

The Hires WX, that in my opinion is the best SOL enhancement since the changes of 2013, always has two major consequences:

- 1) The interpretation of the course usually becomes highly technical ...and....
- 2) The figuring out of a race report usually becomes very complex ;))

Leg 1 : very straight forward search of incoming stronger breeze with a few jibes.

Leg 2 : Uneventful

Leg 3 : one of the two keys for this race, and one bright example of how Hires WX impacts on SOL races:

After a few jibes to follow the rotation to the right, one last leg northwards, to intercept the layline to the easterly mark. My intention was to continue north for another few minutes, when I saw my main opposition running to the east. I had no doubts and immediately covered, sailing a bit behind and windward but slightly faster. As soon as I jibed I gasped : the layline was already overstated , as the wind was about to shift in the opposite direction ( unpredictable from previous position ) , and I was thankful to have not made the mistake to continue north for a further bit .....I WAS WRONG !!!!!!!!!!! . In actual facts, due to the peculiarity of the polar, that at the given TWS was offering a huge gain in BS for slightly better angle, it was better to overstate the layline for another 5 minutes. SO almost did (by mistake or intentionally) Franci and Careka, who got to the mark leading the fleet. I was lucky in an intermediate position , and managed to recuperate the 0,15 nm that I badly lost at the previous corner , due to my stubborn attitude to take no risks in cutting corners ( and of course my boat sails with ONLY ONE step when approaching corners (LOOOLLLLLLLLLLLLLL) .

Leg 4 : Uneventful

Leg 5 : Here again the race was decided by the Hires WX. Franci, WIN and few others kept strongly the right side of the upwind southerly course, tacking twice and starting the final run in strong position. Rumskib and Zoe (new boat name = old Sprint Maverick Antonio ;))) tacked just a bit too much to the south, and lost something there. Careka did choose the left side of the course and lost the race there.

Approaching the final part, I noticed that Rumskib was slowly gaining some windward leverage on me, and decided to pinch until regaining a windward position, to cover him till the end, and so I did, footing only after he did foot and WIN did maintain a guaranteed position till the E pin, enjoying slightly better angle and therefore slightly better BS till the line.

At this point Franci , who held a strong lead not making mistakes during the final leg , at about two miles from finish seemed on CC to a more westerly point on the finish line , and therefore was losing quickly speed , due to wind shifting again to the left . It was very late at night, and possibly he was asleep. Whatever he was doing , he just managed to save the situation may be less than one minute before it was too late , and footed enough to maintain a smaller leadership and win the race. Hat off for a superb and well deserved victory.

Antonio (Zoe ...formerly zero) ....who was fighting for podium, at the end missed the finish line and had to recover, losing this race .....BUT HE WILL WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP !!! ;)))).....CIAO ALL

Piero ;))