

SSANZ Safety at Sea Two-Handed Triple Series 2016 – Race 1

Race Report by “Zoe”

Auckland, New Zealand, I never been there but I’ve heard many stories of amazing beauty, friendly people and off course great sailing. So, there I am, in the virtual world of sailing online.

On this race the wind was ripping and most of the race was sailed under reaching or down wind conditions, the result was for fast race. The winners completed the course in under 5hr30min. Average boat speed of 8.45 knots; not bad for a Young 88. Not bad at all.

The game plan there was to keep as tight to the corners as possible; sail straight lines from corners-to-corners. No much a tactical race. Except the downwind leg from Gannet Rock to Shearer Rock.

Really the only option there was to go North and avoid the extra two gibes by going South. At those wind speeds and short legs, it rarely gives you time to recoup the huge performance loss of the extra gibes. The question then was where to gibe to lay the next mark. The VMG was 152 degrees, the max boat speed was at 146 degrees so, the gibe had to be on a way point that laid the mark at an angle somewhere between 146 and 152. I planned to wait until 146 to get to the next mark at full speed but, “rafa” went first. (He probably calculated to sail at VMG all the way). I hold tight but kept an eye on him; them all the others boats around me started to go; I had no option but to gibe and keep my competition close by.

It was a good run and I rounded Shearer Rock in the lead. But as I said this was a fast and short race so, I had plenty of good company very close by and it wasn’t time to pull out the cigar just yet. “Zoe” kept sailing straight lines to Motutapu and rounded the island very tight to the shore for a final straight reaching to the goal.

At the end “Zoe” crossed just 27 secs ahead of “psail” who beat “longreacher” but just 2 secs. In total, we had 11 boats crossing the line within 1 minute. Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf must be indeed a sailing paradise.

Thanks every maniac that makes Sailonline.org a fun place to day dream and fantasize about far away sailing venues.

Antonio “Zoe”