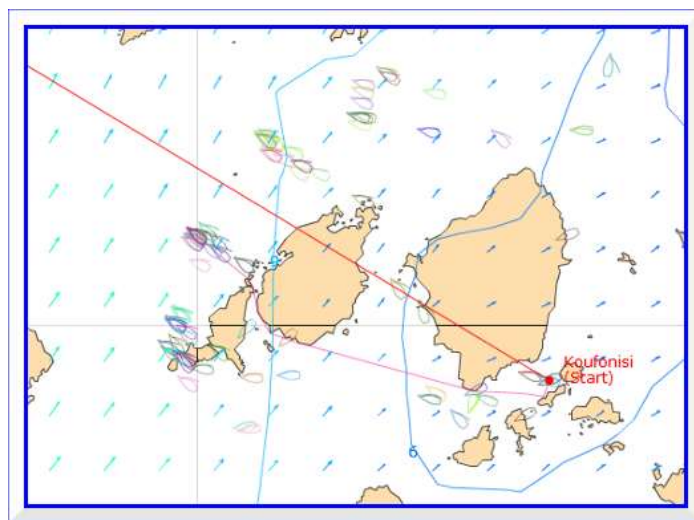


## Ouzo Sprint 2018

It has been a while since Sailonline raced among the islands of the Greek Cyclades and this sprint, raced in the gloom of a N Europe January, brought a sense of sunshine and blue skies to our virtual world of yacht racing! Well, it did so for me, at least! Firing up the race's Google Earth Feed (remember, every race has a downloadable GE file!) for a little sightseeing at the start and zooming in allowed me to click on images of the area around Koufonisi – I was almost tempted to find YouTube Greek music!

I had been using Sailonline's auto-weather option (hold down the Shift key and click on the wee triangle on the far left side of the wx slider and the weather will slowly "unroll" for you!) to get a sense of which way the winds might be playing – unsurprisingly, during the 24hrs prior to race start the choice of heading N or S from the start were both doable at different times! I chose to head SE and curve round the islands and then NW-ish to the finish. My choice was, as seems pretty normal for me, more that of a cruiser than a racer, but in my own way – secretly matchracing with one or two races around me – I enjoyed this race more than I have enjoyed a sprint for some time.

Why? Well because there was everything to play for! After the starting choice of N or S, the island groups between us and the finish gave many options and, unsurprisingly, the fleet took most if not all of them, splitting in at least four ways after the start:



I then took a break from steering and on my return spotted stronger winds moving in from the E so decided to zig and zag my way to it and thence to the finish. This was not a smart move as I ended up even further down the finishing list, a good 90mins or more after the podium.

See you all next time!

Joanne / RainbowChaser  
January 2018