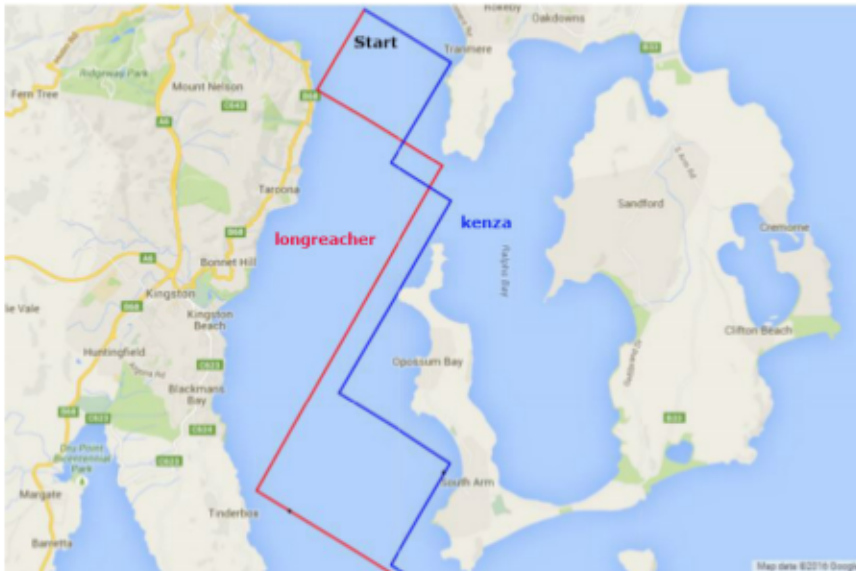


Tasman Double 2015 - Race 2 - Race Report - longreacher

The first race of 2016 brought us back to Sydney from Tasmania. I'd just finished a terrible run south in Race 1, where I'd finished 40th after making several circles before deciding finally round Tasman Island and enter the harbour.

I vowed to do better on the northward run. My confidence was high, mostly because I thought that the 0200 UTC start might keep some of the European big dogs in harbour. On that point, I was quite wrong. I found myself in a field that consisted of 7 of the current top 10 SYC sailors.



After the usual split at the start, the field tacked its way out of the harbor. I initially chose a starboard tack, based on what looked like a little better angle. Most of the field chose port, where there was more pressure. In the end, there turned out to be very little difference at the first crossing, with our starboard tack group holding a very slight advantage.

It was in my third tack that I lost a bit of ground to kenza and some of the other leaders. I tacked early, while most of the leaders hugged Opossum Bay more closely. All the way down that tack, I suffered slightly from the lower winds.

From there, it was a matter of making two tight roundings, and then making the long drag race north. The only question was how far out to sea we should head in order to find pressure. Kenza and I stayed closer to the coast, while rafa went a little further east, looking for wind.

As we raced toward the finish, I had a spot of hope, as I held a lead of about .3 nm with about 3 hours left to sail. However, kenza had the better angle, and reeled me in, inch after agonizing inch, passing me a few miles before the finish.

Thanks to the SOL team for the race. Hopefully this is a sign of results to come for me for 2016.

-longreacher

