

## Gibraltar TIMED Race 2016

This timed race seemed to have wider windows of opportunity than others. Perhaps it was because of its length, or perhaps because of the relatively stable winds over the duration of the course. In any case, I was thankful for a second window opening after I had hosed up my first run badly. It would mean a fairly early start, and a bit of faith for one tack as I would be on the road at the time, but if that went well, I could count on being at the helm for the rest of the voyage.

Before going to bed, I set a DC to start *longreacher* on her way, and I'd get up to take the helm before the first rounding. When I came above deck, I saw that there were already a lot of strong boats out on the water... was I too late? There didn't seem to be anyone starting with me. Oh oh. Well, too late for that now, let's see what we can do. I made the first rounding, and started tacking through the straight. I made one tack before remembering that I should be managing performance loss a little better, but did a better job with the next couple of tacks. By now, I had a couple of the big dog boats chasing me, and I felt better about my later start.

My DC while I was on the road went well, and I reached back across the straight to the finish. I was very much surprised and pleased to see that I was in second place as it wasn't the most dedicated run that I've ever made in a SOL race... just one where things seemed to go right. Sometimes the wind gods blow in your favour.

Thanks to the SOL team for putting this race together.

-longreacher

June 26, 2016