

Hi all

Thanks for an exciting race. A bit too exciting in the end for my taste. Another couple of miles and I think Rumskib would have passed me.

It was only when I started to prep for this leg in the early afternoon of Dec 31 that I realised the start was at midnight New Year's Eve. Had I checked that at the time of registration, I probably would have skipped this race. Luckily I'm not always the most observant person :)

So, for the start I chose a fairly conservative route with quite safe DC's set (if there is such a thing in close quarters). As it turned out though I managed to sneak away from the festivities every now and then and made some adjustments, so I was in quite a good position when rounding Tasman Island - about 1/2 back from the leaders.

At that point came my first big decision point - when to gybe north. My pre-planning as well as Expedition had suggested a rather wide easterly route but as the weather was moving from west to east in the Bass Strait I wanted to be prepared for some changes so opted for the middle ground between the easterly optimal route (at the time), and the shorter northern route quite a few yachts already had opted for. As I expected the angles opened up for this route and from that point it was just to manage the VMC angles and decide where to cross the strait. Dealing with the depressions in the strait went quite easy as there were no real surprises in the weather forecasts.

After the Bass Strait, the next important point was when to tack to the east again. At this point, I realised that my main rivals would be Rumskib, Rafa and Ita10267 so I tried to cover them as best as I could. After several tacks and a mix of best VMG and best VMC legs, finally I was on the layline to the finish and I thought I had it all set. But then Rumskib made a great move and tacked east again, forcing me to cover. As Ita and Rafa continued towards the finish, I couldn't cover Rumskib all the way but had to tack back to make sure the others didn't get ahead. As a result it was a very nail-biting finish with Rumskib creeping closer and closer but in the end I managed to cross the list just in front.

I enjoyed both the outbound and homebound legs of this race very much and now I look forward to the next VOR leg.

Thanks a lot and fair winds everyone. Cheers.

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