

Some facts about this TR

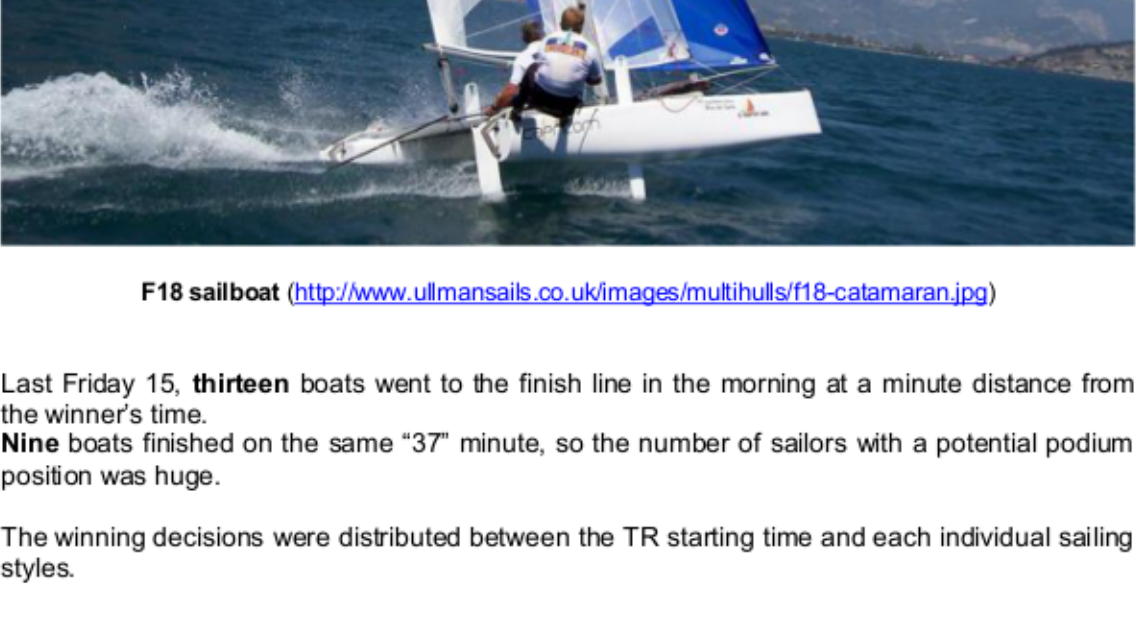
The 2014 GIB TR podium was composed by our friends Piero/*WINSTON_4*, *aner59* and *rumskib*, (<http://www.sailonline.org/races/689/leaderboard/>).

The top finish time was then 4:58:01 hrs for a logged distance of 55,70 nm (by the way, the shortest one on the 2014 edition), putting Piero's boat on an average Boat Speed (BS) of 11,214 Kts.

In this year edition the winner boat, *rumskib*, made it in 3:27:23 hrs, smashing down for more than 1,5 hrs the previous record. For a sailed distance of 51,1 nm we get for the 2015 winner an average BS of 14,784 Kts!

To have an idea how fast this TR went, the actual time for the #139 leaderboard position (<http://www.sailonline.org/races/823/leaderboard/>) was enough for winning the 2014 TR edition. The GIB TR clock was simply pulverized.

And no, Piero wasn't slow in 2014, by the contrary, to our disgrace he's going even faster, and also, the others weren't either sleeping at the helm.



F18 sailboat (<http://www.ulmansails.co.uk/images/multihulls/f18-catamaran.jpg>)

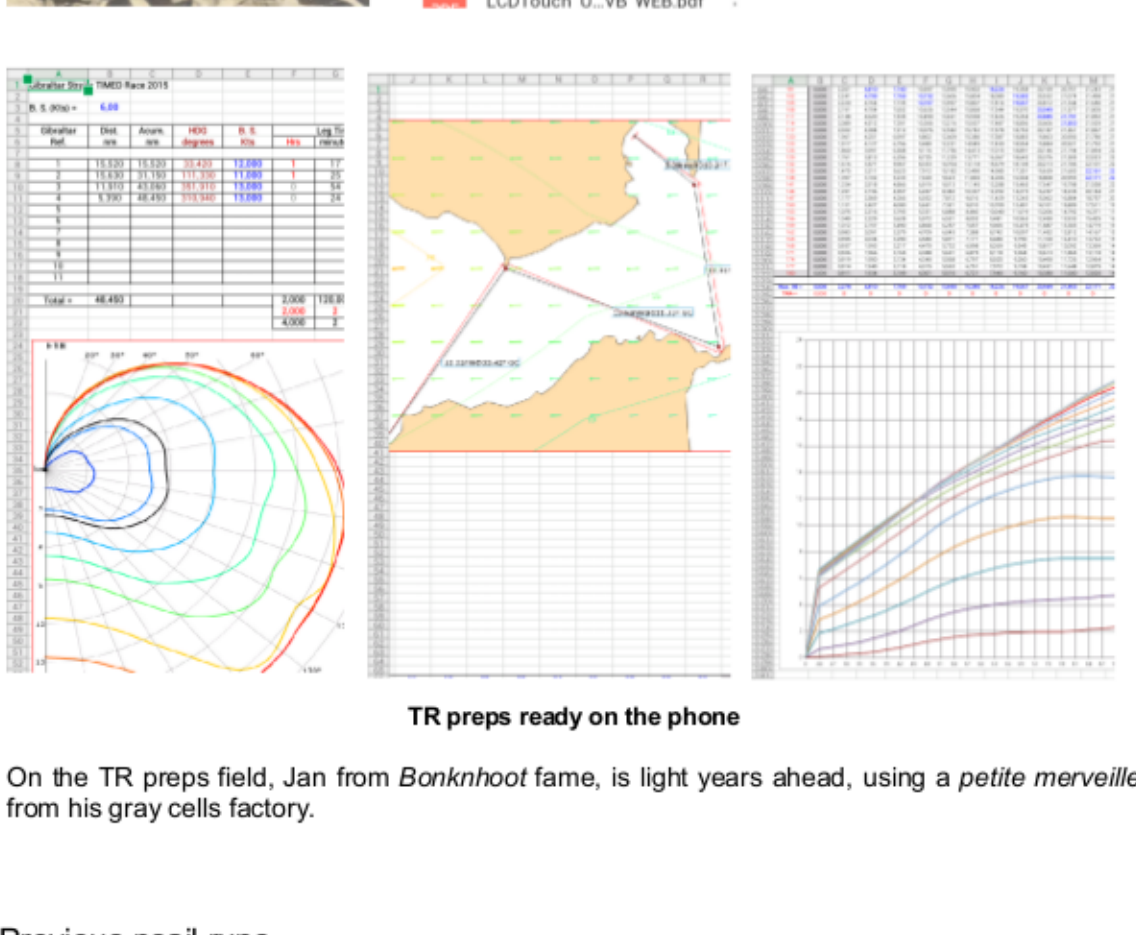
Last Friday 15, **thirteen** boats went to the finish line in the morning at a minute distance from the winner's time. **Nine** boats finished on the same "37" minute, so the number of sailors with a potential podium position was huge.

The winning decisions were distributed between the TR starting time and each individual sailing styles.

Preps for the TR

I try to make preparations for each race, SOL ones are no exception. For Timed Races (TR's) I built a small worksheet containing an overall picture of the course, rhumb lines between marks and/or other relevant turning points, the Boat Polar data and a distance/time prevision for each Leg of the race.

After, I print it on paper and upload the resulting file to my smartphone (I can hear the question: "to the phone?").



TR preps ready on the phone

On the TR preps field, Jan from *Bonkhoot* fame, is light years ahead, using a *petite merveille* from his gray cells factory.

Previous psail runs...

I've made two runs.

In the first I've used the *Zappe* Android phone app and the result was #12, position that stayed stable till the 15th early hours. For the second run, full of expectations (eheeh) I've used the PC SOL client, and the result was a wreck. I run aground right in front of the Rock itself (see the the Rock buoy rounding picture) and the final place for this run was irrelevant (in the #3 digits). So, I needed to improve in a third run, now with a more humble expectation level, top #10 was ok.

... and previous day.

In the 14.May, 21:15 hrs (UTC) I've made a com to Jan talking about the possibility for a good TR starting time during the next night period, transcribed as follows:

"Viva Jan,
....
Tonight GIB is giving us a good overall WP for start at aprox. 04:00 hrs UTC (03:00 SOL). Late in the afternoon wind started to blow strong here from N. In the straight is shifting 180º from the stable and previous E to W/NW. No upwind leg! I'll go for it and the target is 03:45 hrs for the run.

A big hug and, if it's the case, see you later on the water.
J.

Sent from Samsung Mobile".

Hours later I found out I was wrong about the targeted time for the TR and even more about my final outcome. Further coms exchange during the night took the decision for our TR start to Jan hands, and best judgment.

The race and post-race debrief

My tools for this TR run (third one) were simple:

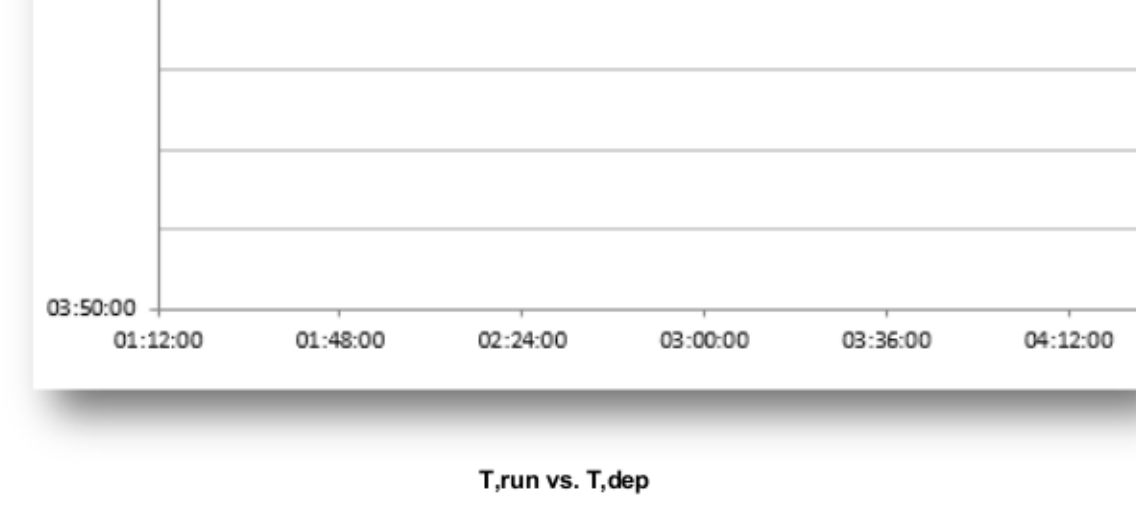
- the *Zappe* android phone app, again;
- a large sofa for taking naps in between the several clock alarms I've put for the crucial moments.

The TR for me started at 03:01:56 hrs (SOL time) and sent a com to Jan at 03:03:00 hrs telling I was leaving for it. By then the water was already filled by the usual SOL sharks in full hunting mode (identified easily on the leaderboard), exceptions made to *Neuroman* (to whom I've lost a podium position on the previous TR by 3 seconds, grrr!) and Piero/*WINSTON_4*, but they leaved shortly after *psail*, not innocently at 03:02:31 hrs and 03:04:26 hrs, respectively. Jan/*Bonkhoot* went on at 03:07:08 hrs. Later he gave me the morning news: *my final position was #2 with the same time of rumskib!!!* At the time I was incinerating a large pair of French toasts and having the usual morning caffeine transfusion. The com from Jan came like a bomb remaining "incredulous" till I finished the breakfast, rubbed my eyes and had the opportunity to take a look on the provisory leaderboard.

1 - What went bad/not so good

1.1 - The Starting time.

Jan was correct, yes, we should have gone a little earlier and probably the final results would have been better for both. The next chart made by Jan illustrates that conclusion (the earlier hours are on the top of the Y-axis).



T,run vs. T,dep

1.2 - Total lack of info on WP-TWD/distances on/to other boats.

Nada, plain zero with the phone app!

1.3 - Rounding the buoys.

Exception made for the Ceuta mark all buoy rounding's were made on *psail*'s panic mode - see the *blueish* path lines on the pics.



Tarifa buoy rounding - bad!



Ceuta buoy rounding - good!



The Rock buoy rounding - disastrous!
(see the *psail* BBQ on the second run, the mark on the rock is still there).

This SOL F18 above a certain speed appears to have a real-alike inertia, doesn't turning where you want and need! Well, using the phone's app didn't help also. Knowing that from previous runs I adopted a different sailing tactic.

2 - What went good

2.1 - The first gybe, SE, after Tarifa mark.

After a disastrous buoy rounding this gybe was made right on the edge (for the phone app) in front a small bay to East of Tarifa's marina pontoon and 0,094 nm to leeward of *rumskib* gybing position (note: this distance was measured latter on the PC as the phone app lacks any measuring tool). This was the first crucial moment on this TR, in my opinpin.



First gybe SE after Tarifa

2.2 - Taking profit from the Loss of Performance (LP). I've managed to transform a disadvantage - the well known LP - to a wining factor using a different approach and, I strongly belive that *rumskib*, namely, also knows how to do it. At this time I won't disclose further on this issue, ehehe, the second crucial factor for this TR.

2.3 - Making the second Gybe, N/NE (back to Tarifa beach's) earlier than *rumskib* and the other following boats. Piero trailed me while *neuroman* continued SE after we gybe. Without TWS/TWD info on the dial I believed that the prevailing run conditions would be equal at the time, i. e., more WP to the North near Tarifa beaches. Also, the wind was veering left, hence a strong reason to go "vertical" (N/NE) asap, and above all, avoiding trailing *rumskib* and the followers path.

2.4 - A tiny control on Piero and *neuroman* moves. On my third gybe, SE, I waited for Piero to gybe first knowing that either him and *neuroman* like to "pump" TWA in all sailing phases. I didn't want to risk having Piero and *neuroman* behind me with a better angle to the Ceuta's mark. No way! In fact, *neuroman* evem manage to pass my sailing path to leeward.

2.5 - Very little TWA "pumping" after the LP recovers. Behind *psail* were two excellent sailors madly "pumping" TWA, I resisted to go there. In small distances, with a speeding boat it's probably useless, IMHO.

2.6 - Concentration and Luck. The first aspect was easy to get - in the early hours your mind really belongs to you. From the second I got tons of it!

The "Oscar's" final words

I dedicate this podium to:

- Jan, from whom I've learn Sailing in three years more than in my previous springs.
- All the SOL community that built, run and maintain this marvelous project.
- To *Zappe and Co.*, without their generous effort on developing and improving the Android app I wouldn't be here now.

If the SRC agrees I would like that my podium medal would be delivered directly to him. Hope you all understand the reason for my wish.

See you all on the "water"!

João/psail