

On The Good Ship Venus Mustang Mark

This race didn't start particularly well. I forgot about it completely and joined close to an hour late in 109th place. The headwind at the start had seen the fleet (armada?) split into 2. Some advice to short tack along the rum line and wait was ignored as I felt that getting North would see me in a better position given the prevailing winds. Go4It was the early leader before the boats tacked as he tried to make use of maximum boat speed to get as N as possible before the wind shifted round.

It was apparent early on that the fleet would split further around the 1st mark with some headed out west and others tacking up the coast. I like to make my decisions early and sail to the optimum position to capitalise on those decisions. So I started to consider the options early. To complicate matters routers were not picking up any route back in to the coast due to the wide tacking angle of this boat. However, I decided that although the gains of heading out W were potentially great the fact the the boat 's poor head to wind angle got even worse in high winds and the poor chance to head back made heading out too risky. I therefore headed to the best position to take me close to the 1st mark. Others including Bonk Kroppy and Outlaw made great pace W early on. By the 1st mark Id managed to get to the front page of the leader board. A position that was improved further by boats heading away from the 2nd mark.

The 2nd leg was tactically a simple one and just involved going with the shifts to make the most progress N . Fortunately the vast majority of the turns near the coast occurred in the day of evening time here. As such there were no BBQs and good progress could be made. Just a quick word here- QT was suggesting tacks of 5 mins to head N near Lison. I decided to manually enter 15 minute tacks to reduce the performance loss. Although it was unrealistically small for these huge boats, I decided for a number of reasons that this was the best course of action.

As we neared the 3rd mark I was aware of the possibility of taking a much wider course and heading N - a similar tactic to those who headed out W at the second mark – this time tho I thought it might work due to the light wind expected to the line. Again the route wasn't picked up by QT and again I wanted to be in the position early. So as my competitors headed fE towards the finish I continued N to take a wide swing at the line. After a while QT did pick up the route I wanted to take and guided me to the finish. Before the wide rounding I was equal with Bimmer Longreacher and Billy – and the tactic worked well enough to draw me clear of these great SOLers. However, Alexandria had spotted my route too and after initially heading E he swung back N and this manoeuvre enabled him to pull out an extra 4 hours on the 6 he already had over me! Alex obviously saw my plan and executed far better- well sailed Sir!