

I think I got lucky in this race. I started well enough and on first appraisal it seemed best to stay west of Corsica. Unfortunately, the mark roundings off the north east coast of Sardinia occurred in the middle of the Australian night. I tried to sail a course a bit to the east of the others in my group (Aner et al) with the hope of taking a more northerly and safer rounding of Olbia on DCs, but in the end all I did was lose a mile or so of ground to the fleet leaders and got knocked back to #12 or so by the time I got through Porto Cervo.

As a result no-one was paying me much attention and as we rounded the bottom of Corsica I managed to stay a bit west and in fading winds make my way back within cooee of the leaders. At about this time, the boats in the fleet to the east of Corsica began to overhaul us and places became a bit meaningless.

That night my DCs did me well for a change and I got up to find that I'd managed to gybe within .2 nm of the coast and so avoided a lengthy barbecue. Pure luck rather than good management but I was grateful all the same. As we finally made the crossing towards Monaco, Knockando and I stayed west and in the end, the shifting lighter breezes lifted us up through the fleet ahead and I picked up a podium spot behind rumskib and just in front of a charging Franci, Knockando, Aner and Kipper.

Thanks to the SOL race committee for another great race. These races with widely different course options always make for interesting finishes.

Dingo 27.8.16