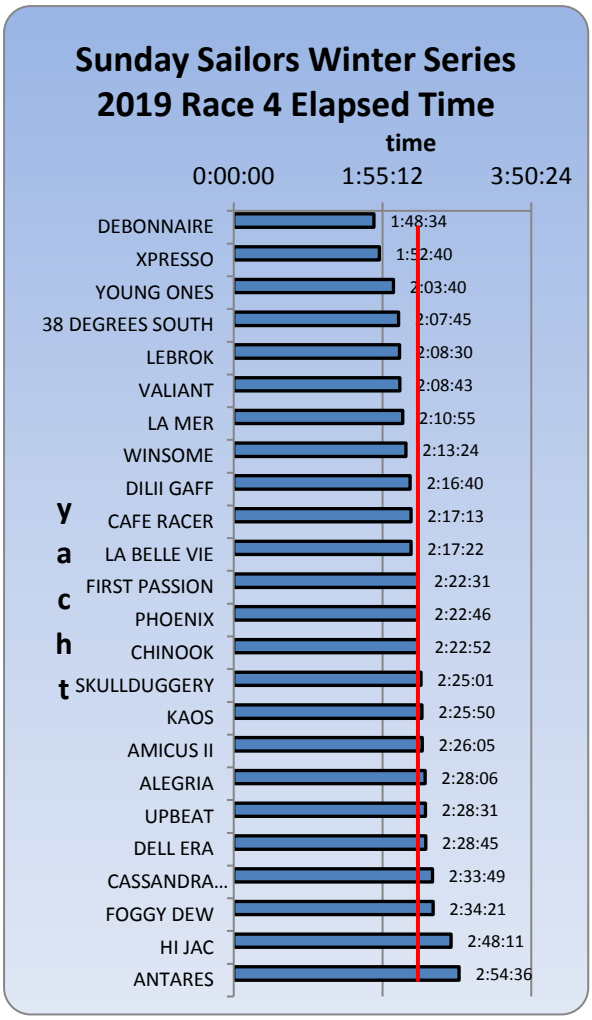
KAOS sailed 8 races in the summer series but this was her first race this winter series. She was one of three yachts with a ten minute handicap and started from 5th place 37 seconds late. KAOS sailed the course in 2:25:50 and crossed the finish line at 12:05:50. She had beaten the two other yachts with 10 minute handicaps, AMICUSII and ALEGRIA by 15 seconds and 2 minutes 16 seconds respectively. KAOS sailed as a visitor so is not included in the series aggregate.



The median start time for the race was 24.5 seconds. Only the Start of the Day winner, ALEGRIA, started within 10 seconds of her handicap whilst 3 yachts started more than 60 seconds too late for theirs.

Four of the first five yachts to start the race were among the first five to finish. XPRESSO was the “stand out” yacht of the day improving her position by 19 places. The fleet started and finished 31 minutes 51 seconds apart.





The median elapsed time was 2:22:38 with a difference of 66 minutes 2 seconds between the fastest and slowest. It is the 3rd time in 4 races that DEBONNAIRE has recorded the fastest elapsed time – on this occasion 4 minutes 6 seconds faster than her closest rival.

YOUNG ONES (below) & SKULLDUGGERY (right) were 2 yachts that made their best start of the series.

(Left) LA MER started from 17th place & finished 11th.
(Right) SKULLDUGGERY started 11th & finished 18th.
(Below) DILII GAFF finished 1 minute 36 seconds ahead of ANTARES.

(Below left) CAFE RACER finished 3 places ahead of PHOENIX.
(Below right) The light breeze didn't favour HI JAC.

VALIANT (left) & AMICUS ll (right) recorded their best result of the series.

FOGGY DEW (left) LA BELLE VIE (above) & CHINOOK are currently 11th, 6th & 13th in the aggregate.

The Beneteau 351, FIRAST PASSION (right) won this week's tussle with the Beneteau 367 UPBEAT.

Graham Furness