

2017 40' Series Championship Q1&Q2 Singapore Visit

This 350nm 40' race was ultimately decided by boat selection. I had choice of SOTO 40 or Class 40 and opted for the Class 40 especially when I saw that TWS over the route were not above ~ 10kn. I had had a close look at the Polars at the start of the series and was aware that the Class 40 had the better light air performance.

TWS on the first leg to windward were ~8 – 10 kn and the KER 40's went ahead as expected, Billy, CelemansRKN and longreacher were the best of the Class 40's and remained in touch, placed around the low teens when we rounded Palau Tioman and the time zone made it easy for me to round closely SOTP.

As we progressed south TWS dropped below 5 kn sometimes 3 kn and the Class 40's really came into their own, I was a little surprised as we gradually but easily reeled in the KER's including Kipper who was leading at the time. I was more than happy when I tacked SW to another SOTP rounding at Kampung Gambut, narrowly in the lead from longreacher and CelemansRKN and with a handy advantage over the KER's.

We had a 3hr broad reach to the line and the wind angle didn't offer any real opportunities for overtaking but I was like a cat on a hot tin roof, nervously watching longreacher while on my way to a second SOL victory.

Congratulations to longreacher and especially CelemansRKN for his first podium – a notable achievement and surely not his last.

Thanks to all competitors and the SOL Team for their generous commitment to our enjoyment. The 40' Championship has been a really interesting series, well done.

Billy

26/6/2013