

Tall Ships race 2014- number 1

Very difficult race sailing upwind most of the time in a boat that doesn't point to the wind efficiently.

The crucial point of this race was what to decide at Hanstholm offshore mark, either continue north or turn south. The northern option had more pressure and better angle so this would be the best choice in "normal" boats, but the problem is that our Tall Ship loses a lot of pointing angle as the wind speed increases. Up to 12 knots we could sail efficiently at 70 degrees to the wind, but at 18 knots the angle to the wind increased to 78 degrees; even at a much faster linear speed, the gain towards windward was lower. So I decided to take the south option. At first with a lot of doubt since Win and ITA, who are really masters of SOL, continued going north, but then when I saw PetrM also going south I felt more confident.

PetrM played very well the windshifts thereof and won the race in great shape. Knockando did very well finishing just behind me, and Patrick did surprisingly well also. Congratulations to them.

Rafa, July 2014