

Cowes to St Malo 2014

The start of the race showed a race under 24 hours with a gentle Northerly breeze backing to Southwest and increasing into the night.

The start was a straight run through the western Solent, once past Alum Bay IOW, choices had to be made.

Around 10 hours into the race the prevailing West South West was building.

Past Alum Bay I chose to head Southwest as fast as possible towards the backing breeze, outlaw was close to my starboard side.

By 11pm utc I was in 14th with a good line towards Guernsey the wind had backed to the SW and we had a run to the island around 60 deg wind angle arriving around 2.30 am which gave me a 3 hour break.

2.30 am awake to see sadler in 2nd approaching the mark, after the mark sadler was just 0.05 nm behind outlaw. Now the run down to St Malo looked like a straight run home.

Just as I was going back to my bunk with 7 hours to the finish I noticed outlaw, rafa and one or 2 other boats took a faster course by a few degrees making me re think. The best VMC to the finish was around 140 cc with the actual course to finish was 150 cc. I chose 145 for a while but didn't like the look of my course so turned back to straight line run in hoping the wind direction later would make the distance up.

After a couple of hours rest using the android app in my bunk I saw sadler in 7th position. PANIC !! Up like a lightning bolt to the pc helm.

A closer look I realised I was still in a good position for 2nd and possibly a 1st, stIngFI as well as outlaw looked as if they may cause trouble for me though.

A few delicate course adjustments kept all but one boat behind sadler by the finish.

outlaw had sailed the VMC course and put a little distance between us where as I still don't trust VMC as much as my own judgment, maybe it's the cruiser sailor in me, obviously VMC won the day.

A great race anyway, it's always nice to sail well in home waters.

Congratulations outlaw and well done everyone else.

sadlersailing / December 2014