

YATES CUP

This race turned to be an interesting challenge as the permanently shifting winds made it very difficult to decide the most convenient course all along the race.

To go from Rangitoto to Channel Island the group of boats which pointed higher trying to take a direct course were the favored ones, even if at the beginning our ranking positions seemed to be worsening, but we gained speed as we approached Channel Island.

From Channel to Cuvier Island it was important to make a couple of fast gybes at the beginning of this leg.

The long upwind leg towards Poor Knights Island was also tricky in the shifting wind. When I finally got there I was leading the race.

From there the route towards the finish appeared to be much more straightforward and consequently I thought relatively easy to keep the lead, but nevertheless Hirilonde sailed this part much better and overtook me to get a great win. Congrats to him and all other top finishers.

I enjoyed this challenging race very much and I hope we will have another Yates Cup in the future.

Rafa

Nov. 2014