

You all know, my SOLers friends, I always say that Timed races are a lottery!

Well, recently, somewhere, I read from a JB's post, something like this:

*"The TR has three essential aspects:*

- 1) Luck - to find out the right time to begin the TR (10%);*
- 2) Concentration (20%);*
- 3) Skills - for taking the best advantage of the conditions offered (70%)*

*And then he adds:*

- 4) Personal availability*

*well, a little like everything we do in life"*

We can discuss on the rate of probability, but is it so true?

For the matter, on the first point, I had quite the right intuition; so I was lucky! (...it was only my second attempt). On the second point I must say that stay concentrated on this game for about 5 hours during a working day isn't possible, so I was lucky when I was not focused on it and no trouble happened! And what about the 4<sup>th</sup>? I was lucky I was in office all day long with a pc.

As for the skills - the third point – I was lucky too, cause in this case there was little to do:

I trimmed only during the Mark2-to-Mark3 leg, when I sailed for a while sacrificing a bit of speed, going closer to the wind, and then getting to the Mark 3 with maximum vmc.

The subsequent legs, until the Rock Bay Buoy, in windward sailing condition, they were in fact all straight lines to be followed.

On the route for Marks 7, 8 and 9, a slight shift to the left, forced us to make a couple of tacks just 0.2nm in length, to turn buoys 8 and 9. Enough to do that as late as possible! No problem, at the end, for the choice of the pin of the finish line.

That's all!

But the mistake is always lurking ....and I did it! Approaching the last tack for the last Mark, I pushed too lightly on my mouse (yeah, that's incredible) and I lost a step on the layline.

May I have lost there the 20 seconds for the win? Who Knows! The stories of racing, in this sailing world, are so full of "ifs" and "buts"! But that's okay.

The truth, if I think about it, I was not lucky that with me there was running their attempt rumskib and atlet: too good and too strong SOLers!

Congratulations to both.

Neuroman – April 2015