

Rolex China Sea Race 2018

The Rolex is a little longer race than my usual comfort zone, I generally don't have an attention span to take me beyond a couple of days, but this was a fairly straight shot from Hong Kong to Subic Bay, which meant that I might be able to get away with a few lapses in attention.

The start was a bit questionable for me, as it was not only the middle of the night here, but I'd also have to rely on an out of date weather forecast to get me out of the harbour. Fortunately I was able to keep clear of the shoreline, and when I woke up the next morning, I was safely out with the fleet in blue waters.

The next couple of days were pretty straightforward, heading southeast towards the Philippines. Flakey shifting winds to the West of Subic Bay meant we'd be making a few adjustments before the outer marker rounding. I was significantly to the West of the rest of the fleet, and that kind of separation always makes me nervous. However, in this case, it played into my favour, giving me a better angle to the wind as we turned towards the outer marker.

I entered Subic Bay with about a 6 minute lead. I'd never had this kind of cushion before. Could I avoid screwing it up in the dying winds of the bay? I was on the road, so I'd be making the rounding on the Android App, which is always a bit risky for me and my big thumbs. Fortunately, I got around OK, and was able to hold my lead as I made the one tack to the finish.

Thanks to the SOL team for putting this together. It's always great to race against the IRL sailors.

*-longreacher
March 30th, 2018*