

TALL SHIPS 2014 Race 2

Fredrikstad to Bergen

Right after the start it was obvious for the majority of the fleet that the best course was to go west towards the coast and tack continuously close to the shore in between the islands to take advantage from the persistent wind shift. As usual in these circumstances it is difficult to decide the optimum timing between tacks. Trampantojo did it very well and was leading in this first part. But the wind pressure near to the coast was lighter so in a certain point we needed to stop the taking and head south with more wind pressure. I was one of the first boats to head south and that allowed me to catch up. Also PetrM, Neuroman and rumskib did well too so we five led the fleet.

All of us took different decisions as to when tack again to go west, and what route to take to go under the southern tip of Sweden. All routes were quite different but all had similar result since we all were again very close when we started to go up north towards the finish.

PetrM did this last leg very well and crossed the line first.

Close to the finish I arrived with a better angle and managed to overtake Neuroman and rumskib in the last few miles of the course to take second place, with them finishing right after and almost tied. Neuroman took third literally by a fraction of a second. We lost Trampantojo somewhere in the last leg but he still managed to finish fifth.

Congrats to PetrM for his deserved second win in a row in Tall Ships; also to the other 3 boats with which I had a very exciting competition, and to all others who participated in this nice race sailing in these hard to sail big boats.

Rafa

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