

SSANZ - third race and Series

Third and final race of the series: moderate wind from south and rotation to the right; ETA about 4.5 hours of racing. Let's go!

Given the short route and rounding on the marks, I have not planned special strategies;

The goal, to make me sure in grabbing the series, was to arrive ahead of NzI_Scotsman (we was first and even in rank after 2 races) and as close as possible to SimeMali and Javakeda, the closest opponents.

I picked the right angle at starting and guessed the two gybes to the first mark, and so I soon found myself among the top-ten with a slight advantage on Scots who seemed sailed slightly off of the best TWA.

Towards The Noises's marks, not to suffer too much the wind-shift to the right and not get a too slow TWA at the mark, I sailed a bit off of the rhumbline, for more than half way, but arriving in max VMG to the buoy. I rounded #5 and still ahead of Scots; Java was 2nd and Sime 3rd. Allright. Everything under control.

At Ahaaha rocks (..... but what a name is that? Is it a laugh?) NzI_Scotsman had some problems and its dc shut early; and something seemed has gone wrong to Javakeda too. At that point, in fact, I really had a good chance to win the series!

Well, free from the oppression of opponents closer, I began to enjoy the race.

After Rakino I extended 4 or 5 more step in port-tack before tacking, to be able to sail for about an hour with wider angle and fast towards Motuihe island, rather than sailing in smallest TWA for the entire upwind leg; and it paid off: I put a little 'extra distance between me and the closest opponents in a race very, very tight. (The first 5 arrived in less than 30 seconds!)

I was 3rd, but we were very close in 4-5 of us (Simemali, Number1, Lou, Sassy).

For the mark of the island, instead, I anticipated the tack of one step, preferring to go a bit constrained (just 2 minutes with 0.05 knots less, but I saved 5-10 seconds) and also this paid off. I was 2nd.

Now the only thing I had to do was to control the 3rd (Number1) till the finish, and maintain my rank. And so it was.

The series of three races was fought and fun, as well as uncertain until the last race, and, of course, I'm so happy to have won it (1,5,2 my partial ranking).

Short races and fast (a kind of sprint races) thanks to the fair wind always supported in the Gulf of Hauraky.

The only flaw is thatwe Europeans have them always in the night-time (from 23 to 5am)!

But that's ok. It's fine anyway !!

Neuroman, September 2015.