

Looks like, finally, and the windgods willing, bonknhoot has started to get her mojo back some more.

If the wind blows straight at 31kn from WNW, you can get from Vestmannaeyjabaer to Stokksnes in your Orange 125 cat in 5 hours 25 dead, sailing the shortest route hugging the coast and minding the lava. So, sub 6 hour times as set by all the T10 as I write are quite good but not unbeatable.

Pray then I shall to Noaa, the God of isobars, that Saturday off Iceland will be as He are promising us now, and pray to Doris, the Mother of all storms, that she will be well gone out of the Celtic Sea on the night of Saturday to Sunday, as Mrs bonk and I ferry to France.

This particular TR is a subtle thing; simple but subtle. The general route is nearly always the same: out to sea on starboard gybe, pick a spot and lay the seaward end of the finish line on port. But if you sail it at max VMG downwind you will lose.

Your router can give you a very good idea of when to start your epic trip and how hot to sail out and how long to hang South, but it won't be perfect and it can't deal with the known unknown, the WX that inevitably will hit you at some stage (it's a 6 hour trip), which might mean that you should have cut in earlier or hung out longer, or worse again, be starting when you have just got half way.

So, my router told me start at 0905utc. I reduced the time interval of the proposed logbook to 3 mins, exported it, built in a squareroot gybe to keep PL below 7.5%, smoothed the course transitions, and then checked I was making the seaward end, using Kipper's DCC., and loaded up.

When I came back 4 hours later, things looked promising. Franci and rumskib had kept a tad further South, for more miles. It was surely not going to pay. I adjusted my DCs to assure the line and went away again.

But pay it did. So a premature and presumptuous well done, guys, and corollary commiserations to all the other starters either side of 0900utc on Monday February 20<sup>th</sup>.

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