

First I would like to declare that Timed races are a lotteries... they are fun, but they are sweepstakes! I'm very happy to have won this one!

Well, I chose the time of start in considering 3 topics:

1) It would have been indifferent to race with 35, 38 or 40 knots of wind, since the boat was almost at the maximum speed of the hull, even if the wind increased or decreased of 5-6 knts.

2) A slight shift to the right could be an advantage. Better take the most of it during the upwind leg, the slower one, but without taking it too much for not to be penalized on the leg to the finish.

3) Do not start before 22:30's wx for not to risk provisions different from what we saw on the field.

So, I started at 22:40 UTC (I could also start at 22:31, but in timed races I do prefer to start at a time "full" and equal, easy for the calculations!)

Well, as for the race strategy, it was to decide whether to gain for the little shift on the right missing something in performance for 2 or 3 tacks/jibes more.

Considering the TP52's polar I decided to risk:

I chose the right side and start to right tack. I did the first 2 legs downwind with max VMG and I was careful not to make the first jibe close to the island in order to get enough water in recovering the loss-perf after the second jibe!

I also calculated to make the final side toward the island in max VMG to limit the loss-perf.

In fact, I was in max perf and max speed by many minutes before the first mark.

What a wonder when I saw that rumskib, Winston_4 and rafa (they started several minutes behind me) had made choices completely opposite to the mine ones!

But it was done, I could not go to the control and cover, because it would mean too much tacks and lose more.

On the upwind leg, once again, I preferred the wind angle and 2 tacks more, considering also that the loss in perf for Tp52 is much lower in tacking than the jibing and 100% was recovered in less than a couple of minutes even with strong wind; so, as soon as possible, I placed the bow on port tack.

Once again I noticed, without being able to do anything, that rafa and Winston_4 chose to do 2 tacks in less, while rumskib chose my own strategy.

Also in this case I sailed on port tack a little long beyond the lay-line to go faster in the long leg descending, by routing on the vantage rotation.

This board would have lasted about in 1 hour and 45 minutes; I made it to run! Soon I did 10.20 knts, then 10.30 and 10.50 knots for over half an hour while in a VMG were made 10.04 knts fixed.

At that point there were not many competitors on the scene and, of course, still I didn't know if mine was the best strategy, and if ever I could get on the podium.

I was very focused: I found myself to be the forerunner with 3 of the strongest opponents SOLers following!

However, I had my jolly in the final leg for the finish, and I bet on it: in the right shift of the wind, slight decreasing in speed, who was behind was certainly penalized (under 70 TWA the polar of Tp52 with 35knts decreases substantially and I have sailed with TWA between 70.5 and 71.8)

So, I guess, I didn't choose the best time to start, have not done a flawless run, but - sure - I've done everything that was possible, and I took advantage of every chance to not give away meters to anyone!!!

Just like Piero/Winston says in three words: KEEP HOLDING ON! And I did it!