

The Silverrudder 2017.

Firstly I would like to say what a great job by SOL's 3 stars of the weekend. Gilles, Bimmer and rumskib, first class guy's, great promotion too.

Very light shifting winds forecast for the whole race, many marks round an island- Just like a very long Practice race, my sort of course.

The decision to race the silverrudder or I should say complete the race came when bedtime arrived (and went) and I was in a battle for first with Alexandria, Limesinferior, rumskib & Zoe through the narrows just before " Strib Odde Fyr" , I just took a one boat length lead after about 14 hours of intense racing when a 2 - 3 hour slot for sleep arrived, I noticed Alex and Limes both made a short gybe north which I thought would be a winner for me although there was a slight pressure change in their favor, unfortunately after my short nap I had dropped to third.

Another sleep window of 2-3 hours with no change in positions.

Now back to 100% concentration for the rest of the race. I could see that 3rd was mine and top spot was a real possibility so I pushed as hard as I could, making many small adjustments to try and inch back to the front.

The run down from Storebaelt Westbridge to Thuro Reef was an opportunity to gain some ground, I took a slightly further East route which would give me a better wind angle by 4-5 degrees and put me in better wind for the final approach to Thuro Reef.

It looked like my plan had worked but I made a school boy error, I didn't use the wind shift fully to my advantage, I gybed to early to stay in better wind but had closed the gap to just seconds, my only chance now is for one of the leaders to make a mistake through the final narrows but they were sailing a great race. The last attempt came on the final half mile to the finish, I thought Limesinferior was going to run long so I made an early tack, at the time of sending the command I saw Limes tack but it was to late for me to run long I had sent the command, Alexandria almost gave the win away with a late tack to the line caused by sailing on a mobile device, finally just 2 seconds between 1st & 2nd and a further 7 seconds to 3rd.

As always the competition is very tough, if kenza, Hirilonde and 1 or 2 others hadn't dropped out I would most likely be a spot or 2 below the podium. Still not to bad for SOTP

Well done Alexandria & Limesinferior, you beat me this time :)

During the night of this race I was photographing a deep space nebula called the SOL nebula (Spelt Soul though :) ) A useless bit of info but I was running in and out of the house checking telescopes and boats until 3am :) Image in following link if you want to see it.

Sadlersailing.

<https://stargazerslounge.com/gallery/image/33119-soul-nebula-220917/>