

Round Hong Kong Spring 2017 race report by Garagiste

I was reluctant to start the Round Hong Kong Spring 2017 initially because of the late start time (U.S. East Coast) and the obstacle course nature of the race.

After the start, I stayed up very late to be sure Garagiste made it safely up Hong Kong's Gold Coast and through the narrow gap between Sha Chau and Sheung Sha Chau islands. DCs were set, and then it was off to bed.

I awoke just in time to correct course to round the Macau mark, otherwise I would have sailed south of it. After the mark, the front group was headed east when the next wind change caused us to dive southwest far enough to fetch the next mark with one gybe. Oddly enough, many of the boats behind us continued east and took over the lead for a while.

After rounding Miaowan Island, qt suggested taking a more easterly route than the direct route we actually sailed. It's not the first time I was happy to ignore it. Upon rounding Dangan with Franci, Alexandria, and Rafa, Garagiste nudged into 1st place by the slimmest of margins. It was then that I had to leave for work and would finish the race via the Android app, so I assumed any chance of podium was gone.

The app actually turned out to be quite good, although it's a little tricky when entering twa, as sometimes if you hesitate too long, the number jumps back to the twa the boat is currently sailing just prior to hitting the send button. That explains the two extra gybes near the Lamma Island rounding, and resulted in a pretty big performance loss. Sadly, it was here that Alex retired after having done so well.

Garagiste held the lead until rounding the final mark, Cape D'aguilar Light. Franci's pursuit was relentless, and he made the turn first, as I was distracted by customers. I thought there might be a chance to catch up with a slightly faster angle, but in the end, the extra distance sailed proved to be too much to overcome. It would be interesting to see how many seconds separated us at the finish. Congratulations Franci, and grazie for the exciting race!

Cheers,
Phil

Garagiste