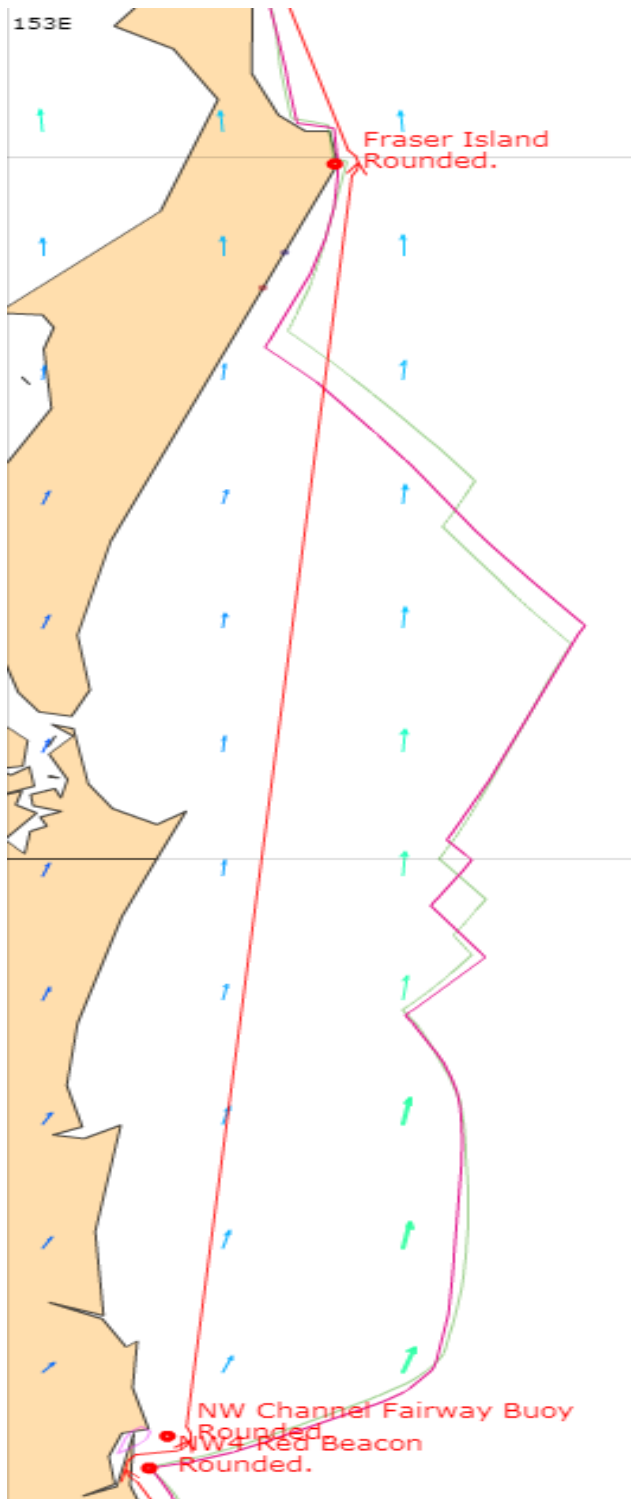


Back in Q1&Q2 40' Series Championship, there was a time (twice) every SOLer has to swallow a bitter pill and say: "Well, it's SOTO time (sigh)." Indeed, in 6 races she made TOP 10 only once.

In 2017 Brisbane to Keppel Race, downunder counterpart of Aeolus has decided to end this. While IRL boats were unable to leave Moreton Bay due lack of wind vs currents and tides, SOL SOTO was the right boat for the job. And that's it! She simply had the best performance for given conditions, at least for the crucial part of the race.



Picture shows SimeMali's track vs psail's (green - chosen for the best visibility; rafa, Dingo and Kipper1258 did pretty much the same) between NW Channel Exit Gate and Fraser Island. No major differences in track, in this low TWS downwind leg, SOTO was faster. (for those who are interested, XLSX file with polar comparisons has been posted on SOL Forum a month ago). Reaching Breaksea Spit Light Mark there's 10-15 min advantage, which persist 'till Polmaise Reef.

At that point I was really down, while after few nights of Baltic Sawtooth Generator Race (which because of inherent "bias" instability has required constant amplitude and frequency corrections), this race started at European-friendly 3 AM (2 in UK and Portugal), with all that marks and windshifts right after.

Established on finals, with nothing more I could do, let the rest of the race in paws of a cat that lives (or doesn't) in SOL Server box (for details, ask professor Bonk :-)

I fell asleep. And I had a dream: Wind blows, Ker goes! Is it too little, too late? A nightmare? At last mark Billy was good 15 min behind, when I woke up he was 3! Fortunately, the race has already finished.

To be honest, must say that if Franci and Frangipani didn't choose more direct (jet finally slower) route after exiting Moreton Bay, we could have a different race. And if javakeda didn't suddenly decide to inspect BOTH Marks on NW Channel Exit Gate :) (But let the one among us who never did such oversight in the heat of a race throw the first starfish.) However, with three of them in close race (sorry if I overlooked some other SOTO), we could have more SOTOs on the podium, and Sime not among them.

And I have to notice that some of The Usual Suspects were absent. Like Ferragosto thinning Frece Tricolori's rows. Hope in September race they will all be back.

'till then:

Fair Winds, Sail Fair!

( :-)) Viva João, and must say I'm glad that SRC didn't replace SOTO in Q3&4 40'Series fleet :-)

SimeMali, August 2017.