

What IRL would be called "pre-race strategical planning" ..... Here I call ...."pre-race FEELINGS"

So ....as RC always asks for a report on pre-race strategy , here is mine as it was before this last Sprint :

".....nice ! .....again start at almost midnight local ....;((((

..... Well ...shorter course...will go to bed early ....hey wait !! ..nooooooooooooo.....slower boat !!! ;(((( ( ...and  
.....OMG !!! ...wind decreasing through the race ..!!!! ;(((((((((((((((((((((((((((( = S A D N E S S !!!!!!!

Never the less , having decided early this year to leave the beauties of one race per month in chase for the SYC Championship Cup to other well deserving SOLers , there I was , geared with plenty of masochism , and full of hope to be able to resist till the end .

When I prepare for a Sprint ( I will say here for the last time that it is NOT my territory ) I always remind myself : " Piero ...try to make no mistakes .....DO NOT be attracted by turning a corner counting .....and if you stay within reach of the top Sprinters , you either end top 20 , top 15 or so , or you grab the opportunity of a less sprinty and more tech stretch , and you "may" finish in top 10 .....but remember !! ; DO NOT count to turn the corners ...or all that is OVER !! ( How does it sound as a strategic plan ?? ;)))

The race started with the usual few corners , and half way through , having observed my philosophical credos , found myself "in sight" of the leaders.

At this point the race presented the only technical stretch : an upwind course to the final turn , with very strong shift to the right, and fresher wind coming towards the fleet. It was anything but drag race from there !!.

The stretch was short , but the earlier decreased winds made it last almost two hours , so there was time to attack!

VMC iso VMG around the cans is quite unusual . The beginning of the stretch was twa 62 , that compared with the 42 available there as VMG was hell of a VMC run to the breeze and the shift.

At the end of this run 4 boats started together the last very short and straight leg : Dingo , Neuroman, rafa and WIN . These four boats were represented by the server as perfectly lined up for the last mile , so in the end it was " hands off " and server decision. During the very last mile we all had the impression that Dingo had a few metres lead , and that rafa was fourth by few metres , but it was only a mere impression at that time . In the end the server confirmed such impression , and also confirmed that between Neuroman and myself it was a fotofinish .....Neuro won second place in the end .

For one who starts in hope to arrive in top 20 , in order to protect the Series consistency , this result must be accounted as a very good one ! ;))

Till next time .....WIN