

It was very clear since the race was open for registration that it would be another half marathon due to very light winds.

On the first leg to Danby, after a hectic tacking drill along the island's shore to get to the perfect line for the approach to the shift prior to Danby, it was just a matter of keeping to the left and avoiding the last tack, to fly to the incoming shift. On the easterly course some boats chose the max VMC. I and some others stayed a little upwind. The advantage of reducing the distance to the WP was higher than the speed to the shift, in such light air.

Got to Danby in first position and here I had the first disaster: loss of Internet connection just before the turn to Carey. I managed to spot the incident pretty quickly (thanks to Aaron and the red clock ;)))))) and to recover the situation for two reasons: 1) I know that I have regular internet outages in the evenings, but they last only few moments (enough though to lose control of the boat), and 2) the next leg to Carey was luckily two legs with polar hop, therefore my going straight after Danby was only about 20 degrees from what was needed.

In first position again at Carey, I had AGAIN the very same incident at the turn!! . Here again I recovered quickly, and in the end it was another leg with a polar hop, therefore the loss was minimal. During the leg to Carey I managed to grab the internet modem , throw it out of the window , and started a connection with a 3G USB pen , that then remained "at work" for the rest of the race (I just had enough of risking a stroke !! LOL)

The worst news came when tackling the last but one leg of this race, the long stretch downwind in the northern part: it was clear that the leg was going to be very technical, and with need to be constantly at the helm for continuous change of twa in shifting and increasing breeze, with need to kiss land in the middle of the stretch. (GREAT!! = no nap).

I noticed that competitor N.1 in the race and the Championship (Lou) opted for the nap, and this was the only good news. Jawz and MM stayed close and did not lose distance.

When it was clear that I would get to Charlton NW with a minimal but solid lead, the race was finished.

Each race has always some reason for being remembered : this one , in my case , was the first race during the night that did not allow a single minute of sleep throughout (always at the helm) , and , more importantly , it was the only SOL race to my memory , that allowed one or two incidents/mistakes without punishment .

Hat off to George, Lode, Mark, Magnus and all the skippers who gave away an almost full night at the helm to complete another half marathon "Sprint"!!

The "so called SPRINT " Championship is a very tall mountain to climb,(it takes a full year in 24 steps) and the only way to get to the top of it is to proceed with steady pace..... ☺ !!!!!

Till next time my friends ☺

Piero

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