

This course always makes for entertaining racing and from my experience, normally seems to be raced in shifty winds. For some reason that is beyond me, but probably because the virtual course is raced in waters with no reference to depth, we seem to spend most of the race, save for the Buzzards Bay Light to Block Island leg, sailing around the edges of the Sound. This makes for a lot of hand sailing with constant reference to max VMG upwind and down. With this year's race spanning some 36 hours, it required plenty of stamina, coffee, and undivided attention.

For my part, a lack of concentration through two early and light 180 degree wind shifts left me near to bonknoot but about a tenth of a mile behind. I'd dropped into that position within probably the first six hours of racing. It was a lead I could never substantially eat into. Because we were so close, we tended to naturally have to deal with almost identical winds, and in those conditions it is very hard to get past someone who is sailing well, which 'bonk' certainly was.

Always breathing down our necks were a group of ten or so boats, and a couple of WXs brought some surprises with quite substantially altered conditions. Nonetheless, we had a bit of a gap on the pursuers for most of the race so it turned into a marathon thirty hour match race for the pair of us. At a few points over the day and a half we both achieved some separation, but inevitably whenever we crossed, 'bonk' was still that tenth of a mile ahead. Darn.

Congrats to bonknoot for a beautifully judged race, and to all those other boats around us. We had a great sail in company. I'm sure Mrbill will have some entertaining stories of the various dramas which unfolded just behind us.

Special thanks go once again to the Stamford Yacht Club for their generosity in 'buddying-up' with SailOnline for this regatta, and for their donation of magnificent podium prizes.

Cheers

Dingo 4.9.16