



Göteborg 150418

Jakob's Birthday BBQ race 2015.

Ahead of the race I tried as usual to figure out the best route alternative given the wind conditions. As the wind was turning clockwise during the race I found that sailing slightly inshore of the straight line would give a good result. Since I don't know how to use a router this was only based on observations of possible routes and the wind pattern.

A race on a Saturday is normally not a good one for me. Too many other things to do and I do give priority to spending time with the family. So the normal pattern is that I start the race on DC and hope I can get a possibility to correct it on a number of occasions during the day. This week I have had a bad cold so I've been off from work. And I have still not recovered enough to do any activities. So this time I could follow the race most of the time. The only critical time was when we were nearing lunch. It was in the middle of the first stretch when I heard my wife starting lunch preparations (no she doesn't always cook). I knew there was about 25 minutes to a tricky passage that I did not want to do on DC. Normally she would be finished before that so I started setting DC: s. Since I was already in a good position I started typing a race chat message saying I would continue on DC and that we all know how that will go...not. Anyway the preparation took just a little bit longer than expected and I could sail the passage manually. Otherwise Henrys would have won the race I'm sure.

After rounding ST Lokholmen in top 5 I decided to make an immediate tack since the wind continued to turn. I first thought I would continue for quite a while to get a pleasant straight tack towards the finish line. But then I realised that I would be oversailing quite a bit if I would do that and started to look for an intermediate passage without too many tacks. I thought I spotted a path with only one tack and started off on that. After a while I realised that it would not be possible with only one tack and eventually it became three. I was so focused on finding a good route that I even oversailed in two of the tacks and at that point I thought I had lost the race either to Henrys and RyBa who were close by or to Jepsom leading the northerly group. I understood that SimeMali who was leading at the time would have a time consuming manoeuvre towards the end.

But when the boats came together at Ägnö I was still ahead if only just ahead of Henrys. RyBa made an attempt to pass by sailing on the leeward side of an island but when we came together again the distance had not reduced. The northerly group led by Jepsom was also a small distance after. From this point on it was only a matter of not making any mistakes. Still the lead changed between Henrys and myself a number on times but most of the time I was in front. In the end I pointed the boat as close as I dared to the leeward end of the finishing line and held my breath. In the end I won with a margin of only 5 seconds. Some of the SOLers implied that I may have local knowledge that have helped me choosing the best route. I am a west coast sailor but upon thorough research I found that I have actually sailed a Swedish championship in Trissjöle on Baggensfjärden where the finish line in this race was located. Although this was 37 years ago this latent knowledge must somehow have helped me making the perfect finish.

After almost three years without a victory Number1 was again #1!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAKOB!

number1 / April 2015