

At the start of the race it was looking as a classical decision dilemma - to go offshore for stronger wind or inshore for better angle going with the wind. I have started with the second choice.

Very good help and support from the high class smartphone application, calculating automatically and showing on polars graph the VMG and VMC. Using this and 6 hours prediction, it was relatively easy to pick up the choice. As the polars of 40' in light and moderate wind are quite even (very regular round shape) on all points of reasonable sailing I have purposefully resigned from the option to go too far away from the straight line.

This initially was good and I have gradually crawled on top position.

Here came the bug. A yard I am working for is very busy now before launching 67 m barque for Vietnamese Navy (their new training vessel). Going for production meeting and wanting to do last adjustments I did even number of mistakes: CC instead of TWA and wrong sign +/-.

After the meeting back to business and stick to plan again. And again crawling gradually to top. OF COURSE looking for position of left and right wings. Balance of left and right supported my idea to stay in the middle and sail short distance – of course gybing carefully first, and when the wind turned 180 degrees – tacking carefully, especially on the wind which was dropping, but just not so critical to stay on the center line of the course. Resulting course line happened to be quite straight.

Last part of the race was very good for center again. Wind turn to E and east boats had to sail too low and west boats too high to get maximum speed. So everybody converged on the home run – with the center happening to be the first.

I came to SOL and stayed with it after my skipper internet course decided to establish as an exercise a SOL race earlier this year from Sebastian – to La Rochelle on Delphias 47. I was 66th then out of 200 something.

After that I have got some SOL experience. This and some memories of personal sailing – some offshore, and some inshore on Gdansk Bay, many discussions with son who was a Finn sailor for Polish national team, some weather routing for friends (90' racing catamaran included) finally made me a happy winner of this nice race.

See you again on the courses.

Pozdrawiam/Best regards

Wroblewo/ May 2015

