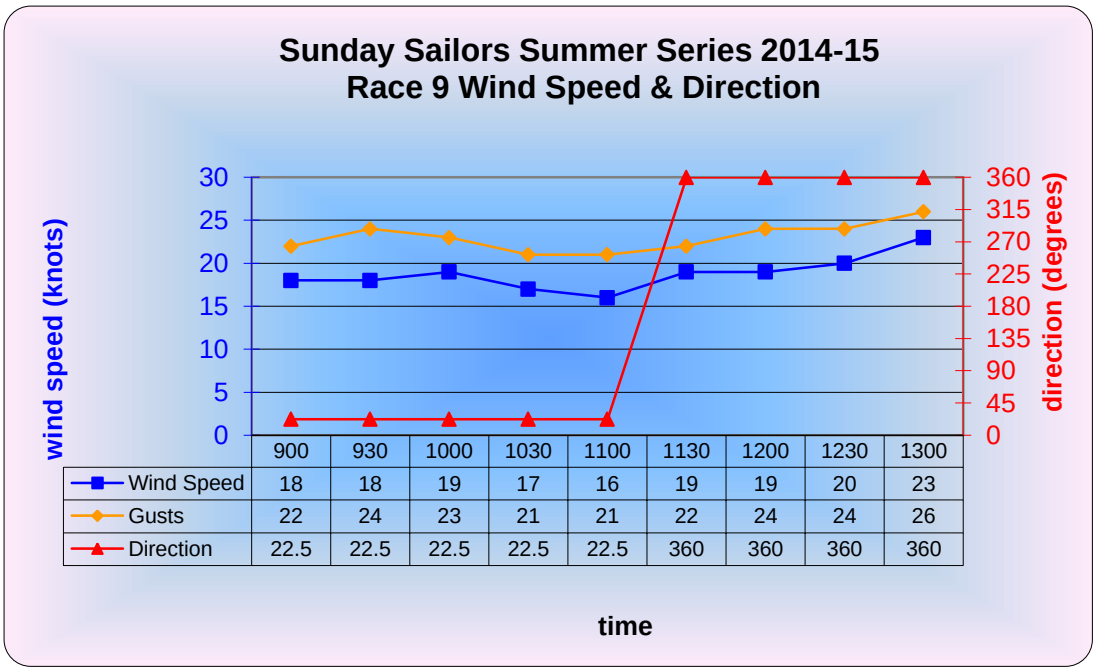
Good Race Around a Good Course

This race was around the longest course of the series so far. The average rhumb line distance for this series is about 6.8 miles but this one was much longer at 10.8 nautical miles. Course 8 is a 7 leg course around a large quadrangle followed by an inner triangle. It was a good choice with all the 24 competing yachts, the second largest fleet of the series, finishing the race well within the time limit.

It was a particularly good race for the 2 yachts that sailed as visitors. The J44 THE SECRETARY (George Shaw) won Start of the Day and completed the course in the second fastest elapsed time. The other visitor, the Armitage 30 PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg), won her first race of the series by a margin of just 28 seconds. Both yachts were helped along by a strengthening north north easterly that shifted to the north. As usual with a northerly the seas were relatively flat making for a good sail. The average wind speed for the morning was about 19 knots. This was strong enough to ensure that the course was sailed in its entirety for only the third time this series.



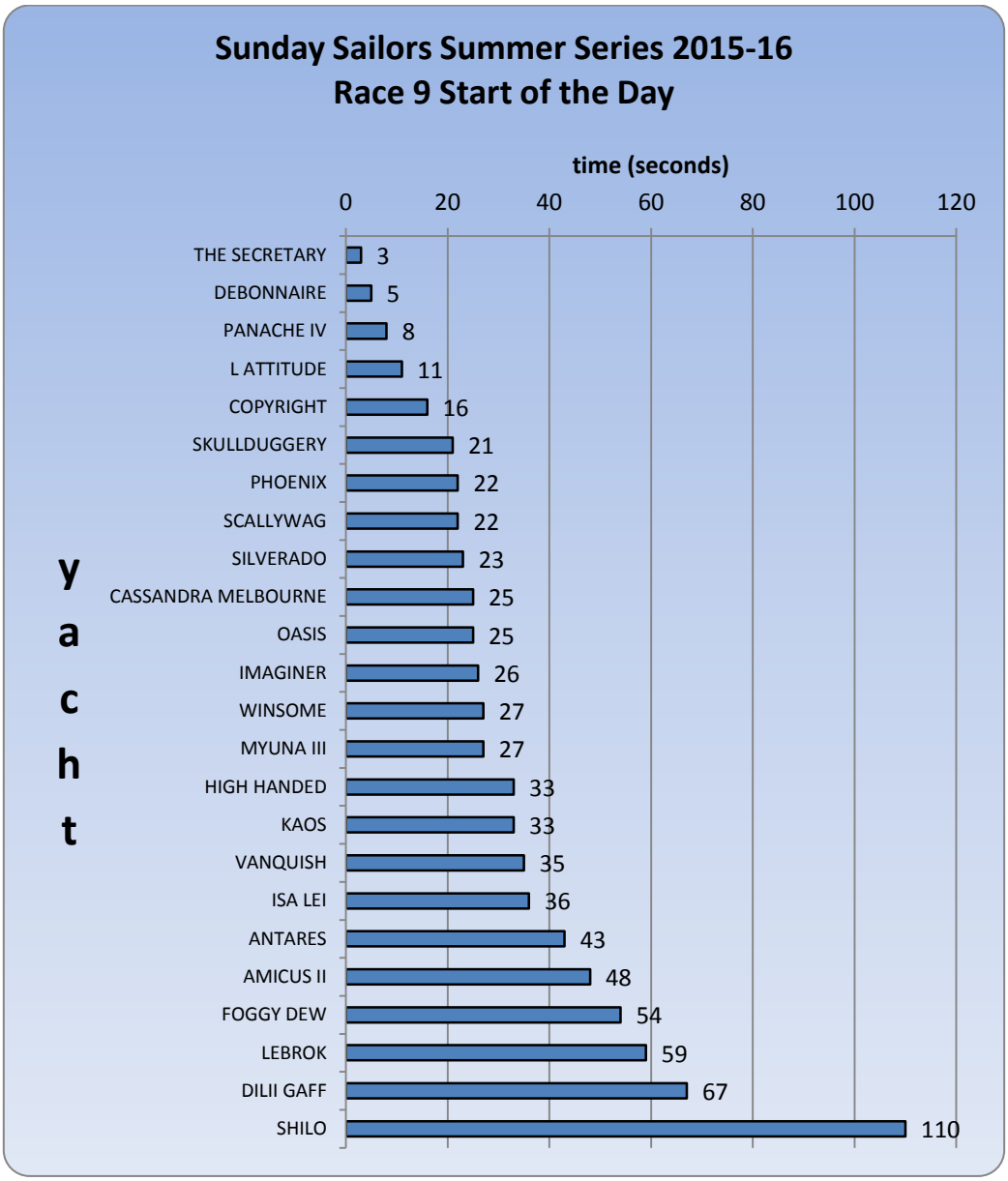
	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	18	18	19	17	16	19	19	20	23
Gusts	22	24	23	21	21	22	24	24	26
Direction	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	360	360	360	360

PHOENIX may be more familiar to the Wednesday Wonders participants as the yacht that won the 2015 Winter Series. This was her first Sunday race this year and she crossed the finish line in first place. She had started from 7th place 22 seconds late for 8 minute handicap. PHOENIX sailed the course in the 15th fastest elapsed time of the race 2:06:57 and went on to cross the finish line at 11:44:57.

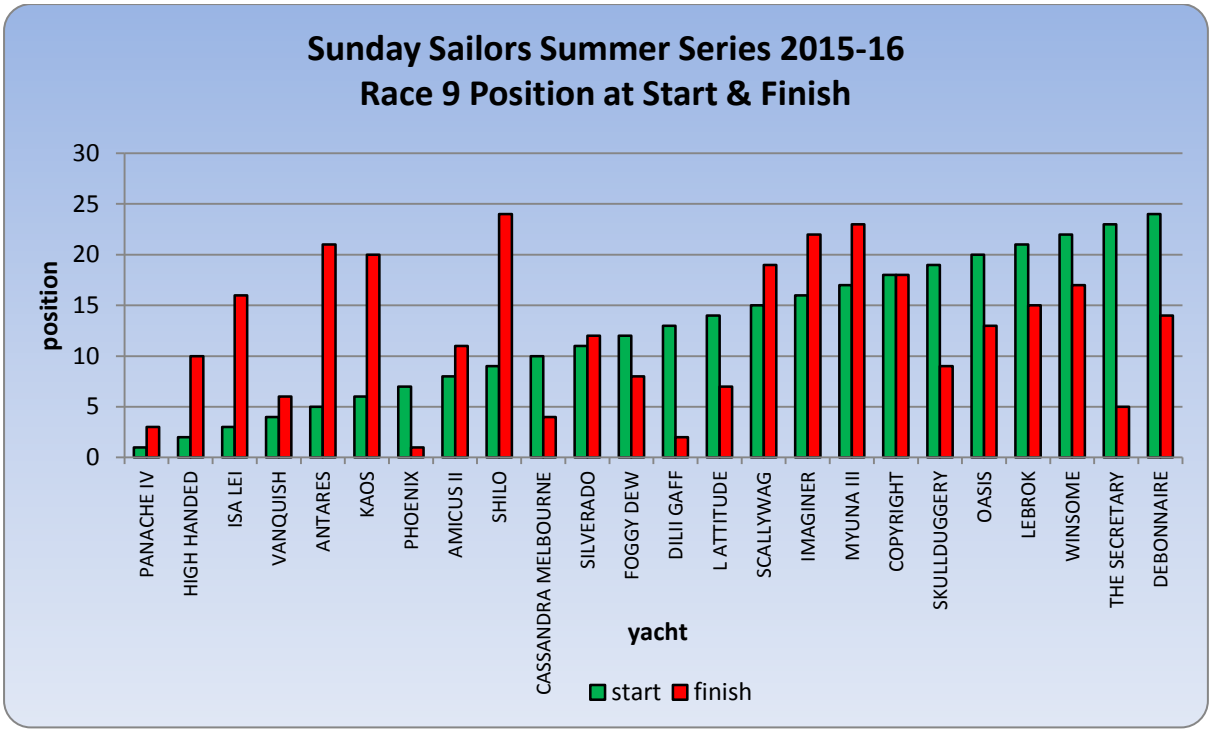
Finishing in 2nd place for the 3rd successive time was the Oceanis 40 DILII GAFF (Paul Macbain). This helped lift her from 6th to the top of the aggregate. She started the race from 13th place 67 seconds late for her 21 minute handicap. Despite her late start DILII GAFF sailed the course in the 7th fastest time of the race – 1:54:25. She has completed 6 of the 7 races and recorded 3 podium plus 1 additional top ten place. DILII GAFF has a total of 37 points and leads the aggregate by a single point.

A Salar 40 is definitely more a cruiser than a racing yacht but in 15+ knots of breeze she can undergo a marked transformation. PANACHE IV (Egils E Stokans) has sailed 3 races this series and this was her best result in more favourable conditions. PANACHE IV had a good start only 8 seconds late for a -4 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 2:20:22 and was 3rd across the finish line at 11:46:22 - only 58 seconds behind DILII GAFF. PANACHE IV is currently 22nd in the aggregate.

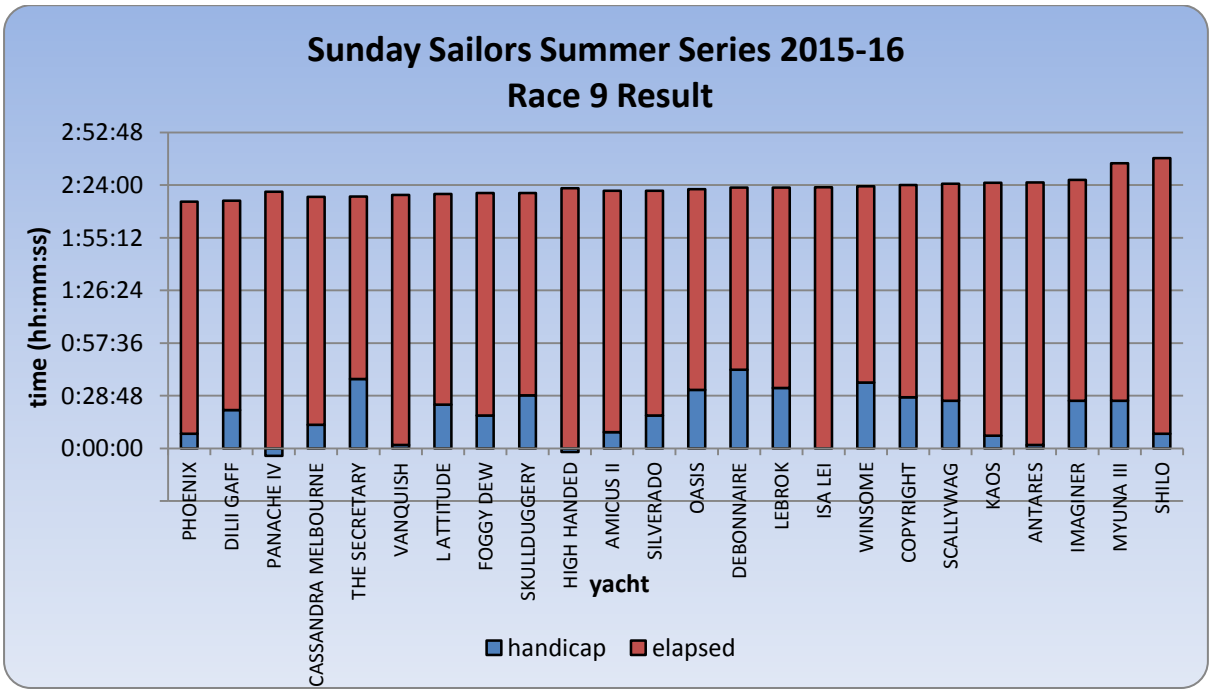
With a time of 3 seconds it was THE SECRETARY that won Start of the Day followed by the Beneteau First 45 DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez) on 5 seconds and PANACHE IV with a start of 8 seconds. These were the only three yachts that started within 11 seconds or less of their handicaps. The median start time was 26 seconds, about 2 seconds better than the average.



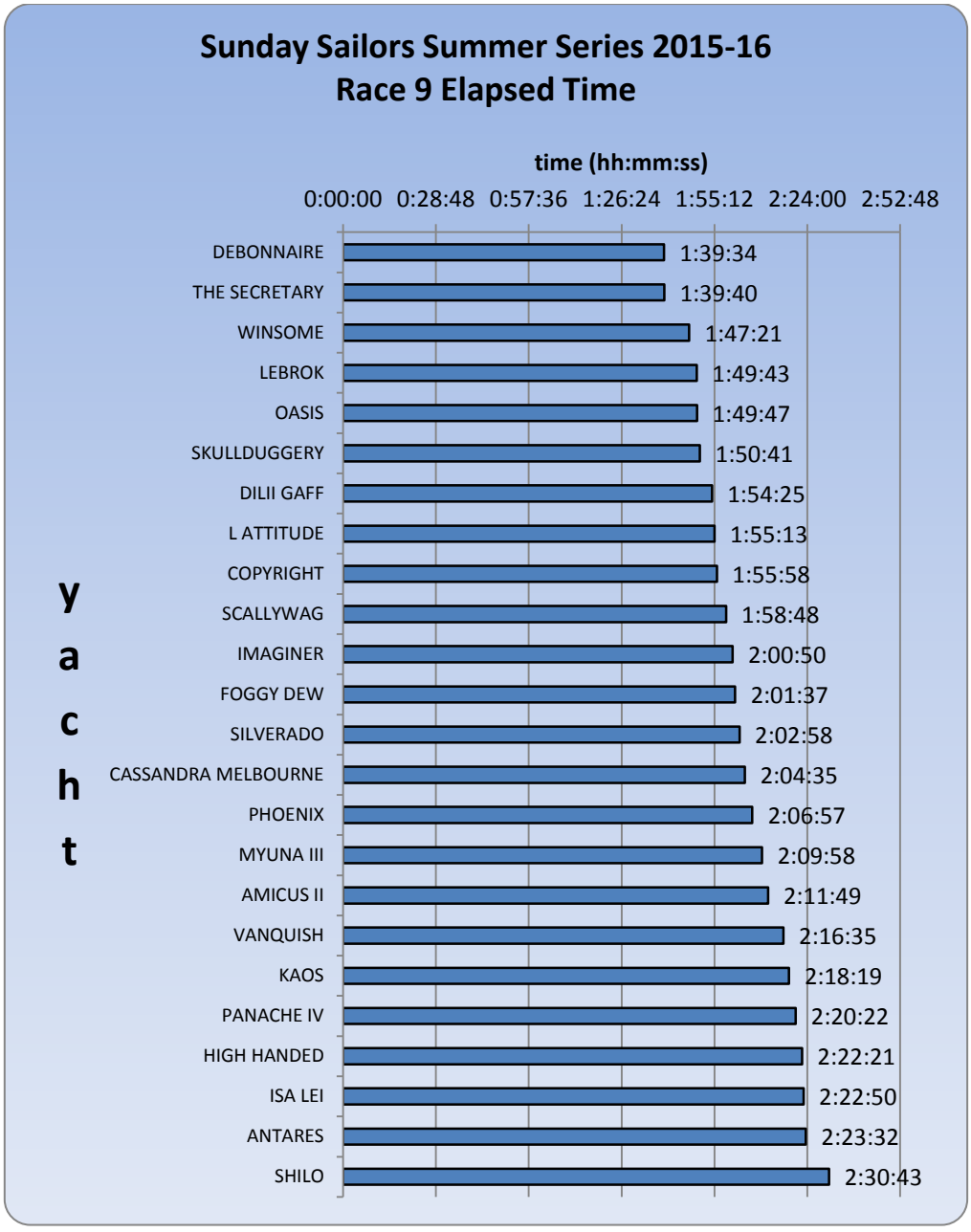
With 3 yachts from the early starters and 4 mid fleet starters among the early finishers, this wasn't a race for the yachts with the larger handicaps. Of the 8 late starters only 1 was among the early finishers, with 3 finishing with the middle 8, and 4 finishing with last 8 yachts to finish.



The fleet started 46 minutes 57 seconds apart and finished 23 minutes 46 seconds apart with an average of 1 yacht finishing every 59 seconds – the closest of the series. The Bavaria 32 FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) and the Jeanneau 44 SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) finished only 4 seconds apart in 8th and 9th place respectively. Whilst THE SECRETARY finished 5 seconds astern of the Mottle 33 CASSANDRA of MELBOURNE (Bob Reeves).



With a time of 2:18:43 this race had the longest average elapsed time this series. The fastest time of 1:39:34 was recorded by DEBBONNAIRE who was a mere 6 seconds faster than THE SECRETARY. There was only 4 seconds separating the Beneteau 367 LEBROK (Theo Korbel) from the Skye 51 OASIS (David Keyes Tilley).



This race produced quite a rearrangement of the aggregate top ten. Amongst the big movers was DILII GAFF moving from 6th to 1st; COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) slipping from 1st to 5th and WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) slipping from 3rd to 7th place.

Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2015-16 Aggregate Position									
YACHT	Race Number								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
DILII GAFF	12	9	9	6	8	8	8	6	1
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	16	4	4	1	2	2	2	4	2
FOGGY DEW	13	11	12	11	5	5	5	2	3
L ATTITUDE	8	12	8	9	6	6	6	5	4
COPYRIGHT	3	8	3	2	1	1	1	1	5
OASIS	4	1	2	4	7	7	7	7	6
WINSOME	1	3	5	5	4	4	4	3	7
SILVERADO	7	2	1	3	3	3	3	9	8
LEBROK	20	17	14	8	9	9	9	8	9
SKULLDUGGERY	10	18	13	14	13	13	13	10	10
IMAGINER	5	5	15	12	10	10	10	11	11
DEBONNAIRE	2	7	7	7	11	11	11	15	12
SCALLYWAG	6	16	22	19	15	15	15	13	13
KAOS	14	13	6	10	16	16	16	14	14
HIGH HANDED	15	21	19	20	18	18	18	18	15
CADENZA	17	22	21	17	12	12	12	12	16
ISA LEI	11	20	17	21	21	21	21	19	17
MYUNA III	20	15	11	16	14	14	14	17	18
WINEDOWN	18	10	16	13	17	17	17	16	19
ANTARES	20	24	24	25	22	22	22	21	20
PLAY	20	24	23	18	20	20	20	20	21
PANACHE IV		19	18	22	24	24	24	24	22
INDEPENDENT ENDEAVOUR	9	6	10	15	19	19	19	22	23
AMICUS II	20	14	20	23	25	25	25	26	24
DELL ERA			25	24	23	23	23	23	25
SHILO	19	23	26	26	26	26	26	25	26
VANQUISH	20	24	27	27	27	27	27	28	27
A CUNNING PLAN	20	24	27	27	28	28	28	27	28
SALT WHISTLE	20	24	27	27	28	28	28	29	29

Race 10 is scheduled for 14th February 2016