

This is the race that I probably like the most.

In 2008-2009 SOR (Leg from China to Brazil) I remember battling brainaid for the entire southern ocean and finishing the race in a well deserved 2nd place. That one was my first ever outstanding result on Sailonline. So this year I decided that I would have honoured this race, although not being counted for the SYC Ocean Championship. But let's start from the beginning.

Getting out of Auckland was not an easy task because of landmass in the wrong place during the sleep of European SOLers. So I set up few conservative DCs which, fortunately, did not end up in an early morning BBQ. In the first hours I managed to get the lead and, after we left NZL, I led the fleet all the way down to the South Pole. I decided to cover the left side of the fleet hoping to hook one of the periodical waves of 40+ kt with a better angle.

After some days it appeared that our path to the Horn was paved with highs and difficult choices, while our chasers were constantly sailing in more pressure and better angle. At some point a clear twofold path appeared, nacrr taking the N route while the rest of us decided to duck south of HP. nacrr was right and he emerged with close to two hours lead when our paths crossed again.

At that point I decided to drop the covering mode and switching on what we call the "pacman" mode.

A compression of the fleet helped me to close some distance and at the Horn I rounded in third place. Most of the pacman work was completed. Two more opponents between me and the finish line.

The approach to Itajai was as difficult as usual, wind was clearly offshore so the decision was how wide the approach was going to be. I got the right angle and managed to get the lead again and, most important, with all the direct opponents on a safe cover to starboard. Only Dingo tried to get leverage on the W side but I knew it was not going to pay. The lead was small but I am usually very confident when I am closer to the line.

then

DISASTER!

Using the Android client I entered CC=-45 instead of TWA=-45 and I did not check out the outcome. Boat went basically head to wind for 2 minutes when I discovered it. All the lead was gone, Exmeromotu and TeamSailing had closed all the gap leaving my lead to less than one minute. Ok, back to work I said to myself (although heartbroken!). I decided to anticipate the final tack on the layline by 10minutes respect to what my router was suggesting. It was a big risk, but it gave me big rewards as the gap to the first follower Viking had increased to 5 mins when I woke up for the 0430Z update!

The last layline had been perfectly chosen and so, 6 years after my 2nd place, I took my victory in the Cape Horn Leg of SWR.

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