

The Macias Nguema 2014

First look at the race course and winds for the time of the race I knew I would sail the western route. The wind was veering rather than backing, there would be a little more wind on the eastern route though.

After a few minutes into the race noting that only a dozen boats had chosen the west route I wondered if it was the right choice.

I kept a best vmg all the way to the point of land where we could bear off the wind, rafa had taken a faster angle by a degree or 2, when we first crossed paths we were about even, 2nd time I might of had a slight edge, hard to tell.

I over stood the lay line by about 20 seconds but felt happy with my position against the west boats, rafa looked slightly ahead Zero so close behind. All the time thinking east had the edge over west, even down to the last hour and half I thought east had it in the bag.

Then the gap between east and west started reducing quickly and by the last hour I knew we had chosen right, just need to get ahead of rafa. The final approach left an angle of around 88 degrees, a tight line to hit. rafa ahead by less than 0.02 nm. I have a chance if I hit the line on the point to maybe take the win.

We finished the same jump and a quick look at the race leader board rafa done it by just 2 seconds, Well Done rafa, you're a tough sailor to beat. The choice of east or west always look the right choice to me but I did doubt my choice for the best part of the race.

I think the only reason I managed to hold off the following boats was my constant course adjustments throughout the racekeeping best vmg. If the wind shift had been a bigger shift then I would have taken a wider faster angle but vmg paid off this time.

Well done SOLers, a great race.

Fair winds
sadlersailing