

It's been a while since I have been able to participate in a Sprint race, what with my wife Arlene's charity work and my weekend kayaking getting in the way, so when I saw the race start was at 7pm SA time I decided that tonight was the night!

The wind was rather poor and I knew that I was in for a long night and so it turned out. At the start I borrowed some wind angle to get away quicker and when we reached Charlton I was a bit surprised at the number of tacks the top boats were putting in (I really still don't quite get when to use this tactic but do realize that reducing the effect of the swing in the wind is the objective. I came out of the set of tacks in the top 5 and behind Winston again! How does the guy do this? After rounding Danby Island way point it was a right streetfight to gain a bit of windage and a small boost of speed into the Charlton East and North-East waypoints and here I came out lying fourth with a chance of a podium on offer if I hung in there. But at the NE waypoint I overshot the mark and found myself too far over to the east of Winston and Lou but bonknhoot packed it in and gave up third to me so I was looking good. I decided at the NE waypoint that a third was a definite result so gambled on the gybe to the NW turn by sailing past Winston and gaining a marginal increase in wind strength and angle on Lou with a long chance of sneaking past him. As luck would have it Lou, I think, took a short sleep and sailed a bad leg allowing me to jump into second.

Then it was a case of hanging in there behind Winston and taking second. After the last piece of headland I squirted straight for the line and went to bed, well satisfied because podiums on SOL for me are really scarce. Putting in an All-nighter paid off this time

*Note to self. Spend more time watching the maestro! After 4 years on SOL I still have more tricks to learn!*

Jawz / July 2015