

## TYPBC Auckland Tauranga Yacht Race 2018

Light and shifty winds in Tamaki Strait made for lots of different strategies from the start. The 10 PM local start time gave me a few hours where I could watch what everyone was up to and adjust my own course before heading to bed. I ended up a fair bit further south than most of the field at the first WX, but I had a fairly straight shot up to the Channel Island Mark. The rounding would happen while I was in the bunk, so I had to be a bit conservative with my DC.

I was very presently surprised to wake up the next morning in first place. Two more weather forecasts and a sprint would take me down to Tauranga Harbour. With about 70 nm to go, I was pretty confident in my lead. However, in SOL, no lead is safe, and all the way south I was hunted by *nacrr* to my windward side and *rafa* to leeward.

As we prepared to make the turn to the finish, I saw the tiny bit of a polar hop developing for the Farr in the 6 knots of wind that we were sailing in. Had I oversimplified my final 2 nm? The distance between me and the rest of the podium shrunk to 100', then thankfully grew again as we swung into the harbour.

Very happy to redeem myself after my terrible finish at Up Helly Aa, where after chasing *rumskib* around the course for 2 days, I dropped from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in the last few hours of the race. Hopefully this is more of a sign of things to come!

Thanks to the SOL team for putting this race on. Always a pleasure to race around in New Zealand!

-longreacher  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018