

Planning to be away for a bit of IRL sailing in the Central Med from the 23rd on, I was keen to get some scores on the board, so had routed this one a few times before the off. Clearly in Tri60s, downwind, this was going to be a quick race, with a WX early doors and a second one on the last leg from Rakaumangamanga (Cape Brett) in to the finish.

The weather seemed pretty stable and the strategy therefore relatively certain:

- Gybe as soon as you could clear the eastern shore beyond North Head to get into the wind.
- Gybe as late as you can to just clear the southern shore of the Whangaparaoa peninsula to get inside the bend as far as possible.
- Carry on to overstand and avoid double gybing to gybe again when you can clear the eastern shore of Kauwau island.
- Round Kauwau and bear off for Takatu.
- Sail a curve to Cape Brett keeping out to sea and in the breeze.
- Continue on port tack keeping out of the bay and in the breeze as long as possible.
- Tack and then tack just twice more to lay the northern favoured end of the line.

I had to start on DCs and allowed myself a bit of searoom for the first gybe. I am guessing Alexandria rounded tighter; in any event he got a hop ahead of me.

I set a bundle of DCs after Takatu and went to bed and set an alarm for the approach to Cape Brett. I hadn't gained anything on Alex. We rounded close together. Others were also in close attendance. I tacked earlier. Alex went for a little gap between an islet and the shore. He made a command error. It cost him. I won by a server hop.

Great race, Alex. It should have been yours.

Meanwhile, elsewhere, on the South China Sea another downhill battle was going all Alex' way. This time others, including myself, made the mistakes. So hats off to Alexandria – a 1 and a 2 in simultaneous races, closing the gap on the Rankings ladder. Chapeau that man!

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