

That this race was going to be an endurance test was known before starting . The light and variable winds and the boat polar , offering speeds of max 7 knots at best were clearly indicating that it was going to be a “ die hard” show.

Another thing that I knew before starting was that , if I managed to finish well in this one , tenth leg of the SYC Championship , I would be (likely) mathematically sure to have won the SYC Championship Cup , therefore endurance was not an optional plan , but it was a MUST !!.

First surprise , immediately after the start : Dingo and Rafa not leaving the start line ! . They were until then two of the four or five boats fighting for Podium in this SYC Championship and potentially complicating my ranking math plans . Only possibility I guessed was that they did choose to concentrate on the more challenging and demanding OCEAN Championship leg and Round the World opening.

The way up to Messina straight was as painful as it could be , including the first signal that the Wx would have reserved surprises more than once during the course of the race . The 1630Z on Monday was hell of a change in angles , and of course found me on the wrong side of things ;))I had to steer for long uninterrupted hours to re-establish the small 0.10/ 0.15 miles of lead I had on “ironman” Rumskib.

This was the theme until Stromboli , where Rumskib overshot the turn , and the lead gap increased , whilst a big fight built within the group of three in pursuit (Rum – Nacrr – Karriv)

At Lampedusa (100 miles DTG and some 36 hours to go ;)) the lead was already reassuring over the 1 mile mark , and there Karri had his incident , leaving the hunters group down to 2 .

The remaining part of the race had been a story of “rich gets richer” , involving also one wind hole that halted the fleet the night before arrival , but allowed me to sail with just under 1knt TWS when the others were totally stuck . For this reason the separation on the finish line had been bigger than average .

The numbers say that the CUP is in the safe !! ;))))))

I could easily discard race 11 and 12 , but will not do so !Most likely will take a rest on race 11 (likely another endurance trial ;)) ...and be on the start line with the cat 125 on race 12 , and fight as if nothing is decided yet , in sportsmanship and total respect for the entire fleet !

Till thenciaoooooooooooooooooooo

Piero

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