

I really didn't believe when I started my only run in this timed race that it would result in my third win ever in SOL. I had been busy and not paying attention to this race earlier but someone in chat mentioned that Tuesday would be a good day so I had a look and decided to have a try in the afternoon which looked the best time to start.

The choice for start time is always interesting and usually critical and here I was really lucky. I set a dc for my start bit earlier to match my schedule in work and soon after start I noticed that it wasn't that bad as WINSTON\_4 had already started and I was also following bonknhoot's wake as he started less than minute before me. When karriv started few minutes after me I knew for sure that this was the right time to go.

The sail itself was pretty straightforward with not much choices, just to concentrate to make a clean run. We were pretty even with bonknhoot until the gybe at Goulphar Offshore where I managed to play the polar hop bit better and I think that is the place where the difference between us was made. The only choice was where to do the double tack going upwind to La Teignouse Ouest which I carefully timed to match my drive home from work. Luckily the traffic was good and I was home in time to handle the last two marks and the run to finish.

At the finish the difference to bonknhoot turned out to be 12 seconds, luckily to my advantage and shows how tight these races can be after almost 6 hours. Then it was up to see how well karriv would do, this time at least I didn't get humiliated by him overtaking me after a later start like he did to me in Lisboa with the AC72. As it turned out, karriv lost 11 seconds to me (and won bonknoot by 1 tiny second) and knowing how well he usually sails, I started to believe in my chances.

Later boats then posted even slower times so my win was a combination of a clear sail with no mistakes and a really lucky timing of the start. bonknhoot was also a good reference for me thorough my run. Me and karriv finishing 1-2 was sort of comforting after I think 4 Finnish boats were in top-5 in early days of this race.

hmm/October 2014