

The Sail around Turkey race has become an epic annual challenge for SOLers. The Black Sea often has shifting light winds and the middle section has both the Dardenelles and Bosphorus Straits, both tight twisting channels that after difficult to navigate under any weather conditions. The course is not much easier in the Mediterranean Sea where near shore marks require close attention. The final couple of days are easy in comparison, but lack of attention can easily result in ruining the effort of the previous few days.

There are many places to lose the race, but few to win it. A few of us broke clear of the pack in the Black Sea after a day and night of light shifting winds, but Rumskib chose to head SW towards Sinop while I stayed offshore. There was not much in that choice, but once Rumskib had the lead he charged on and with superb sailing closed out the race. I had a brief stop at 4am local when entering the Bosphorus but luckily woke up and corrected my DCs. I was fifth after that but was up to second by the Dardenelles when my decision to take the middle of Sea of Marmara was rewarded. I lost a place to Rafa that night (my local time) due to slow sailing on DCs but luckily regained it when rafa bbq'd later. I caught up a little with Rum but nearly threw away second near Anamur when I sailed best VMC and missed a band of stronger wind. That allowed rafa to catch up, but I was able to close the door and secure second.

Longer race report will be posted here <http://nzlscotsman.wordpress.com/>

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