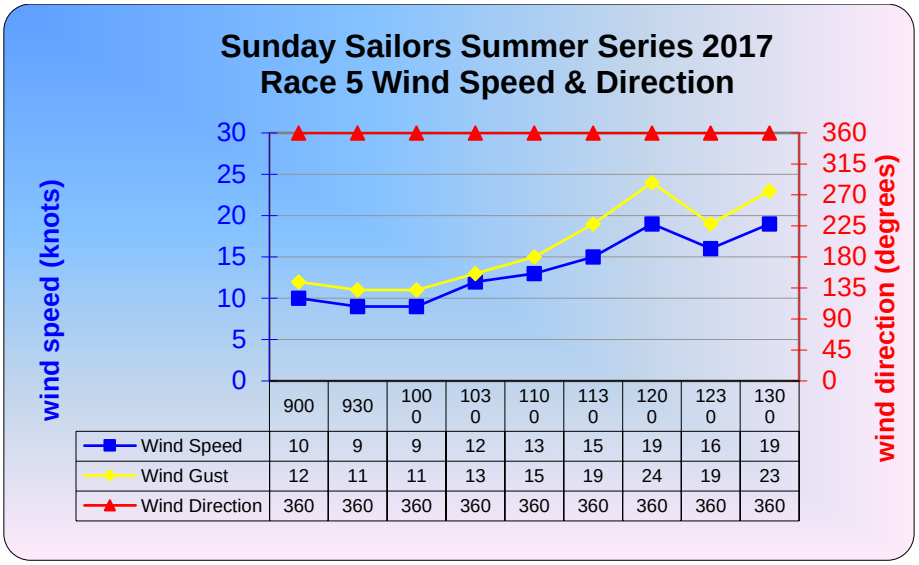
Cold Start but Things Did Warm Up
Sunday Sailors Winter Series 2017 Race 5

With ice on the marina walkways and a temperature of zero at Moorabbin Airport around 830 it was a cool reception awaiting Sunday Sailors for this race. There was also a strong warning for Port Philip but wind charts suggested friendlier conditions towards the north. Maybe it was the weather that kept competitors away from race 5 but 16 yachts enjoyed a northerly that averaged 14 knots at Fawkner Beacon. This was enough breeze to power all 16 starters around the 6 leg 8.2 nautical mile course 19.



	900	930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300
Wind Speed	10	9	9	12	13	15	19	16	19
Wind Gust	12	11	11	13	15	19	24	19	23
Wind Direction	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360

Sailing in her second race of the series the race was won by the UFO 34 ENDURANCE (Eric Clarke). In second place was the Farr 9.2 SHE'S A LADY (Boyd Coulson) with the Sunfast 40 WINSOME (Simon Hemingway) finishing in third place. It was a successful day for WINSOME who tied for Start of the Day with X-Yacht XPRESSO (Ari & Damian Abrahams). The fastest yacht around the course with an elapsed time of 1:31:44 was the 11 metre yacht BLUE TACK (Andy Lloyd).

There were some positional changes in the aggregate top ten as a result of this race. However, COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) retains top spot with RAZZLE DAZZLE (Andrew Stopp) moving into 2nd place at the expense of SKULLDUGGERY (Garry McCarten) who moved into 3rd place.

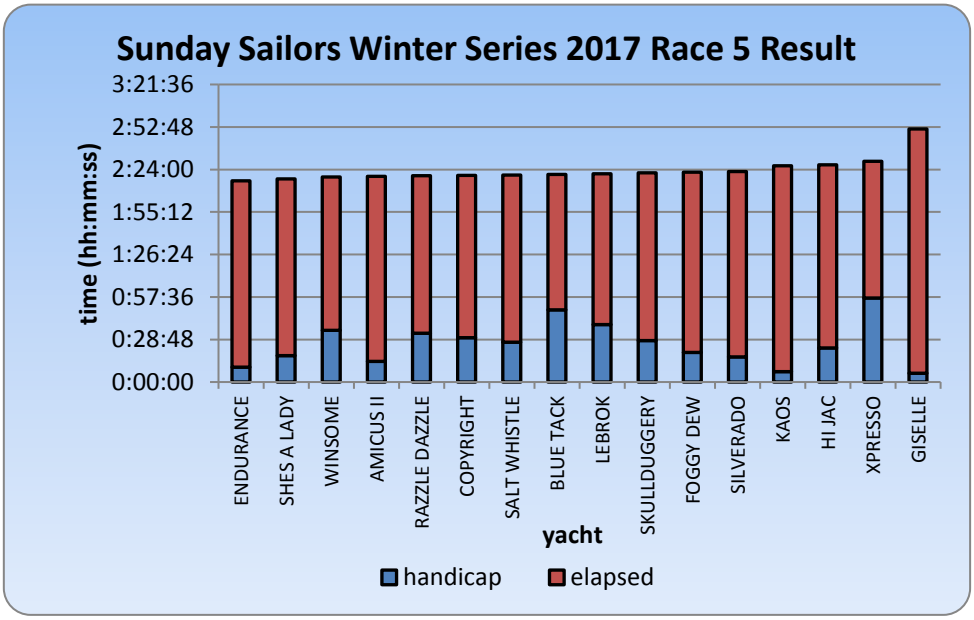
This was the second race in the series for ENDURANCE. She started from 3rd place 48 seconds late for her 10 minute handicap. She sailed the course in 2:06:25 and was first across the finish line at 11:46:25 – a margin of 1 minute 12 seconds. ENDURANCE had started the race 3 minutes 32 seconds ahead of AMICUS II (Warwick Stenford) but this gap had reduced to 2 minutes 54 seconds at the finish line. In contrast ENDURANCE started 3 minutes 34 seconds behind KAOS (Dawn Cleaver) but finished 10 minutes 3 seconds ahead. ENDURANCE was a casual entry in the race so this result does not affect the aggregate.

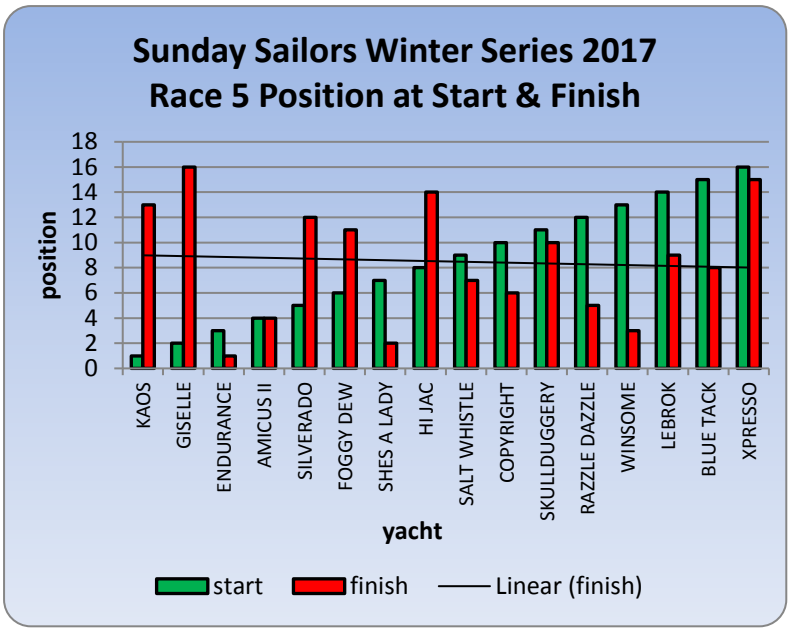
SHES A LADY has finished in the top ten in each of her 3 races. She (or SHE?) started from 7th place 2 minutes 45 seconds late for her 18 minute handicap. Despite having the second worst handicap of the race, SHES A LADY was able to complete the course in 1:59:37 and cross the finish line at 11:47:37 to record her first podium finish of the series. SHES A LADY started the race 37 seconds behind FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) but sailed the course 2 minutes 36 seconds faster to cross the finish line 4 minutes 36 seconds ahead. This podium finish lifted SHES A LADY from 14th to 11th place in the aggregate.

WINSOME is one of 4 yachts to have completed 4 races in this series. She started this one from 13th place only 7 seconds late for her 35 minute handicap. She recorded the 4th fastest elapsed time of the race sailing the course in 1:43:59. This was some 2 minutes 42 seconds faster than RAZZLE DAZZLE who started 1 place and 1 minute 58 seconds ahead. WINSOME crossed the finish line at 11:48:59 just 20 seconds ahead of AMICUS II in 4th place. WINSOME moved up the aggregate from 8th into 5th place 10 points behind the aggregate leader.

With Start of the Day resulting in a tie between WINSOME and XPRESSO the number of different winners is now 6 from 5 races. The median start time for the race was 9 seconds but the range was 242 seconds. Half the fleet started within 11 seconds or less of their handicaps but 4 7achts started more than 60 seconds late. This could have made a difference at the finish line for some of the yachts.

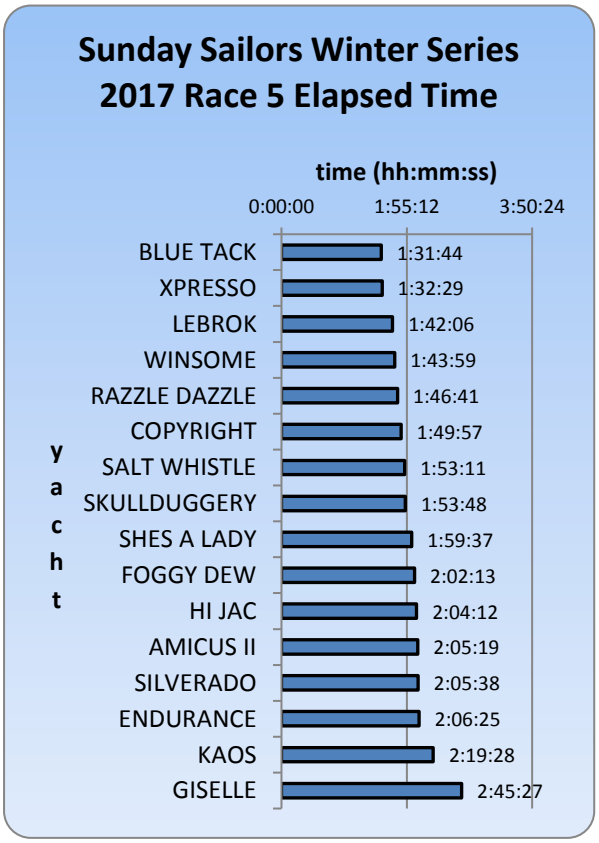
The 16 yacht fleet started the race 49 minutes 53 seconds apart and finished within 35 minutes and 2 seconds of each other. The closest finish was between COPYRIGHT (Stuart Morrison Jack) and SALTWHISTLE (Alex Hall) who finished within 14 seconds of each other.



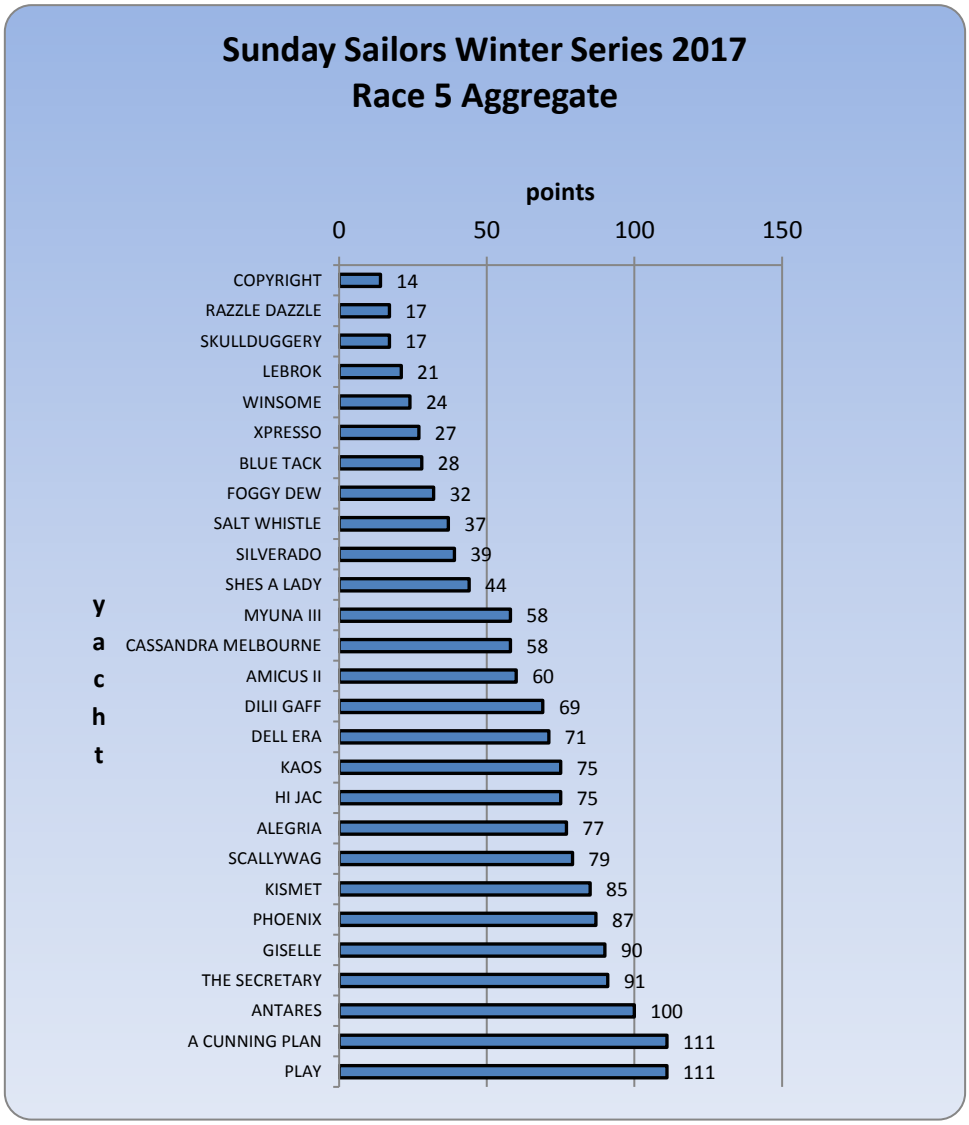


Of the first 5 yachts to start the race 2 were among the first 5 to finish. The remaining early finishers included 1 mid fleet and 2 late starters.

The median elapsed time for race 5 was 1:56:48 with BLUE TACK recording the fastest time of 1:31:44. She achieved this time with the help of a spinnaker. Her closest rival was XPRESSO who also flew spinnaker but took 45 seconds longer to sail the 8.2 nautical mile course.



After 5 races COPYRIGHT leads the aggregate with a total of 14 points. RAZZLE DAZZLE and SKULLDUGGERY are both on 17 points with LEBROK on 21 points and WINSOME on 24 points.



Windward Buoy is running a way to sea. He is joining the crew of Blue Flyer (Hugh Pilsworth) in Panama City, Panama, and sailing to Tahiti via the Galapagos - a trip of about 5,700 nautical miles. The 49 foot Jeanneau Blue Flyer departed SYC 4 June 2016 and is now making her way back to Australia.

Enjoy the rest of Sunday Sailors Winter Series

Race 6 is scheduled for 17 July 2017