

I don't often enter short races as I find they require constant attention at the helm for the duration, and this was no exception. Also, they usually require an absence of mistakes, as opportunities for redress in a short race are rare, and you find you've been snubbed out of contention in a matter of seconds.

For once, I was at home on a Saturday morning and awake early because of a parallel race up on the NE coast of the States, so I entered this New Zealand classic for fun and with good memories of Yakka, whose home island we were racing around.

Half the race was straight-line headland to headland stuff, with the breeze at our backs for the way out, and broad reaches up the east coast of Waiheke Island. The race was won and lost really in the gybing duel out to the south east point of the island and then the tacking duel across the top of the island and home to the finish line.

In the last half of the race it was a matter of constantly adjusting best VMG using Agage's Wind Inspector, and balancing the wind shifts with performance loss. From memory, some 10 or 11 of the top boats crossed the finish within a minute of each other, and six of those boats were within a second of each other's times. I managed to hold off fastpassage and rumskib by just a handful of seconds at the line in a nailbiter.

Thanks to RainbowChaser for leading a raising of the rum glasses as we sailed through Yakka's lovely home bay.

Dingo 04.09.16