

This race was quite exciting to me, but perhaps not for the best of reasons...

For the start, the wind was blowing from the North. As a result, we had to go to the southern tip of the Motutapu Island in close reach (TWA ~60°) and then beat towards the Channel Island -- a pretty straightfoward leg, it seemed to me.

I was blissfully unaware I had already made my biggest mistake in this race. But more on that later...

After rounding the Channel Island, I planned to sail closer to shore, but I quickly realized there would be more pressure offshore. This fact, combined with the optimum TWA being around 169°, might allow the offshore option to prove faster and cover the boats that would take the 'western route'. That's why I split from the head of the fleet, and it paid off, giving me the lead.

Then came the rounding of the White Island.

To begin with, I was away from the computer, forcing me to go to hand-steering mode via the Android software I have in my mobile phone. I managed to do it, but then I could not figure out when I was clear from the island in order to go after the shift. As a result, I went too far North and tacked too late.

When I had my computer back and tried to set some DCs, I noticed a disagreement between the expected speed and the actual speed. Baffled, I decided to have a look at the boat polar diagram.

I had been racing with the First **47.7** diagram for most of the course!

So it was time to go into damage-control-and-be-grateful mode: "fix the goddamn polar and be happy that such a silly mistake did not put you utterly out of contention, you idiot!"

By that time, rafa was well in control of the race and I had to be ready for a battle for the podium with Kipper and Ricotina -- the Italian was hot in my tail, and the Australian would not forgive another error of mine. So, I adjusted accordingly and held to the second place, despite Ricotina's attacks.

My performance was far from flawless, but I had bright moments and, ultimately, they prevailed and lead me to the second place.

I would like to thank the SOLers and the SOL team for yet another great race!

Alexandria / November 2016