

Texel Sprint 1

Looking at the short course I estimated that the main factors would be to tack and gybe in precise moments and also to pay close attention to the F18 irregular polar, so I decided the night before to go around the island for some practice.

Starting the race my first tack went fine; after the VC bouy my gybe worked well too, and I managed to avoid the polar convexities as much as possible, so when I got to Oudeschild "A" I was in the top 3. To go from marks "B" to "C" the normal strategy would be to make 2 gybes but when practicing the night before it seemed to me that going straight in a slow downwind leg could pay off by avoiding the cumulative loss of performance of 2 consecutive gybes in such a short distance. This was very difficult to calculate having no other boats around as reference.

In the race I decided to risk for it so I went directly from "B" to "C" at a speed about 30 to 40% slower than the VMG usual route. At first it looked as a bad move since when I got to "C" I had lost 10 places. But on the run to the Texel ZO bouy I had more speed than my competitors so I was again in top 3.

On the last leg again the tacking decision would be crucial. I tacked first; Iomkiwi and Robert over stood a little bit and I was able to cross the line first.

/Rafa - June 15, 2014