

Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race 2018.

My 11th SOTP win.

A steady weather pattern over the course would make this race quite straight forward with no major shifts expected.

An early 1am start for the European boats, nothing to do Friday, any excuse. As I had nothing to do Friday I would see Sadler safely round Tangalooma before getting some sleep.

Round the first mark Redcliffe see's Sadler in the teens, a short tack during the leg to Tangalooma and a good rounding gets us into the top 10.

Around 4.30 am I set the alarm for 7am, 10 minutes before ETA at NW4 Red Beacon. I didn't set a DC as I would get up no problem.

I snoozed the alarm and fell back to sleep. Woke up in bright daylight and thought I'd blown my chance. I leisurely walked to the kitchen and put the kettle on, glanced at the clock and ran back to get my tablet, it was 7.10am. Sadler had just passed the mark and over shot by a couple of jumps.

A lucky break and lesson learnt, always set a safety DC...

Now the true battle of the boats began. Just leaning into the stronger breeze, not to far, getting it just right is the trick, also thinking about the wind strength and direction at the time of arrival to the next mark.

The local Aussie boats looked good taking up the top 3 spots and Rafa close by but Sadler and Bimmer were in a good position with a knot or so more wind.

By the time Indian head was reached Bimmer had a good .25 nm lead and Sadler had slipped into second. Quite a straight forward leg to Breaksea Spit Light and no change. Rounding Breaksea Bimmer held off the mark probably on DC's, unfortunately for Bimmer this opened the door for Sadler to slip into the lead.

One gybe and passed Lady Elliot Island at 2.15am. Safe sleep with just 1 slight course change in 4 hours set as a DC. Up at 8 am and a fierce battle going on with Bimmer and Dingo. I was in 3rd but a good angle to the finish knowing Sadler had the win.

It was great to race alongside the real yachts very close to us. B52 and a few others were right alongside the whole race.

The best buddy up race I have been in I think.

Excellent racing, well done Bimmer Dingo & all finishers.

Nige.

Sadlersailing.