

Woohoo! I won my first race.

After a quick dash around Rangitoto the first section was a choice of straight shot, TWA or slightly rounded. I went slightly rounded to take advantage of the polars without adding much distance. I rounded with the top group. There was no clear leader.

After a straight shot to Cuvier Island came a not so obvious long weather leg. According to the forecast it would be possible to make the weather end in one long curved tack, but was that the best route? A bunch of us chose varying places along the first 12 miles of the leg to tack. This allowed us to move to weather at a time that the tack would not make such a hit on VMC. It would provide better angles later on in the process. This paid off and rounding the weather mark the race was all but decided.

I rounded Poor Knights Island 0.01nm behind rafa. For the next bunch of minutes the DTF went from there to 0.00nm difference. We chose slightly different routes at this point. Which side of the 2 small islands would yield the best results. I left them to starboard and rafa left them to port. The differences in wind, wind direction and distance were miniscule. I rounded Sail Rock with a lead of a whopping 0.02nm. But with the rest of the race a simple series of straight shots. And with a leaders dream of wind improving ahead, the rest of the race was a matter of staying awake to execute the turns. And at this point in the race, even that was a challenge. Oh, and what also had an effect on me at that point was knowing that only 0.02 nm separated me from someone who has been know to catch the leader before.

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