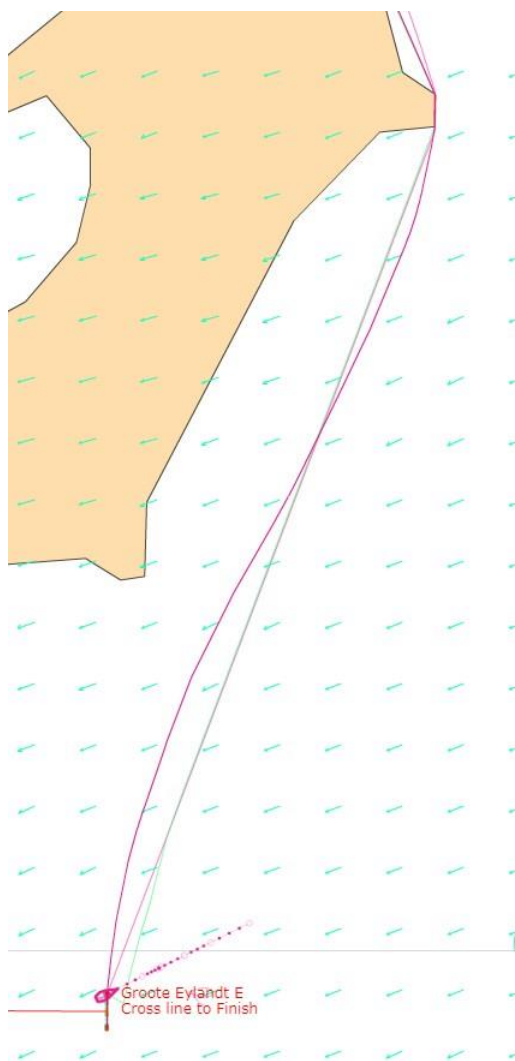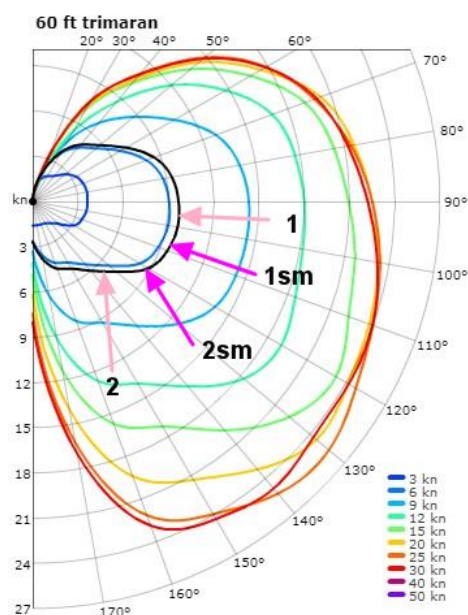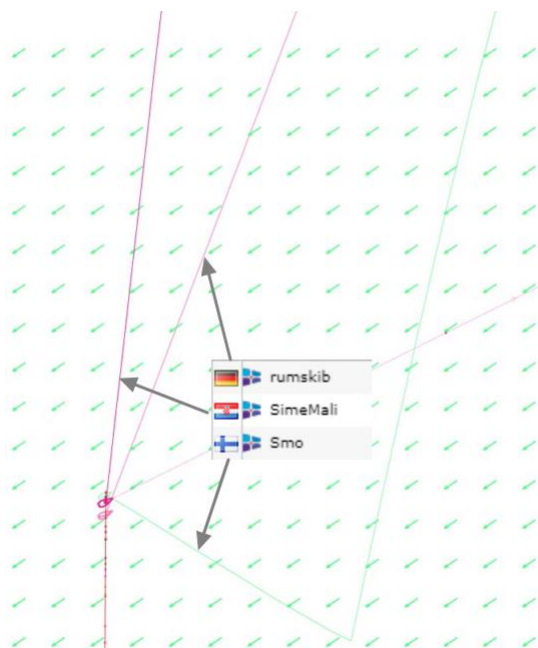# What to do...

With square-like polars and 0.05x0.05 grib, Groote PYOC 2017 was an exciting race. Here I'll try explain how did *SimeMali* manage form P13 to P2 in the last 15 minutes.

After rounding last cape, all boats in front took straight course with almost max BS to FL (1), despite the fact there was a big TWD change some 15 minutes before end. *SimeMali* get at first a lower TWA to get some pressure, and then cca 10°higher than others (1sm) to get better position on finals. With relative flat polars, there was no big BS penalty for that.

Sime persisted on that CC while TWA has started to rise, waited until TWA predictor has passed the FL, then switched to TWA course (around 122°, 2sm), maintaining constant BS. The rest of boats were start paying the price of steep polar, with rapidly BS decreasing (2).

At the end, TWA difference were over 15° or over 2 kts BS, allowing *SimeMali* to recover disadvantage by approx 0.5 NM gain in range toward others in the last 20 minutes.
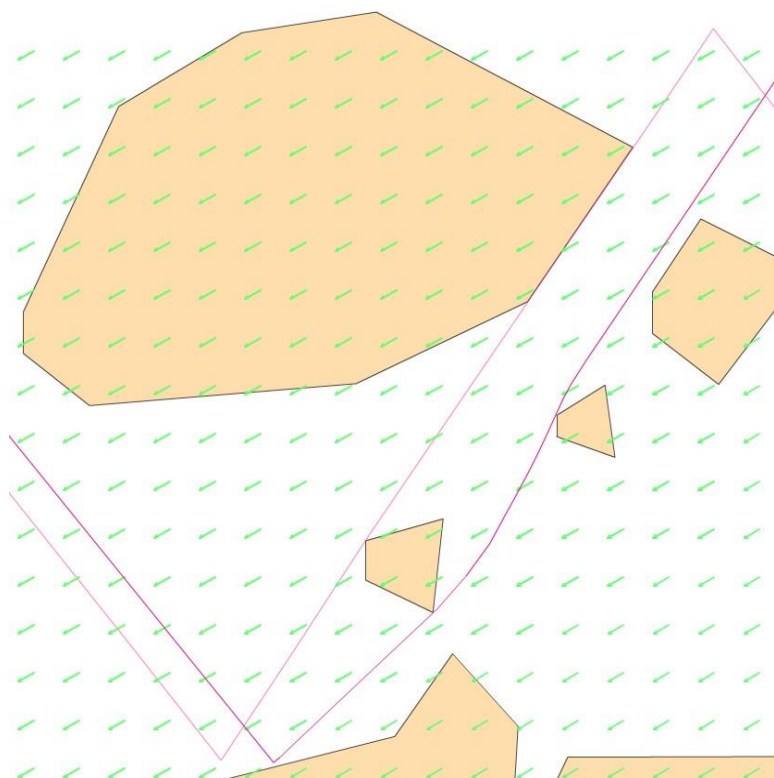
Smo has noticed that speed loss and has gone on max VMG, but was too low and had to gybe, suffered PL that cost him P2.

As *sassy63*, the best among 'antipodes', mentioned in chat: "..only 2 mins difference between S and N way.. WD designing the race..", agree and thanks SOL Team. Congratulations *rumskib*, *smo*, *sassy63*, *bonknhoot*, *knockando60* and thanks all SOLers on great race.

And now, something completely different!

...and what not!

It's usually a good idea: when download a new grib, apply it in a router. But it was Saturday pre-and-after-noon, at my home, with family and two dogs. So I didn't.

Setting course for the race, I have set one marker to a point where tack would lead to short course closer to wind than best VMG, but expected to compensate that with less PL and faster recover. As WX has changed and I didn't noticed that, find *Sime* stuck with even lower TWA and no way out but straight ahead, slower and longer than was planned.

You can distinguish clear, surgically precise *rumskib's* track from 'get-me-out-of-here' one of *SimeMali*.

Another good thing to do is "wake-up" server before send major change course command, if last change was more than 30 minutes ago. It can be done by change current course for 0.01, about minute before planned change. Avoiding to do that can cause unpleasant surprises (also with DCs).

And I have forgot that, of course. For worse, I usually count during server hop intervals, but as mentioned before it was Saturday at home, and you can't trick Murphy.

At one occasion, when time for a tack has come after over 30 min CC, I have messed the counting, wasn't sure, sent command to late, waited endlessly, saw *Sime* didn't turn, sent it again and watched her, after half jump more, turning toward coast. In panic, set 180° to avoid BBQ. Finally and too late, set the desired course.
Result: over 0.2 NM longer path, one minute in vain and 8% PL for tack by 9 kts BS. Brilliant work!

As you can see, there's dos and don'ts, ups and downs in every race, but most important joy, excitement and good company! And it ain't over till... you hear the song!

Be well, stay well, fair winds!