

Race Report – Scilly – Lundy – Caldey – Scilly Sprint 2018

This is an excellent course for late Winter/early Spring off the UK's west coast as the weather coming in off the Atlantic can collide with storms from the North Pole or continental Europe and be wonderfully frisky! With Sailonline's speedy 90ft monohull at our fingertips and storms a-brewing this could prove to be a really fun event.

Starting on time I made a definite choice to avoid the backing winds and the little wriggle through the Scilly islands and instead to head E and then N and, interestingly, this didn't lose me too much on what almost instantly developed as the leading group. A curving TWA took me up past the Lizard, on past Port Isaac (where I inflicted some links to the singing of Fishermen's Friends on everyone in race chat) and with a couple of dinks east, still on TWA, my approach to Lundy was pretty good – not really in touch with the front but not too far behind either. The run from Lundy Island to Caldey was pretty clean and the turn for Scilly seemed a no-brainer.

Heading for my bunk I set one final DC – again avoiding the Scillies, I chose to steer W of the island group and set a course to turn E and bisect the finish line. That was the intention. What occurred, however, was a perfectly executed DC, a wonderful line to the finish but..... by less than even a pixel (on max zoom) RainbowChaser blithely scooted on past the line! When I woke, my first thoughts were to check via Android phone on my final ranking and couldn't believe it when I saw what had happened.



So, rather than an OK-ish finish ranking, I ended up with a rubbish one in the circumstances! BUT... as ever... there will always be other Sprints in which to prove how valuable is all the mark rounding training I get in Sailonline's short (2hrs or so) pre-race practice races!!

See you next time!

RainbowChaser /March 2018