

## Sao Jorge Sprint 2015 – Report by WINSTON\_4

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This race should be remembered and renamed as “the last 60 seconds to the unbelievable finish “!

Let’s go in good order:

The choice for the right side of the island was easy enough. More wind and better angle close to shore in the easterly part of Sao Jorge. First 3 to 4 hours = no history ....Just one tack to the north east to go to those shores with shifting winds as anticipated.

When the leaders approached the shores the fun started, as the correct thing to do was to make a number of short tacks and stay close to the shore to take advantage of the shift.

WIN was with the leaders and that was well sufficient to me (my goal is consistency for the series final ranks). The manual operation took a bit longer than planned, as it was very important to start the south easterly course away from the island on the correct rail line ;))

At this stage the leading boats seemed to be:

Peskasail ...who has been leading almost from start  
WIN slightly ahead but down wind  
Neuroman and Scarabocchio slightly behind but upwind  
Rafa and Lou slightly ahead but more downwind than me.

It was clear at this stage that these were the boats that would run for victory, with another 5 boats close enough to still make top 10. (Including number1 in spite of a BBQ)

The really first strategically important moment of the race was then the last tack to the finish line, into a slightly rotating to the right wind.

Some 10 minutes ahead of planned tack I prepared myself on “max zoom“ready to change my timing based on tactical moves by opponents.

### ***45 minutes to unbelievable finish:***

Rafa and Lou tack some good 5 minutes ahead of my plan, and they cross at my position. (I said to myself that this was the only move they had available due to their leeway position. BUT it was too early

Peskasail bytes into their move and tacks to cover. BUT it was too early

Scara tacks to cover Peskasail, Lou and rafa (too early)

Neuroman continues with me.....

The reason for being too early was the orientation of the finish line, giving good advantage to the crossing at lower pin, even if on closer hauling.

Considering that the opponents were quickly reducing distance to the finish line , I did tack may be some 90 seconds ahead of my plan , to stay close to them.

During last 45 minutes I had a powerful angle advantage together with the advantage of aiming at lower pin , and I continuously monitored the DTG of the top 5 ( I was shown as 5<sup>th</sup> ) that stayed put at 15cent from leader ( peskasail) and 7 cents from #4 ( scarabocchio ) , but I knew that was wrong , as the DTG is calculated from the closest point on the line ( in this case the lower pin ) that they could not make , whilst I was aiming at that , under increasing speed and twa .

### ***One minute to the unbelievable finish:***

The DTG had lowered very little (something like 11 and 5)...and I was convinced that I would not be able to do better than #4 (rafa was going to cross the line in the upper part)....when .....

Lou sais in chat in a Shakespearian mode: “To tack or not to tack!!! This is the dilemma “

Seeing him slightly windward of Peskasail , and therefore with less distance to the line , I responded : “ Are you foul ???? “ ...( I also feared that he would be hit by perf loss ).

### ***30 seconds to unbelievable finish:***

His response “yes I am “

### ***10 seconds to unbelievable finish:***

Lou tacks and 10 seconds later takes the race!!!!!!!

Also unbelievably ...WIN came second and Peskasail third ...all within inches from each other.

AND I WAS.....STUNNED!! ;))))))))))))))))))))))))))

I strongly believe that the “Sprint Master” Lou has from now entered into SOL LEGEND!!!!

Till soon .....THANK YOU ALL MY FRIENDS!!!

WIN