

Extracts from the Chat (bonk unless otherwise stated).

15:30 "Bloody Hell. Congratulations you two!"  
15:22 "12min; 0.3nm; 1.1kn; steady as she goes."  
15:18 "Guess there was a very balanced trade-off between keeping out for more wind and sailing shorter distances at deeper angles."  
15:16 "I'm always amazed how these long races can still come down to seconds." (Dingo)  
15:11 "I think you guys will catch rafa, but am hoping I will just hold on. Hard luck if so, rafa. Great old drag race all. Hard luck longreacher too."  
15:06 "Half an hour to go now, gap 0.6nm, delta-V 1.1kn. So still close."  
15:01 "Think you could, John, as could rumskib. I am impressed and concerned. Didn't think that would work at all. Correction: could -> will."  
14:58 "Well I was 6th or so before the fleet split, so I hope I might gain something." (Dingo)  
14:54 "2/3 of an hour; 0.85nm astern; 1.16kn delta-V. Close, close, close."  
14:53 "9 AUS in the top 20 - not too bad eh?" (Roddo, just by the way)  
14:09 "Feeling a little better now Dingo?? have you done the math? (Roddo)  
11:13 "Feeling as though I might have made the wrong decision here. (Dingo)

So, how did that happen? Turns out it was the 10:28 WX, which our winner rumskib must have quickly routed, as we neared the gybe point for a route South of Keppel Island, changed the game. By less than 1 minute, mind you, as you can (hopefully) see from the two screen grabs for the South and North route using the 10:28 WX and the previous 04:27.

As for the rest of the race. Well, I was very pleased to get out of Brisbane harbour unscathed – primarily on DCs and with only a single early morning alarm, and generally I was happy enough I was getting that balance mentioned at 15:18 in the extracts above as right as anybody else.

But people can lose focus, and at 07:55 on Saturday morning, my tight gybe at Polmaise Reef and a hot angle back out to the breeze got bonk a little jump on rafa and longreacher in particular, who had been clear ahead. I started to feel some confidence, and the feeling grew when they gybed back a bit early for the reach into the finish. I went later and kept bonkhoot low initially, setting her on a smooth series of DCs and going away. It is often a good idea to go away, rather than to follow progress and risk being tempted to revert earlier than planned to higher VMCs!

Of course, Dingo and rumskib didn't gybe at all, and – and we now know why – sailing 2.4nm more than my 36nm track, the pair just pipped me, allowing rumskib to consolidate his re-won P1 on the SOL ladder. Congratulations that man! And thank you Dingo, rafa, LR, and all – with special mention for recent SOL converts like Alexandria and Zoe, schlumpi and AcmeRacing (or recent retournees). Great to see new faces!

04:27 WX 06/08

10:28 WX 07/08

