

ELBETICO's FUN TIMED RACE - March 2016

Insidious Regatta for placement of the buoys and for maneuvers to do. It's Impossible to run it without sitting at the helm. But the major difficulty is given by the boat-step of 20 sec. that can make you lose 0:04 miles (and 20 seconds!) on each mark you have to round, and due the short distances, you won't recover them just sailing in much speed.

Optimal conditions for running this race is with medium SW winds, but forecasts always gave N winds, so I decided to make my second ultimate attempt when on the race field was the most right-wind as possible (351°-353°) with greater intensity (18.4 declining to 17.8) that is between 7:30 and 8:15 UTC on 10 March. I decided to start at 08:00 utc.

The key points:

One above all: to maneuver less possible.

Leg 1 – it ain't no use to risk bbq forcing tacks close the coast: the number of tacks would be the same anywhere: it was enough to get just 0.5nm toward the right side, as soon as the boat recovered the perf 100%. Only once I risked a bbq but I was lucky.

Vuelta 1

The last step before tacking I measured the V1 buoy for a 0.8° angle below the best TWA upwind; I decided to tack immediately and not wait for the next step forcing the windward: for what little I was sailing slower it was not worth doing 0.04 miles more.

Vuelta 2

The V2 to V3 route is about 124°. From the mark to the coast there are only 3 steps of 20 sec. The risk is to go beside the buoy with the last step and having to make 3 corrections or even two gybes to head for the V3. So I immediately set a course 150° (lower than the rhumb to the mark, and I was fine because I almost brushed the coast-line. Then I was able to fix the right course.

Vuelta 3

Here another important strategic decision: sailing to the V4 in TWA limit. The tactic would require two gybes, but the loss of perf would be deleterious. So I decided to sail by 1.5 nm under TWA and then bearing correctly toward V4. I'm sure that by doing 2 jbes the lost of perf should be too much.

Vuelta 4

Here a decision to make too: round the mark with one or two maneuvers? You cannot give a single command and round the buoy very closed; you must first descend at least one step and then routing for V5; result: 2 maneuvers, perf at least at 92%, at least 0:04 nm lost to the south and start the new leg more closer to the wind. Well, I decided to overcome the V4 of one step and give only one command towards the V5.

Vuelta 5

The most treacherous. Between the buoy and the islet there are 0.04nm, exactly the space covered by one boat-server step! It is likely that the server sends the command just late and you end bbq.

The wind shift slightly to the left during the upwind and corrections of +/-0.10° were insignificant respect to the VMC. So I thought to sail higher to the mark in order to set, 0.08nm before it, a course parallel to the islet coast north to the buoy, to put me away from any risk. And it was good.

Don't know if I have won for all this,but I like to believe I did!

Neuroman – March 2016