

Winston always had a special relation with "young" Aaron Gage. Every here and then I go back to the Forum and read again what I wrote after he passed away , to remind myself of that special feel of friendship and great respect that was linking us .

The day this race started was his birthday. One more good reason to be in the Adelaide waters at 01:00 am Italian local time, not only to attend my goals of the Quarterly and yearly Sprint Championships, but also to honor him with his friend Winston's presence in Aaron's home waters.

The race in bullet words:

Light and shifting winds

Slow boat

Leg 1 = VMC – one tack – VMC and progressive ease of sheets and couple of polar hops

Leg 2 = VMC – one tack – VMC and progressive ease of sheets and couple of polar hops

Leg 3 = following the shift making compromise between speed and angle all the way.

Summary of the above:

HIGHLY TECHNICAL = naps only allowed!! ;)))))))))) (if any)

At first mark I was with top 3 to 5 boats, but as usual I was the one who made the worst turn and lost what I gained with the technical part ... ;))

At second mark I was leading by a glitch on SLL (Sprint Legend Lou), but of course he turned the mark a lot better than me and started the last leg in the lead.

My problem with Sprint races is that I am too conservative in turning marks and land tips. It is a pshico-philosophical matter: why investing a whole night around the cans and risk to throw everything away with a close call at a mark? .....As Xmas present I want Lou to explain to me how that can be done as safely as he does ... ;))))))))))

During the last leg I regained the lead, but Lou's position was better, and about 20 minutes to the finish I declared that my money was on him, as he had sufficient leverage to foot and speed down on me to the line. So he did, but possibly less than one minute too late, and we thrust our boats on the line in the same split second.

The server declared WIN the winner by some milliseconds .....

End result:

The Quarterly Sprint Championship goal (SRQ3) has been achieved (WIN and SimeMali were tie before the last leg).

The Yearly SPRCH Championship will see another six opportunities of kickboxing matches with Lou during the last quarter of the year.....;)) ....When we meet and have dinner together I always tell him that he is going to take the Cup....but I want him to suffer till the end ..;))))))))))....it feels better that way .....

ALL Solers who raced the Agage 50 are to be congratulated for accepting the challenge of light and shifting winds, on a slow boat .....specially the Europeans, who invested a whole night of short naps .....(or none ! ...;))) )

Ciao ALL !! .....WIN

PS: Thank you ...Aaron !! ;))