

Race Report:

Sometimes you get lucky with the weather and sometimes not. This was a race of two halves in that respect. The long beat up to Buzzards Bay Light had us tacking all along the northern shoreline for what must have been a good 18-20 hours in light airs which demanded the utmost in concentration for a very long period.

I was with a bunch of a dozen boats and keeping up with the leaders up until I sailed much too deeply into the bay which is the approach to Indiantown Harbor. I was zoomed in way too far (the opposite of a Team Vestas), and concentrating on the constant updating of max VMG on WX Inspector in the lightening breeze, to notice that I was sailing myself into a corner.

Luckily I picked it up before serious damage was done, but I'd sailed a longer course than was necessary, and even though I could sail a bit free down to Cornfield Point, I'd lost 500 metres on Kenza and the other leaders as we rounded the point.

I never recovered that gap for the rest of the race, and whilst the course home mercifully kept far offshore, the breeze was lightening so the boats on my tail were pressing all the way.

The detailed High Res WX is terrific for sailing these kinds of waters and it's possible to find quite fast wind lanes if you're attentive. In what might otherwise be 'follow-the-leader' downwind racing, it's possible to grab or lose quite a few seconds on your immediate opponents even though they're within sight.

It would be great in these days of modern computers and high internet speeds if we could get more detailed weather downloads for many more races.

Thanks to SOL and Andrea for these winds, and to the race committee for all the organising and especially the buddy-up with the Stamford Yacht Club. Being able to compare progress and strategy with the IRL competitors makes for much more interesting and involving racing. Of course, many thanks to the Stamford Yacht Club for the very generous and highly sought after prizes for our online race! And lastly, congrats to Kenza for a masterful race, and congrats also to the top 10!

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