

Bimini Beach Run 2015.

The Gun Boat 90, I like this boat, its fast and a tricky but a slightly forgiving polar.

The wind looks good, veering steadily throughout the race. ( wind shifting in a clockwise direction)

The first part to Nassau needed only one gybe and a bit of SLI dodging, the approach to Nassau was a choice of routes through the SLIs sadlersailing made the right choice and rounded in 1<sup>st</sup> closely followed by zero.

As the wind was veering the second part to Andros Flats also needed a gybe or 2 before entering the tightly packed islands, there was 2 main choices through these one needing more gybes than the other, with a fair perf loss when gybing, sadler chose the route with less gybes, it paid off, out of the islands with a 0.5 nm lead. This point I had to lower the sleepy pennant in kroppyer's flagpole page knowing I would not miss a wx.

This section of the race was for Europe in the early hours of the morning, exiting the islands at around 4.15 am, to my surprise mrs sadler aka MoodyNick stayed up with me until 4am. 2 bottles of wine and 3 films later was bunk time until 6.30am to check on the route.

The run up to Bimini, the veering wind made this stretch fairly easy to navigate allowing for 3-4 hours' sleep, just an hourly alarm call to check that the chasing boats had not out sailed sadler. After 1 or 2 slight course adjustments Bimini was rounded with just under 0.5 nm lead.

The final sail to the finish was up wind with 2 tacks needed, feeling quite confident now I had a little distance to play with, all I have to do is cover the fleet, only bonknhoot tacked earlier than I expected worrying me a bit. After tacking and seeing the following boats tack soon after was a bit of a relief, a couple of hours later I could see sadler had the best line in and it was game over.

The usual suspects certainly gave me a very hard time, zero almost taking the lead away Rumskib, rafa, A2, bonknhoot, Neuroman, Tyger, & a few others all big threats in this race, well done SOLers you made me work for this one.

Wx did not change much at all in this race although it may be the reason for rafa missing the finish line by a pixel or 2.

This race is dedicated to SOTP SOLers and my Dad who on this day 2 years ago sadly passed away.

Sadlersailing / 17 January 2015