

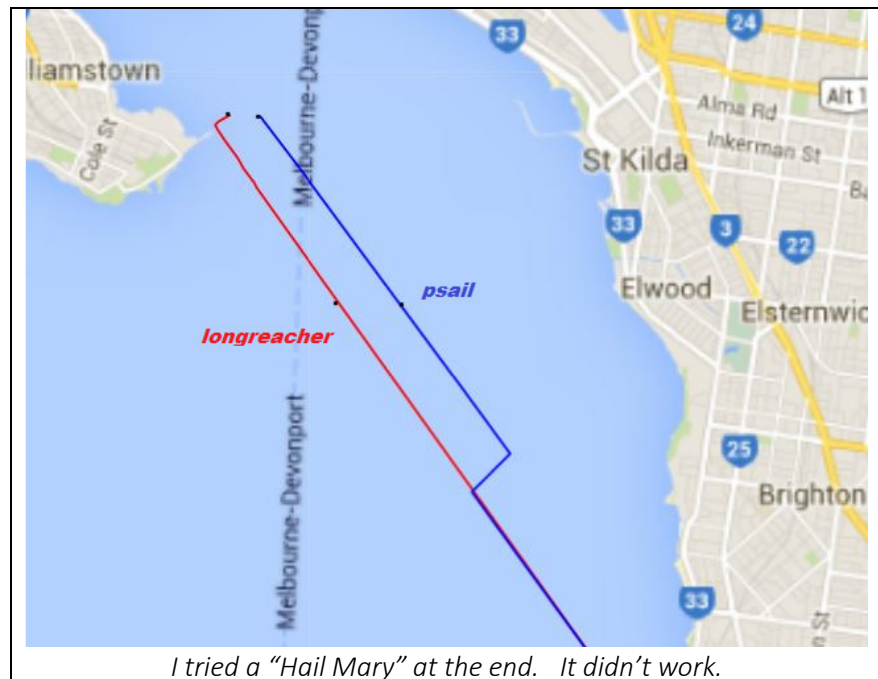
A3 - Leg 1 - Adelaide to Melbourne 2016

A good start to the Around Australia Series. This leg was a three act affair in some good winds and tight competition.

Act 1. Brighton to Cape Jarvis - Port or starboard? Always the question off the line. This time, the stronger winds offshore pointed the way and we were off. I noted that I was sailing a bit looser than many in the fleet, but I seemed to be keeping up, and was getting into some better wind all the time. As we converged at Cape Jarvis, I led by the slightest of margins, with psail, knockando, rumskib and Kipper within a stone's throw of my boat.

Act 2. Cape Jarvis to Point Nepean – after the cape, psail slipped a little further south, and found more wind. When we came back together, the lead was theirs. We both made tight roundings at Cape Otway, and successfully navigated the Point Nepean mark. I was now in second, hot on the heels of psail, with a little bit of breathing room back to Dingo, rumskib and Kipper. About 6 hours left in the race, would I be able to track psail down?

Act 3. Point Nepean to the finish.
Nope. Psail matched me turn for turn, the gap between us opened and closed. Our only strategy difference in this last act was that psail made one extra tack, to find better wind, while I forfeited the wind hoping for some miracle in performance loss savings. But, at the end of the day, there were 16 seconds between us, with psail taking home the trophy in this leg.



I tried a "Hail Mary" at the end. It didn't work.

Very happy to have done well in this race. I never had the pleasure of sailing with Aaron, having only found the site last July, but I'll raise a glass to him and all the work that he put into SOL. Cheers!

-longreacher

June 16th, 2016