Race Report - Chile Islands RTI SPRINT 2016 - WINSTON_4

When this race appeared in homepage it was very clear that it was going to be another masochistic "sprinting" via crucls ……. Only 25 miles but in virtually no wind, with little reach and a lot of upwind and downwind maneuvering through zillion of rocks…… … Let's ADD that the start time was going to be 1900 local , that I was not feeling good (bronchitis) , and that my yearly SOL GOALS demanded participation , mix the cocktail and come up with the appropriate exclaims …… (Suggest: GREAT !!!! ….but could be else ….;)))))))

It turned to be an almost 11 hours at the till situation , in constant attention control , and with one additional goal to the usual one to do well for consistency purposes ……RESIST TILL THE END !!!!

The race:

Nothing much happened till almost the very end: By not making mistakes I managed to stay with the front pack, far better than me in turning corners as usual. Towards mid race I was third, without aspirations to attack the leading duo (bonknhoot and Zoe), and dedicating 90% of my time to keep #4 behind (Aner59).

The distances were varying from 2 to 5 cents between the leading duo and myself, and 2 to 4 cents between myself and Aner. The tacking and jibing in shifts was mandatory routes, and therefore there was really nothing to do other than praying to stay alive till the end. (And of course stay clear from mistakes)

It all happened in two steps, in the last part of the race, during continuous jibing to get into position to finally steer to the finish line:

Step 1 (Bonk the brave)

Bonk failed a jibe and BBQd on a rock for few seconds. I managed to pass him and got to second place, but, in spite of the fact that he MUST have suffered an 80% performance hit, after a few minutes, without me doing anything different than what he had been doing, he was in front of me again, and recovered a lot of distance from Zoe, who in the meantime managed to fly away. This tells a lot about Bonk's bravery at the helm on manual steering!.

Step 2 (the true turning point)

A few jibes before the end of the north westerly course on the last stretch, as I said already, I was again well in 3rd position, and also started worrying about Aner coming back. Bonk and Zoe were fighting very close to each other in front, with continuous jibes that we could only replicate, as the only way to go in the left shift ……WHEN ……turning on a port jibe I noticed that the shift to the left had completed, and actually a marginal shift to the right had started. This, combined with the fact that we knew that there was slightly better breeze on the right side of the course, made me instantly jibe back on a starboard course to the north.

Strategically the situation was perfect : Bonk and Zoe surely noted my move , and perhaps even respected the danger of it , but could not follow without losing contact with each other , so they did not and perhaps prayed that my move was either desperation (but they knew I was not)…or just that it was not going to pay ….(better pray) ……

It only took very few minutes to know …….When I jibed on the layline to the lifting course to the cape and the finish line, I knew that I had taken advantage of the only option that became suddenly available.

They tried to react, by choosing two different courses on the final approach: Bonk stayed on a slower course to cut in lower distance; Zoe choose a faster course to more distant finish point.

I did resist to the temptation of covering any of the two, and simply steered to MY finish line point.

It turned out to be a 7 seconds lead, 7 times bigger than what is enough to say:

YESSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ;))))

Ciao ALL

WIN

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