After a plethora of keel, rudder and hull breakages, and tragically also the loss of life, on board the smallest yet six-boat Volvo RTW fleet in 2011-12, the organizers introduced a one-design rule for the 2014-15 race: the OD65. Resulting in more time for teams to hone ideas and designs within the narrower restrictions of the rule, less pressure on funding and slightly less powerful machines, the move was a success with more boats consistently finishing more legs.

Back in SOL-land, a devious plan was hatched by SOLer kroppyer to poll the performance data of the new boats during their pre-RTW maiden races. Aggregating, interpolating and adjusting of the data led to a series of ever better polar performance figures for SOL’s version of the OD65, culminating in the OD65v3 introduced for Leg 3 of SWR2014-2015 from Abu Dhabi to Sanya.