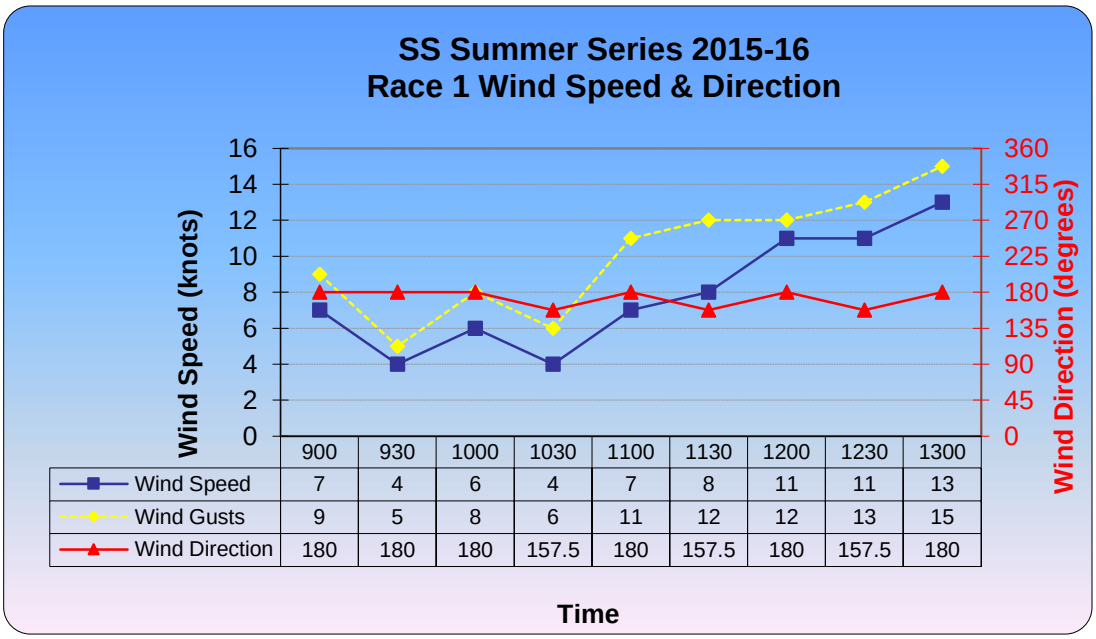
Sunday Sailors Summer Series 2015-16 Race 1

An Enjoyable Introduction to the Series

By the start of race 1 twenty seven yachts of varying shapes and sizes had entered this summer series aggregate. Nineteen of these 27 contested the first race which turned out not to be the fastest start to a series. The breeze did not become established above 5 knots from the south until about 1100. This lack of breeze in the early stage of the race meant it took approximately 90 minutes for the first yacht to round number 5, the first mark of course 14. Yachts with low handicaps that were amongst the early starters lost some of their handicap advantage due to the light breeze, whilst those that started later did so has the breeze began to increase.

Although the breeze did increase from around 1030 it wasn't enough to prevent the course being shortened. After sailing a rhumb line distance of 6.4 nautical miles around 3 legs of the course the first yacht crossed the finish line at 11:55:30. The 18th yacht finished at 12:28:26 with the first timer, a Beneteau First 29 SHILO (Doug Jackson) not finishing in the 1230 time limit



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	7	4	6	4	7	8	11	11	13
Wind Gusts	9	5	8	6	11	12	12	13	15
Wind Direction	180	180	180	157.5	180	157.5	180	157.5	180

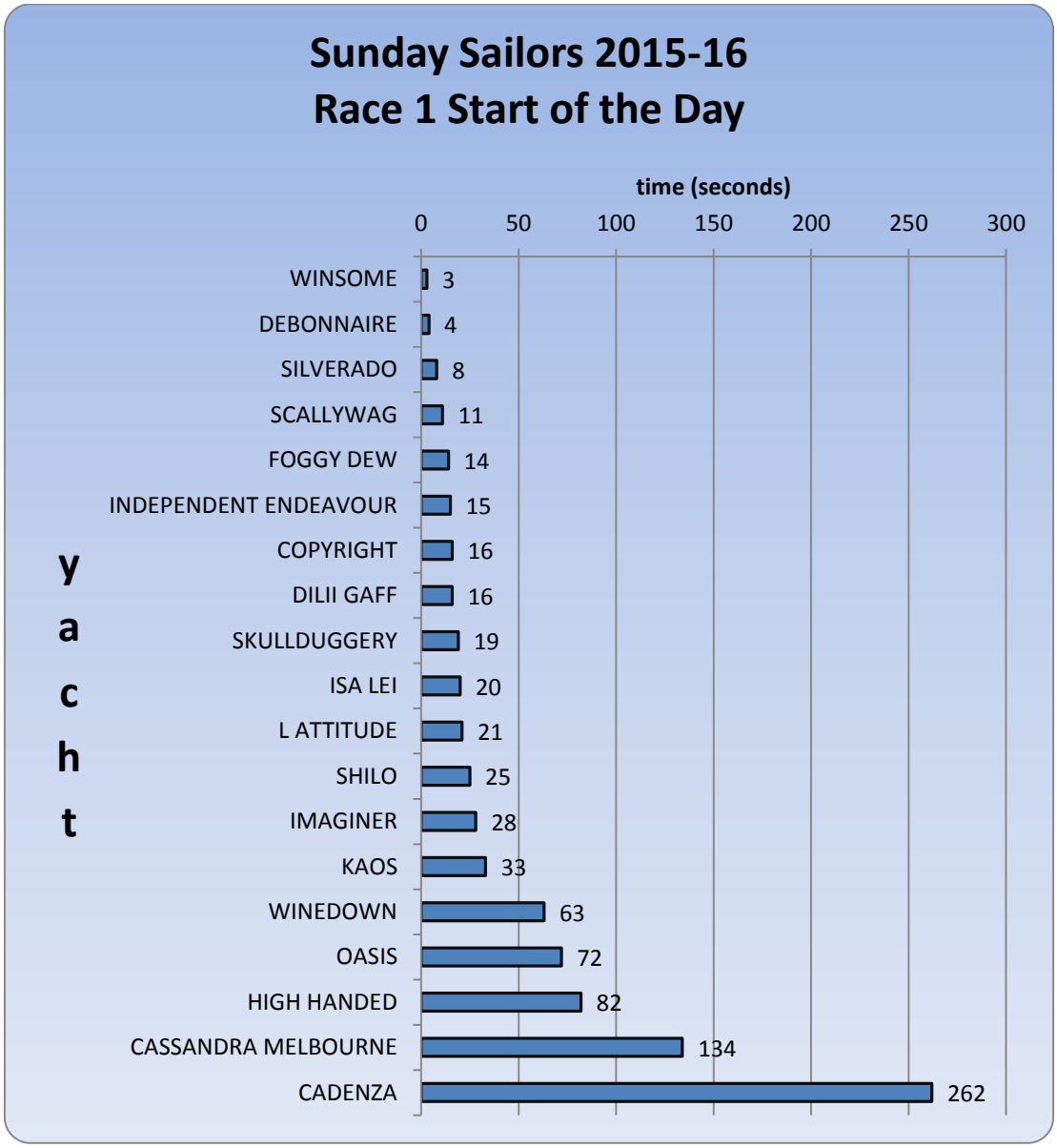
The average elapsed time was a long 2:18:43 but fortunately this was sailed under blue skies and on flat seas. The average wind speed for the race was 8 knots.

After winning Start of the Day the Jeanneau 40, WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) went to cross the line in first place. WINSOME is continuing her good form after finishing 2nd in the winter series. She started this race from 18th position only 3 seconds late for a 34 minute handicap. WINSOME recorded the second fastest elapsed time of the day sailing the course in 1:51:30 and crossing the finish line in 1st place at 11:55:30 to win the first race of the series.

In 2nd place finishing 1 minute 13 seconds behind WINSOME was the Beneteau First 45 DEBONNAIRE (Phil Gomez). DEBONNAIRE was the last yacht to start the race only 4 seconds late for her 44 minute handicap. She recorded the fastest elapsed time sailing the course in 1:42:43 – 8 minutes 47 seconds faster than her closest rival. DEBONNAIRE crossed the finish line in 2nd place at 11:56:43 and she is also continuing her good form from the winter series were she finished on top of the aggregate.

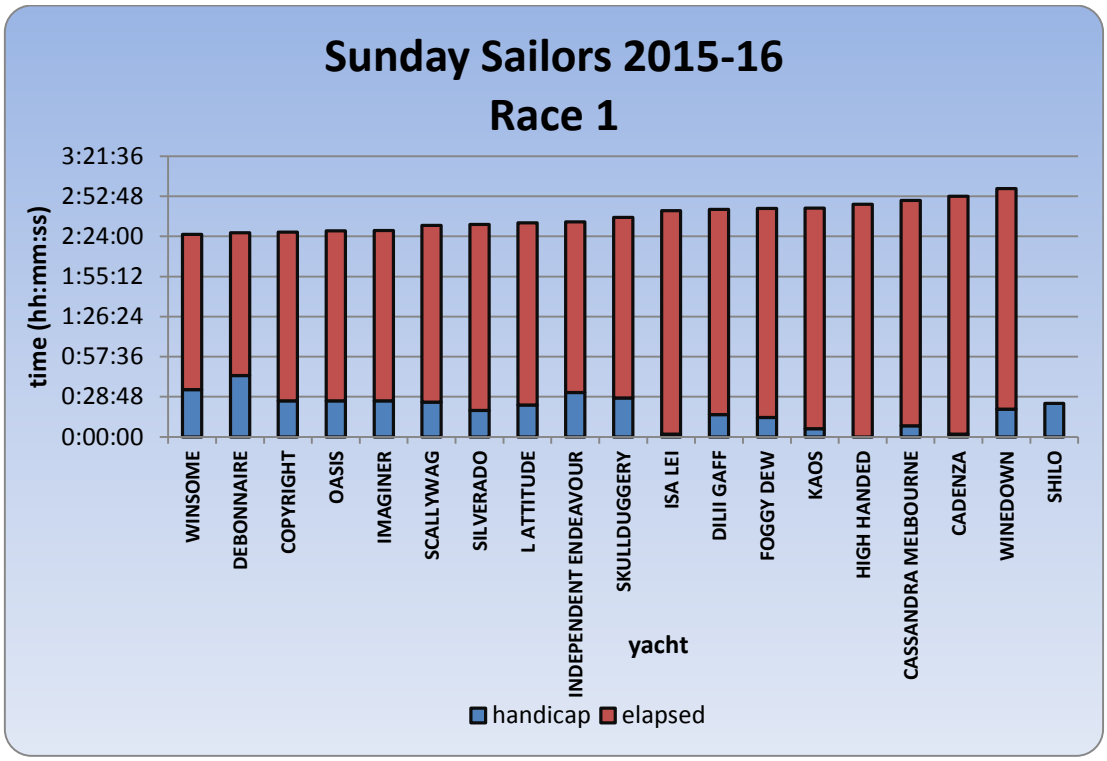
Finishing 3rd in the last winter series aggregate and 3rd in this race was the Wright 10 COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack). COPYRIGHT also had a good start 16 seconds late for a 26 minute handicap from 13th place. She sailed the course in the 3rd fastest time of the day – 2:01:08 some 18 minutes 25 seconds slower than the fastest elapsed time. COPYRIGHT crossed the finish at 11:57:08 only 25 seconds behind DEBONNAIRE. It seems coincidental that the yachts that finished 1, 2, 3 in this race end the winter series in positions 2, 1, 3 in the winter aggregate.

As mentioned earlier not only did WINSOME win the race she also won Start of the Day 3 seconds late for her start. She had a close challenger in DEBONNAIRE who started 4 seconds late. The median start was 20 seconds with 15 yachts starting within 33 seconds of their respective starts. Four yachts were a minute or more late for their start.

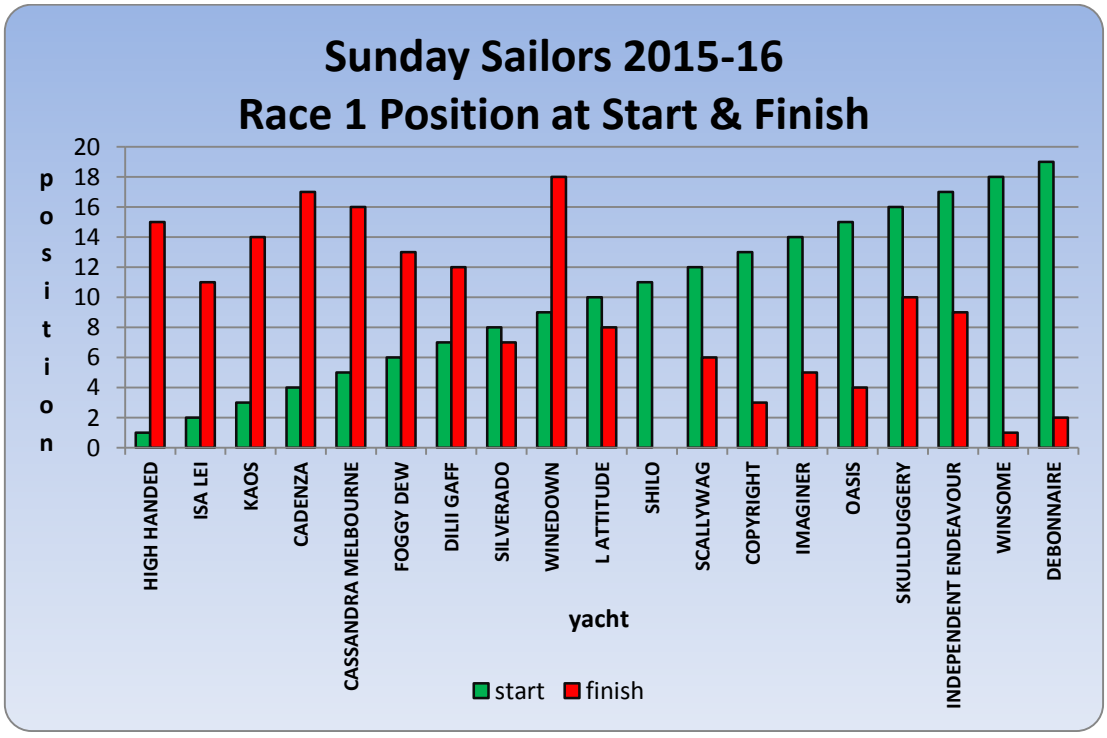


The 19 yacht fleet started 42 minutes 42 seconds apart and 18 yachts finished 32 minutes 56 seconds apart. The closest finish was the 12 seconds that separated

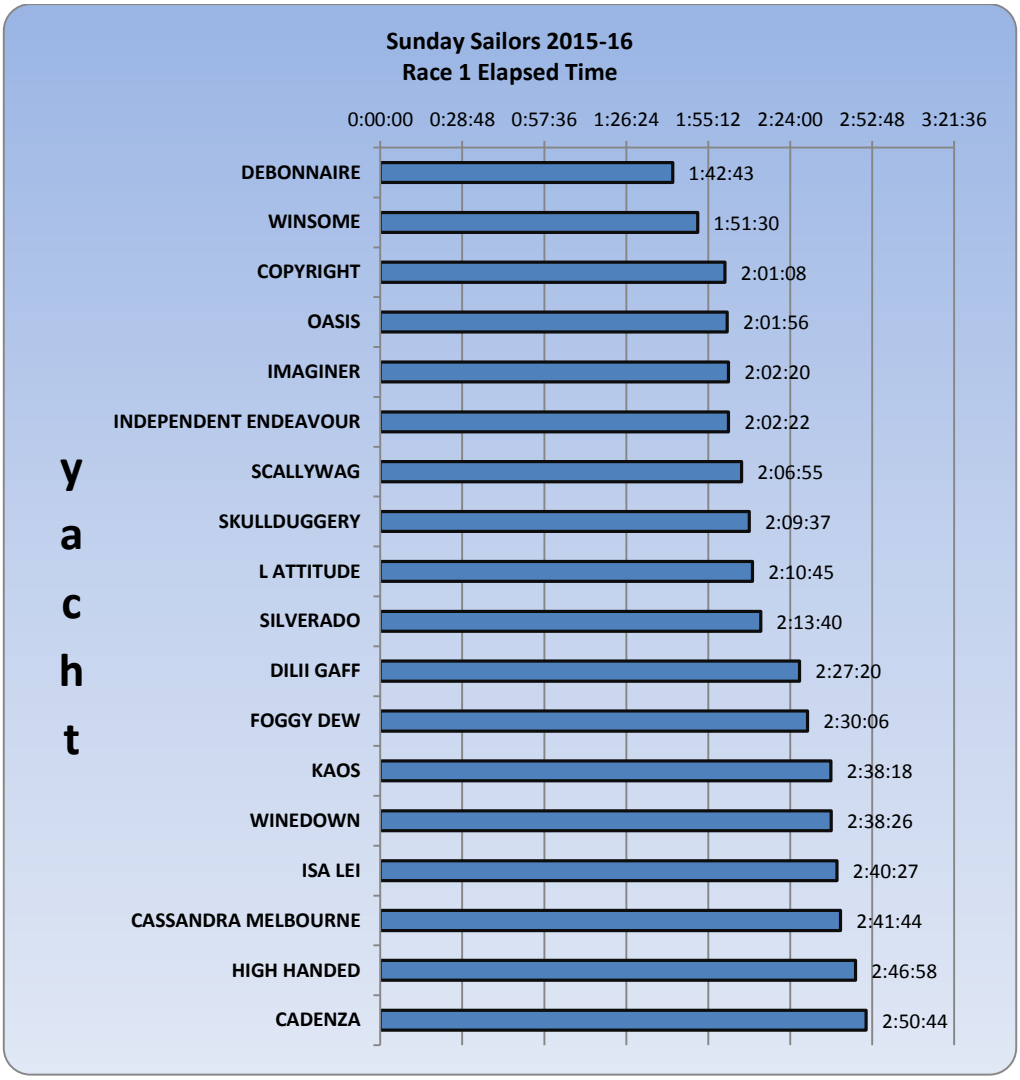
FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) from KAOS (Dawn Cleaver) who finished 13th and 14th respectively.



This was a race were the late starters dominated the finish. None of the first 6 yachts to start the race were amongst the first 6 to finish whilst 4 of the last 6 yachts to start finished amongst the first 6.



This was one of the longer sails around one of the shorter course for some time. DEBONNAIRE sailed the course in the shortest time of 1:42:43 with CADENZA (Kenneth Foxworthy) receiving best value for money with a sail of 2:50:44. The average sail time was 2:18:43.



The next race is scheduled for 25 October 2015.