

As last year the real puzzle to be solved for this race was the PYOC issue: North or South?

My study of the course gave the following VERY erratic results:

@ 0430Z update the North Track had an advantage of about one hour twenty

@ 1030Z update The North Track had a huge more than two hours advantage

@ 1630Z update (just before start) the advantage of the North track reduced to a very slim twenty/twenty five minutes.

Knowing that the next update would come around 90 minutes prior to finish this would give some preoccupation, but I did choose North with an amount of confidence, knowing that very little changes in the first hour after an update. This proved totally correct.

The race itself did develop as the typical SPRINT without options, and where one could finish first or twentieth without making any major mistake. The separation at the end of one minute and fifteen seconds between the winner and the twentieth demonstrates the theory.

Nothing very special to report for the entire race, except for the last segment (the drop down to the finish line). There a good number of boats did choose to tack to stay in better breeze (and VMG) in spite of the light and gentle shift to the left. I think their move was very correct, even with the payment of two perf losses iso one, if they had waited a little to tack (as Legend Lou did). In facts tacking immediately after the beginning of the leg placed them in front of some land , where they had to tack back , still not making the layline to the finish, and therefore having to invest a third tack (and perf loss).

During the very final approach to the finish line I knew that Antonio was going to overtake me , as he was speeding , having tacked slightly later , and had the impression that I might overtake Simo , as he did exactly the other way around , and was suffering a little with VMG . The line came soon enough to allow Simo to win and Antonio to overtake, but this podium is worth GOLD for Win.

Ciao ALL !! ;)

Piero