



2016 SOL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Comments on Racing and Results

OCEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The official results for this Championship have been posted and the PRIZES announced here:

<http://www.sailonline.org/board/thread/14761/2016-championships-final-results-and-p/?page=1#post-14761>

Sir Alfred would have not been able to imagine a better thriller than the 2016 SOL Ocean Championship. It will be remembered as the venue where everything and its total contrary met and played together.

As an aperitif we had the one and half month long SFO to NYC race via the Horn. Those who dared getting there a few hours ahead of the fleet were later on invited to a never-ending party in front of Rio, whilst others were flying to NYC.

Another good thriller during the year has been the leg two of the RTWR, which included a nice option to sail via the Horn or Magellan, without any chance of anticipating which would be best in the end.

And finally the quintessential race of the races: the Xmas to Xmas, kingdom of the masochists, second only to the Turkey round in terms of required endurance. Before the beginning of this race, that notably offers several lanes to get from A to Z, only two boats were confronting each other for the 2016 Ocean Championship final result: **kenza of Russian Fed.** and **WINSTON_4 of Italy**, with clear advantage for kenza, due to better discard option. To start with the two boats did choose opposite lanes from the very first minute of the race, to demonstrate that all the tactics had been thrown out of the window, and the Cup would have been decided in the water, could not tell by whom or what, but surely not by covering each other for nearly four weeks.

Everybody had seen how it went in the end:

- 1) The central group of the "braves" BURNED both the lanes chosen by the Championship fighters.
- 2) WINSTON_4 had done absolutely NOTHING from minute one to last minute to win or lose. He could only bank on the chance that kenza would do worse than #14.
- 3) Kenza did fight till the very end in his fast lane to counteract the "braves"but a few minutes before the finish the #14 of the "Braves" ...Beliberda ...sneaked his bow in front of kenza and granted Winston_4 with a nice Xmas gift in the form of the 2016 Ocean Championship.

Kenza is to be congratulated for the amount of credit with luck he has set aside for 2017 !!!!! ;)....All careful !! ..There is not much hope for anyone left after this Hitchcock finale of 2016.

With his fantastic run in the last race's central lane , leading "the braves" **rafa of Peru** conquered the third spot on Podium.

One very special word for **longreacher of Canada** and **rhoderunner of USA**:

These two SOLers managed to finish with same points the OCQ4, and for the first time in SOL a Championship has been assigned by breaking a tie. Longreacher won OCQ4 because had one victory during the series. HAT OFF to both SOLers !

The other TOP TEN finishers, all performing very consistently during 2016 in the Ocean Championship were:

Rumskib

RICOTINA

Aner59

Kipper1258

Dingo

Garagiste

MustagMark

The Ocean Championship will continue in 2017, with same format.

Thanks for racing the OCCH in 2016

SRC