

## MASIRAH CIRCUIT – Sprint Races Championship Leg 19

This year the SPRINT Championship was not a goal for me . Too much stress , nail biting ; too many rocks and sharp turns where who dares either wins or crashes and who does not dare ( me ) loses . ☺

I therefore never sailed in Sprints , with the exception of a couple of late ones where I sort of started the day after grabbing whatever ranking was left rather than a DNS .

Then lately I decided to run in the last few legs ( last quarter ) in order to try , with some top 20 or so , to improve my overall ranking in the Championship and enter the TOP 100 overall , that would give me an Award Certificate for the Series.

That is why I was at helm with super-masochistic apparatus at 0100AM last night . Half the way through the first half of the race , when the clock showed 0300AM , and came back to 0200AM because I have been brilliant enough to pick the night of daylight saving change , my appetite for the Award certificate had already faded completely .

Unfortunately at that point I was already in good position , fighting it out with the leaders ( Stoerte – zero – karaoke – rafa - Neuro ) , and could not abandon ship .

The race was not really a Sprint by definition , other than in its length . Lots of technical situations , both downwind ( first half of the race ) and upwind later on . One constant shift compelled to continuously tack in the first part of the second half , keeping masochists , devastated by sleep deprivation at the helm ( I managed to sleep for 10 minutes in between two tacks in front of the southern rocks of the island ) ☺.

At last , at around 0600AM ( showing as 0500AM ) the optimal route took us a little offshore , and that was the big moment for a better nap. When I got back at the helm , just before the last WP , Stoerte and Neuroman had disappeared from proximity , due , I guess , to some sleep related error , whilst zero and karaoke had a small , but very safe , lead on me .....The last reach till the finish line was no story.

I found myself in a comfortable third spot , and started thinking again that perhaps a SOL Award certificate was worth it again ..:))))))))))

Till next time ...:))

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