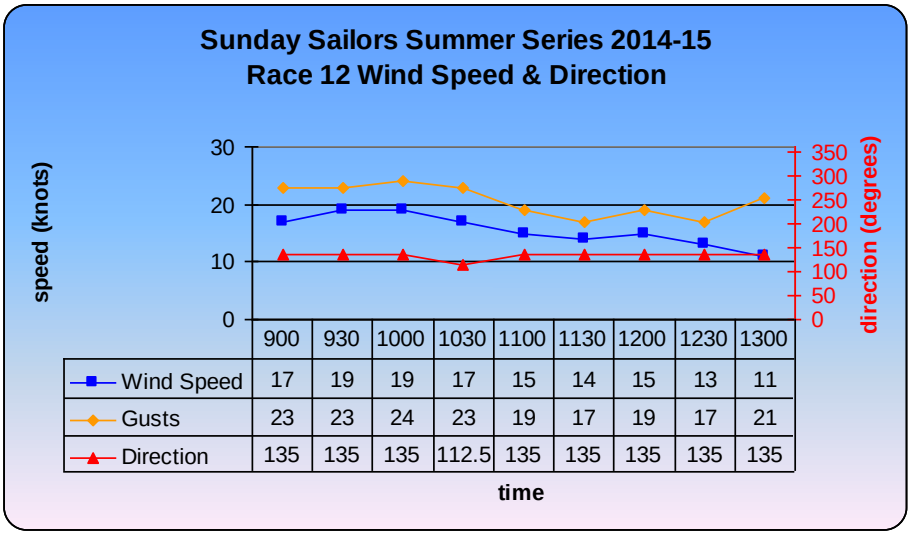
Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2014-15 Race 12
A Second Series Win for Delta Lady

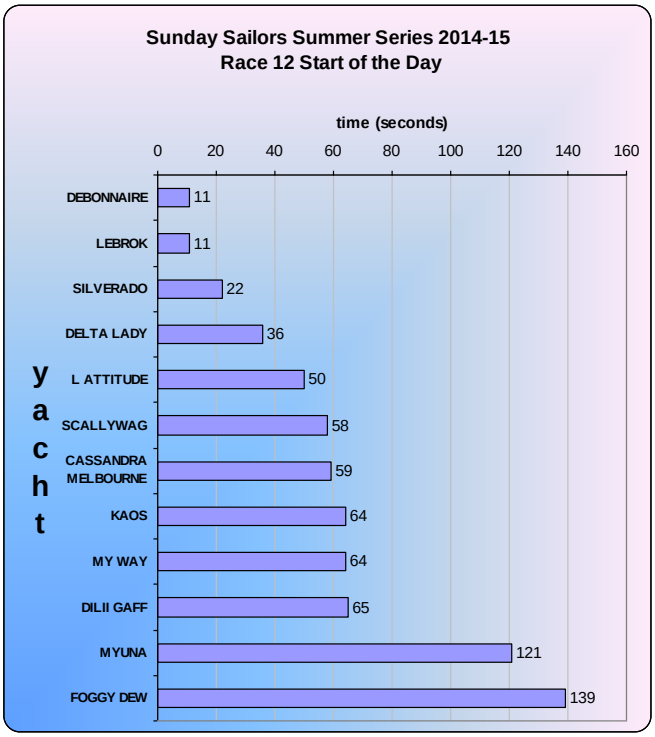
The Bureau of Meteorology always includes a caveat with their marine weather forecasts that reads, “Wind gusts can be 40 percent stronger than the averages given here, and maximum waves may be up to twice the height.” Observations taken at Fawkner Beacon indicate that wind gusts are usually 20 to 25 per cent stronger than the wind speed during Sunday morning races. However, race 12 proved to be different with gusts of over 33% higher than wind speed being recorded. With gusts of this magnitude and an average wind speed of about 16 knots sail selection became important – no yachts flew a spinnaker.

It was the early starters that received the most benefit from the breeze as it tended to ease after the start of the race. Nevertheless, the direction remained relatively constant, from the south east, which probably resulted in more breeze out than inshore. Even so there was enough breeze to ensure all 12 starters completed the 7 leg, 9.8 nautical mile course 16 well inside the cut off time.

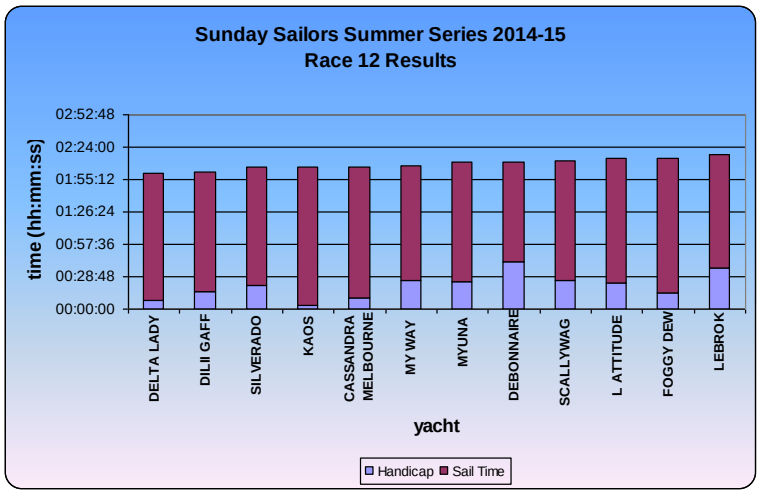


	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	17	19	19	17	15	14	15	13	11
Gusts	23	23	24	23	19	17	19	17	21
Direction	135	135	135	112.5	135	135	135	135	135

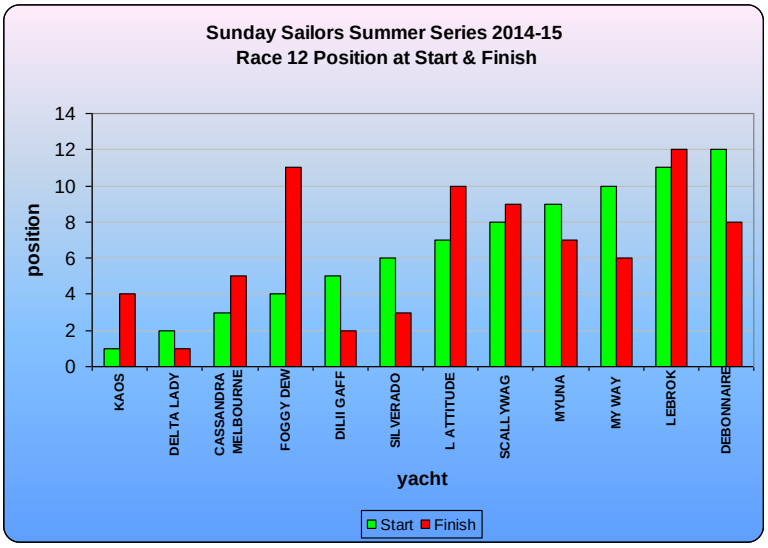
There was a tie for Start of the Day with last two starters LEBROK (Theo Korbel) and DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez), getting away 11 seconds late for their respective handicaps. With a median start time of 58 seconds this wasn't the best start for a race this series. On the other hand no yacht incurred a 5 minute penalty for being too soon.



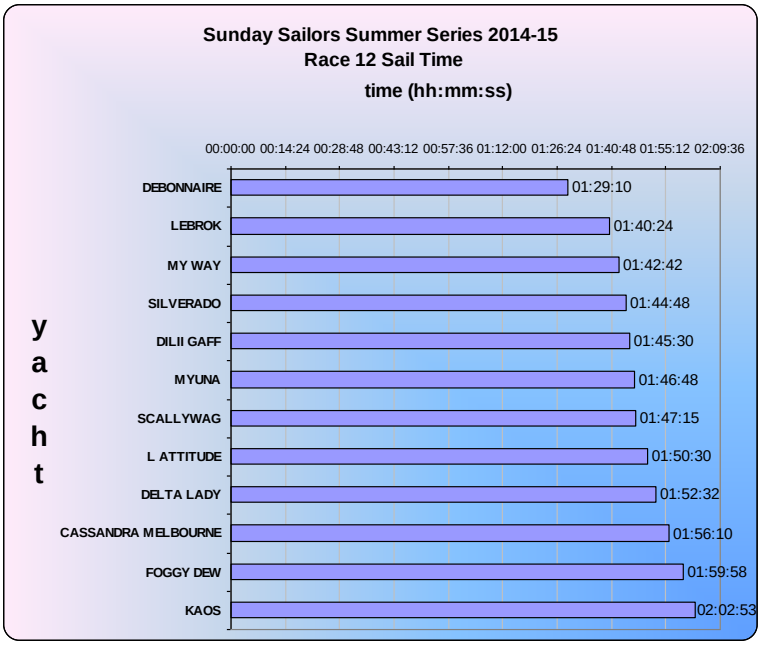
Thirty four minutes separated the highest from lowest handicap at the start of the race and at one stage the fleet was spread over 3 different legs of the course. However the fleet did come closer together to be 16 minutes 52 seconds apart at the completion.



Opportunities for the late starters in the race were limited with 5 of the first 6 yachts to start the race being amongst the first 6 to finish.



Nevertheless, it was the back markers and Start of the Day winners that sailed the course in the faster time. DEBONNAIRE sailed the course in 1:29:10 the fastest she has sailed course 16 this series. It was 11 minutes 14 seconds faster than her closest rival LEBROK. In contrast the average time for the race was the slowest for the course this series at 1:48:13.

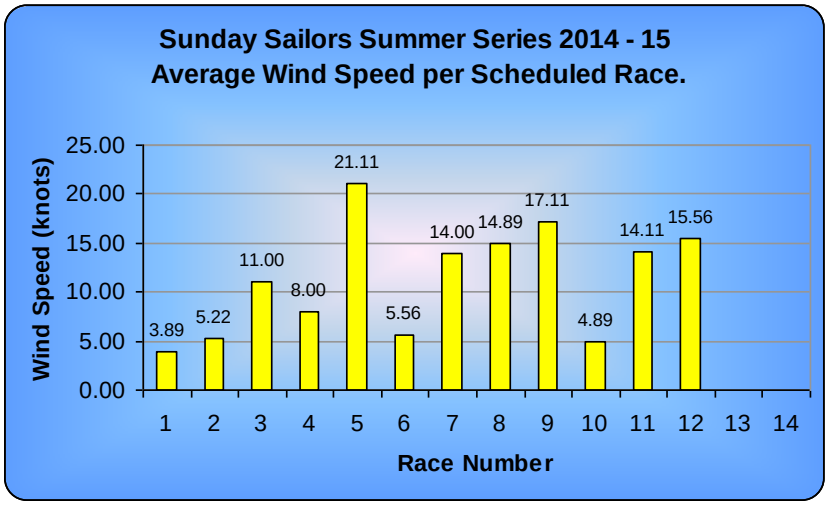


Becoming only the 2nd yacht to win two races this series was the Noelex 30 DELTA LADY (Eric Clark). DELTA LADY started the race with reduced jib but as the race progressed and the wind eased it was unfurled so she finished with a full jib and main. She was the 2nd yacht to start the race 36 seconds late for her 8 minute handicap. DELTA LADY completed the course in 1:52:32 to cross the finish at 11:35:53, 58 seconds ahead of DILII GAFF. DELTA LADY has completed 8 races so far this series with 2 wins her only podium finishes. She is 15th in the aggregate on 115 points.

DILII GAFF (Paul MacBain) has completed 10 races in the series and collected 3 podium finishes and 5 top ten finishes. Despite a 3 minute adjustment to her handicap, following a win in race 11, DILII GAFF put in a strong performance to record a 2nd place crossing the finish line at 11:31:30. She didn't have the best of starts being 65 seconds late for her 16 minute handicap from 5th place and sailed the course in 1:45:30. On this occasion a better start may have resulted in a win. The 2nd place was good enough to lift her 3 places to be 7th in the aggregate.

Crossing the finish line just 5 seconds ahead of KAOS (Dawn Cleaver) in the closest finish of the race was SILVERADO (John Barbieri). SILVERADO is putting out a serious challenge in the 2nd half of the series recording 4 podium finishes and an additional 2 top ten finishes in the last 6 races. She started race 12 from 6th place, 22 seconds late for her 21 minute handicap and moved into 3rd place in the last leg of the race. SILVERADO sailed the course in 1:44:48, the 4th fastest time of the day and crossed the finish line at 11:35:48. After the first 6 races of the series SILVERADO was 14th in the aggregate she is now in 2nd place.

Sunday sailors have been fortunate being able to sail all the 12 scheduled races so far this series. By comparison, 2 out of 13 races were abandoned in the 2014 winter series and 3 out of 13 races were abandoned in the previous summer series. One contributing factor could be the reduced wind speed. For the 2013-14 summer series the wind averaged around 13.2 knots and for the 2014 winter series it averaged about 13.9 knots. The averaged for this series has been around 2 knots less – at 11.3 knots.



There are 2 scheduled races to go in the series the next one is scheduled for Sunday 29 March 2015.