

My attitude to all races is a lot more basic than a lot of skippers - I look at the client, move the wind slider around a bit and make a decision. I also have the attitude that 'life comes first' regardless, SOLing will not come before work, doing other things, and only occasionally will I miss sleep. On the other hand I do try to sail in every race, just some races I try harder in, especially the shorter races. Just by being out there and seeing what others do and trying to figure out why teaches me a lot. I don't use routers, I will occasionally open up wxinspector, but only to use the optimum angle tool, and I will occasionally use Helm Control to make the boat turn at a point rather than at a time.

In this race, as in all timed races, I look at the leaderboard and the course and make a quick decision (guess) based on the wind about how long it will take. On my first attempt I arrived home from work had a quick look and pressed the go button. After finishing this run it let me know that in order to win this race it would have to be on a broad reach all the way and without the wind being too strong which would kill performance on the gybe.

On the day of my best run I got home from work, looked at the best time and worked back from there. The wind was from a good angle and strong but not excessive, but there was a shift coming in about four hours that would make the last bit tight so I wanted to get to the finish before that shift. I figured the best time to start which would get me to the finish faster than any previous finisher was still a couple of hours away. I carried on with the usual things around the place and then had visitors so ended up starting about 15 minutes later than I had hoped, the race for me was pretty much straight lining between points with an easing around in the gybe to prevent perf loss, on such a short race getting good roundings at the points would make a difference and I guess I got lucky to have some good roundings. I don't think the starting late made that much difference, I wanted to start at the same time as Karriv but there were boats that started between me and him that finished behind us both.

Very happy to get on the podium, and congrats to Karriv for sailing that 15 seconds better than I could manage.

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