Kipper1258 Capetown to Lisbon Race Report

Wow. Two ocean race bullets in a row. Is it luck, or am I doing something right? And I managing to beat **kenza** in both races, which leads me to think it might be the latter. More on that later.

In terms of the race, there was nothing remarkable that occurred or any major strategic decisions that had to be made. The path through the Doldrums was well defined and did not change a lot, unlike the M2O race where I picked the wrong path. And with reference to that race, I did finish 35 minutes ahead of the next boat (**rumskib)** that took the same path that I did, and I used the same techniques in the M2O as for this race. It really came down to tuning the routing and trying to find that fastest path.

As I've said before, one of the advantages we have with SOL, is that we live in a mathematically static world from Wx to Wx, and the Wx is the only variable we need to deal with. Crew competence, sail selection, sail trim, etc are always perfect and there is no variability. This means that there is always only one optimal path. Finding it is the tricky bit as there are billions of combinations to try – routers to a reasonable job, but they don't aways get it right. And here's an example.

When we are about three days out from the finish, out of curiosity, I decided to start running routes from **rafa** (who was to the north of me) and **kenza** (who was to the south) to see where we would most likely be finishing. The northern boats were out of contention, but it looked like **kenza** was going to beat me. I was interested in what the gap would look like, so I placed a waypoint on his optimised course about a day out and ran a routing to it. After optimising, I found that I would be about 10 minutes when out paths converged. The router gave me no indication that there was that possibility, and I picked up time because of that. I've covered off in my Auckland to Captown race report how I go about routing, so I won't repeat it here. You need to look at options, several of them, and some will reveal surprising results.

In closing, congratulations to **Zoe** and **rumskib.** A great match race for 4th and 5th emerged with **kenza** and **Dingo** with **Dingo** getting pipped by all of 19 seconds after 22 days of racing. Congratulations to the remaining top ten and thanks to all our admins for their hard work and SOLers for participating.

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