

## SSANZ 2015 Race 1 Reported by Neuroman

Dunno!

The first four boats in just 20 seconds! Did the server decide the winner?

I started in DC, but I was able to be present just before the South headland of Motutapu Island, and then I've studied the race. Weather pattern: the wind was light, from the South, with a slight rounding to the right. There was then only to decide the right point for jibe: but the optimal one, though, put two small rocks on the route to Shearer Rock Buoy and then I decided to go a 'bit over toward NE and approach the mark with a best angle instead of forcing from below or do 2 jibes more. And obviously...it was night! Well I took the decision: I put 2 DCs, 2 alarm-clock controls and go to sleep 'till the next mark. And this choice I liked, since I arrived at the mark in leadership.

Once rounded the buoy there was to make another choice: to go straight to Gannet Rock or to sail with the wind shift; The rotation, in fact, was increasing now, and the Young88's polar, although very flat from 70° to 100°, has a "minimum" at 90°. Obviously...I was sleepy. I started the leg with a highest route respect the target, and set 3 DCs downward, just to avoid, at the end, to sailing over 82° in TWA. The usual alarm-clock settled approaching the buoy and.... wow....more than one hour still to sleep!

Woke up before rounding the mark, I found myself still in the lead group, but, looking at the tracks of my opponents, those who seemed to have made the direct route, I realized that there had been not much difference between the two options, or rather, perhaps, just mine was the worst!

So, beginning the third leg, separations were really minimal: Psail was one step ahead, and Franci and Javakeda one step behind, with NZL\_Scotsman, Bonkhnoot and many other Solers very closed.

I was bothered that I didn't increase my advantage while I slept..... and, finally, I decided to take the helm!

Weather pattern: Wind on the nose with reversal of the shift to the left, more pronounced and small increasing at the end. The rule is to tack immediately to the left and then back to port tack, but the room was not enough for overcome Owhanake Bay and grab the finish line.

So the choices were: to make the hook as soon as passed Owhanake Bay, or to reach the coast of Emu Bay and there make the hook? With the second you'd lost a little 'angle but you'd took earlier the breeze.

I didn't know what to choose, honestly, and then I decided to stand by, and observe others. So I set my sailing with minimum TWA upwind. It was to stay awake 'cause with increasing the wind the best TWA changed continuously. When I passed Owhanake Bay, I made the decision to do the double-tack at the half of the remaining leg, tacking back to the finish line in COG, with cheer TWA approaching the northern pin of the finish line with full speed.

Final ranking was undefined 'till a few steps from the line, but at the end, I won!

Neuroman / July 2015