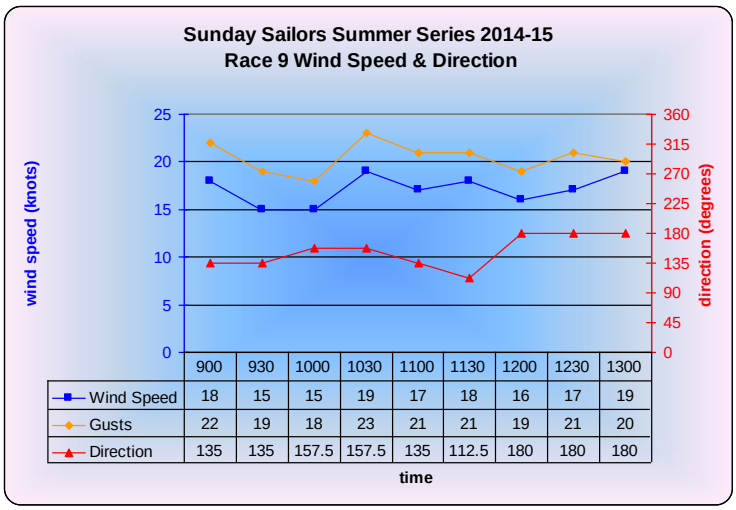
Race 9 Delta Lady leads all the Way

The enjoyment of keel boat racing is not only built from competition with other yachts but also from the challenges offered by the weather. The latter was very much the case on Sunday (1 Feb 2015) when Sunday Sailors were met by a swell of up to 2 metres; a south easterly breeze that averaged 17 knots; and frequent showers.

Selecting the appropriate sail combination that would provide enough power to combat the swell without heeling the boat over too far was one challenge. A second challenge tested navigation skills when showers prevented visual sightings of marks particularly numbers 5 and 2. Even following the yacht in front was not always an option. Thirteen of 16 starters survived the challenge sailing the 9.8 nautical mile course 16 in the testing conditions.



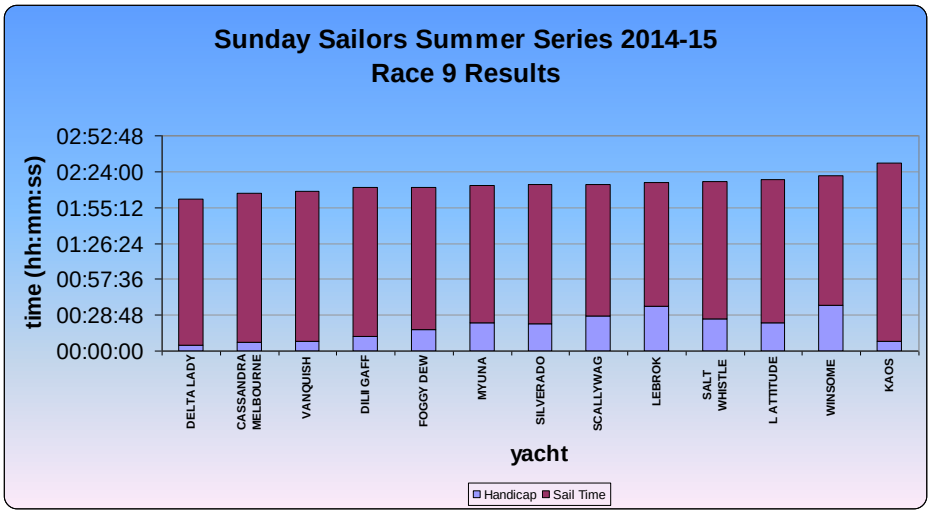
	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	18	15	15	19	17	18	16	17	19
Gusts	22	19	18	23	21	21	19	21	20
Direction	135	135	157.5	157.5	135	112.5	180	180	180

DELTA LADY (Eric Clarke) had her first win of the series when she led the race from beginning to end. She was 4 seconds late for her 5 minute handicap but was first to find number 4 for the first time after sailing the first 4 legs of the course in 1:12:15. She maintained the lead during the last 3 legs of the race which she sailed in 44 minutes 41 seconds, to cross the finish line at 11:32:00 – 4 minutes 59 seconds ahead of CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves). DELTA LADY has completed 6 races this series and her previous best was 6th in race 8. This win lifted DELTA LADY in the aggregate from 22nd after race 8 to 17th after race 9.

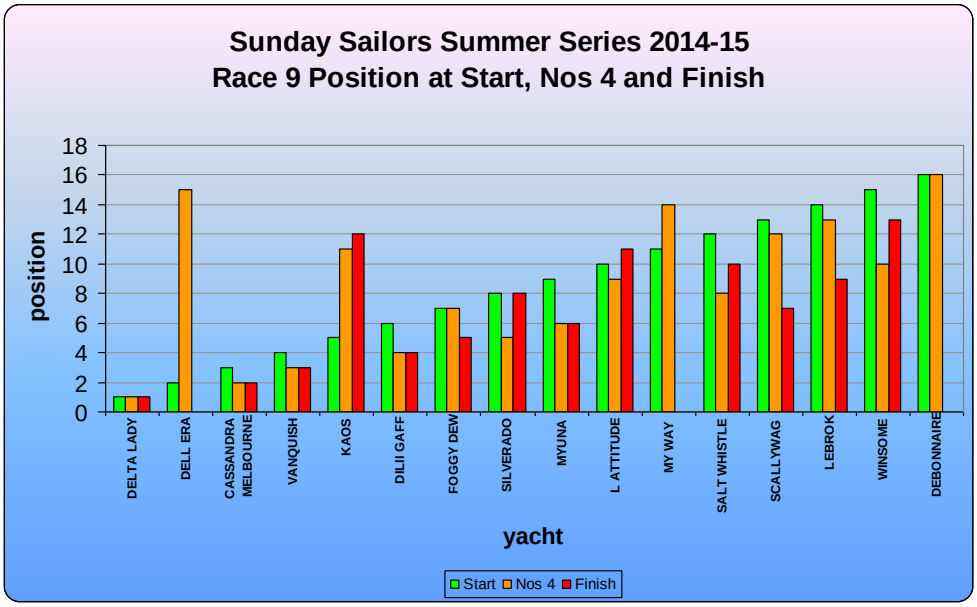
CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE has sailed all the 9 races in the series so far but this was her first podium finish. She started in 3rd place 19 seconds late for her 7 minute handicap and was 2nd around number 4 for the first time after sailing for 1:15:28. She was able to hang on to her 2nd place for the last 3 legs of the race, which she sailed in 44 minutes 12 seconds – 29 seconds faster than DELTA LADY, to cross the line at 11:36:59. This was the 4th top ten finish for CASSANDRA and takes her into 10th place in the aggregate.

Starting from 4th place 5 seconds late for her 8 minute handicap was the S&S 34 VANQUISH (Bob Beresford). She had moved into 3rd place at the first rounding of number 4 only 42 seconds astern of CASSANDRA. VANQUISH sailed the remaining 3 legs of the course in 44 minutes 47 seconds and crossed the finish line at 11:38:16. She sailed the entire course in 2:00:16 and crossed the line at 11:38:16 in 3rd place. VANQUISH has completed 6 races this series, recorded 2 podium finishes and is in 12th place in the aggregate.

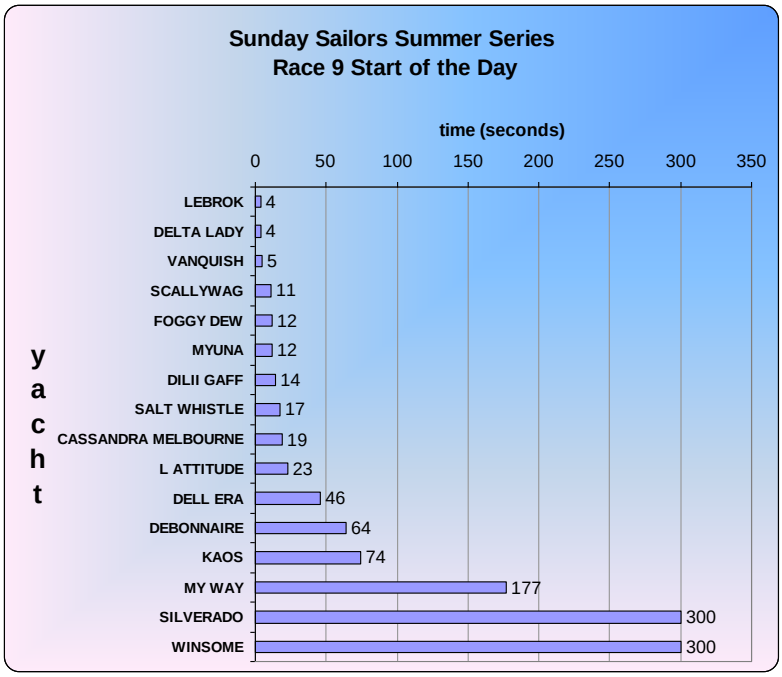
Thirty seven minutes separated the 16 yacht fleet at the start of the race but this was reduced to 19 minutes 34 seconds at the first rounding of number 4. The gap continued to reduce, so that 13 minutes 48 seconds separated the remaining 13 yachts at the finish line.



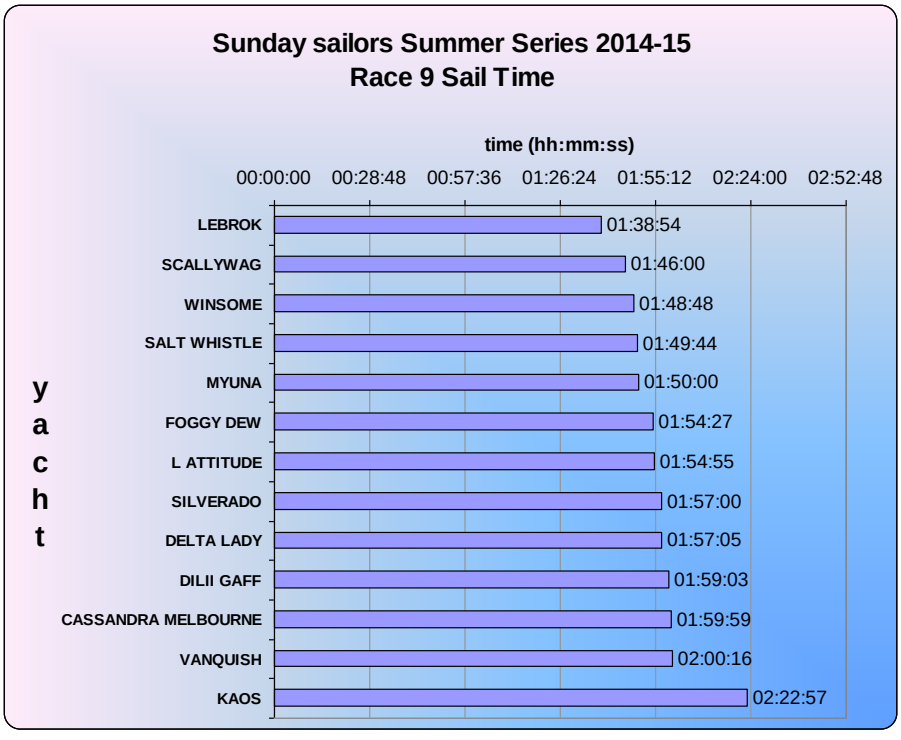
It proved difficult for mid fleet and late starters to find their way amongst the early finishers with 6 of the 8 early starters amongst the early finishers.



The median start time for race 9 was 17 seconds but unfortunately 2 yachts started too soon and were penalized 5 minutes. This proved costly for SILVERADO (John Barbieri) who lost 4 places as a result.



Not only did LEBROK win Start of the Day she also sailed the course in the fastest time of 1:38:54 when the average sail time was 1:55:19.



The outcome of race 9 caused some changes in the aggregate top ten. SCALLYWAG (Bill Hutchison) and CASSANDRA entered the top ten in positions 8 and 10 respectively. They replaced MY WAY (Magdy Iskander) and COROMANDEL 3 (Gus McLennan) who are now placed 13th and 15th.

Aggregate Position Race 9		
YACHT	RACE	
	8	9
DEBONNAIRE	1	1
LEBROK	2	2
FOGGY DEW	3	3
SILVERADO	7	4
KAOS	5	5
WINSOME	8	6
DELL ERA	6	7
SCALLYWAG	11	8
L ATTITUDE	10	9
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	14	10

Sunday Sailors Summer Series Race 10 is scheduled for 15 Feb 2015.