

As this was the last race of the SYC Timed Races Championship, and I had a chance to get on the podium with a good result, I put some effort into the race.

My initial analysis was that since the race was run on the Orange cat with high performance, the race would be decided on how well one could manage the performance loss. In my first run that was what I concentrated on, and did quite well on that, but master Svein beat me by several minutes by thinking outside the box and taking the northern route to the mark. Having seen that I did the rest of my analysis not limiting myself to the obvious route choices. As it happens, that was actually what decided the outcome of the race for me, and one of the later windows would have suggested rounding the island counter-clockwise when the intuitive route would have been clockwise.

The best window for a run came early on Friday morning (European timezone). My analysis showed that the result would be extremely sensitive to starting time. Quite a few boats including atlet, rumskib, Svein and rafa, started about ten minutes before my planned starting time, so I decided to leave a bit early. I cursed myself after spending 15 seconds barbequing on the first beach possible, and consequently had to go for 15 seconds on TWA 0 to get my performance back to a bearable level from the 80 % it is immediately after a bbq.

I had calculated that the northerly route, while meaning a difficult mark rounding, would be some five minutes faster and was quite surprised that most of the fleet gybed south of the island. Only atlet joined me to the northerly route, so I thought I would have a good chance to a podium position despite my early bbq.

The run to the mark involved one gybe and quite smooth running after that. After the mark there were some decisions to make. The polar of Orange had a polar hop which had to be negotiated. The choice was between taking a longer northerly route to the finish with a faster TWA angle or a more direct route with a slower TWA. At this point I was trailing atlet a bit, and since he went for the southerly option I decided to try the northern one. That paid off and I managed to overtake atlet.

I would like to thank SRC for organizing the Championship series, I think they were a nice improvement to SOL!