

I invested quite a good deal of time in studying this race before the start , and the more I was studying , the more I was puzzled and depressed ;)))In few words :

---- zillion rocks ...all upwind.....west through the rocks ? ...or east in clear waters and much more wind ? (but with a few minutes running in the course's opposite direction)AND ..new wx update 30 minutes after start !!!!!

---- speedy boat but with weak upwind angle and varying a lot .

---- Hires WX with " HUGE " direction differences closer to land .

I was very tempted to go East , as that meant to steer in clear waters and perhaps being able to have dinner in decent relax ...;)))))) In the end I adopted the Aristotelic approach (as the Latins were saying : " IN MEDIO STAT VIRTUS "the good way is in the middle) and I decided to steer initially to the west of the first island , but to find an early way to tack sharp to the east , in hope to meet with the group who choose the East to start withSo I did

When the moment of tacking to the east approached , I noticed that my predictor in twa was ahead of me bending dramatically to the right towards the continental shores of Australia . What I did not know was how long the effect of the shift would have been available after the tack along the coastbut I had to go there !! ;))

About one hour before the tack near the coast I read rums kib saying in chat that the 1630 update had favored the East route When someone says something like that and you are on the other side your degree of depression is directly proportional to the credibility of the person who delivers the bad news : I was EXTREMELY depressed of course;)) (I trust rum far more than myself)

Any way ...there was nothing I could do at that time (too late) , and I offered myself consolation to be in good company (rafa , Neuro , sassy , nacrr ...just to mention a few)

I literally GASPED when I tacked and I saw the twa predictor : it was looking like a tractor beam (Startrek) taking me and my group straight to the finish line with just a short double tack in between. The angles were some 30/40 degrees different from those of the boats offshore.....UNBELIEVABLE !!!!! ... never seen anything like that in SOLeffect of the HIRESthis reminded me when (very young) I was winning races constantly staying on the along-shores tack till the last possible moment before tacking towards the upwind mark ...;))

The only remaining story to write was the battle with my group companionsone (rafa) made a mistake in assessing the layline to the finish (he had the race in his hands before then)I took the perfect layline , whilst nacrr , overstating it slightly , had the angle advantage for the last 30 minutes , and managed to get it for 12 secondsSUPER BRAVO !!!!

In SOL the races that are " remembered " are those that developed in a " non ordinary way "This race will be remembered for longtime !!! ;))

Ciao ALL !!WIN