

Round Texel Timed Race

I really like the Timed Races, suits me fine to start whenever I want. When I prepared for this race the 28th November, I calculated the best start time by checking out when the strongest wind will occur. The wind angle was not so important for me when setting sassy's start time in this race, the race was just under 2 hrs and nearly no shift. Although it was a must for me to sail around Texel when it was strong wind over 20 kts from either West or East to be able to get a fast run.

The result was 22.8 kts wind at 17.50 UTC so I set my DC start at 17.00, due to that the race was approximately 1 hr and 50 mins. Atlet (SWE) had just crossed the finish line and had a good run in 1 hr 46 mins 58 sec.

Just after my start I saw the competitive Finnish sailors JakeS, StIngFI and Smo ahead of me. They are all good sailors so I thought my start time should be quite good. And.. it is always something extra when there is a battle going on between Swedes and Finns...

I sailed around the Texel once alone the 27th Nov getting 1.52.50, and in a group start the 29th Nov with Practice Racers kroyper, RainbowChaser and Tamalone.

Sailing downwind I used the 93% rule when gybing, and took 0.3 degrees better TWA when I sailed upwind. When I rounded the last mark in Texel the three Finns and atlet had a good lead, it was going to be close. On the last –a long one- server jump sassy managed to cross the finish line and after that I was ahead of all three Finns and atlet.

Checking the WX the morning after I fortunately -for me- saw that there would not be any better window to start in!

sassy63 / December 2014