

This turned out to be quite an entertaining race with a number of position shifts up near the front of the fleet. Shifty light winds and downwind racing in multihulls makes for good entertainment and quite a degree of unpredictability.

The polar provided plenty of 'hopping' opportunities particularly in the light winds when performance hits are not great even for the more radical manoeuvres.

I was intending this to be a fun race for me, and a filler between the Turkish cruise and the Vineyard race to come. I was happy to ignore a couple of 'middle of the night' WXs but eventually found myself up near the front. That's usually enough to bring out the competitive spirit, so I started getting up for the 2:30am Australian WX!

Kenza sailed an immaculate race but was still headed by Bonk for a while until some errors crept in on Bonk's part. Likewise for me I relaxed a bit halfway through the race and the leaders pulled out a mile or two on me and it was hard to get back.

In the end, I was okay for a fourth spot and was entertaining myself during the mid-Friday evening trying to pin back a 500m lead that Bonk was enjoying through some constant VMG tuning as Bonk and I went gybe for gybe.

Unfortunately for Bonk, he did not see my boat in the dark of night right on his stern, and he decided to cover what he saw as the boat behind, who was in fact rafa some mile back astern. Those extra gybes in medium winds were all I needed to grab a 20 second advantage over the finish. Sorry Bonk, you sailed a great race! "

Dingo / August 2015