

Race Report – 40' Championship Series Race 4

Auckland – Gisbourne

The race started off with an upwind beat to Cape Colville. Heading north on starboard tack looked to be the favorable direction. Luckily the timing of the start was at 9pm for me, so I was able to focus of the start. My thoughts were that if I could be the first Farr 400 to the Cape Colville rounding I would have a great chance at winning this race, as the rest of the race was reaching and downwind. So I was very aggressive in the first 2 hours, taking starboard tack as far as I could until I reached a good port layline to Cape Colville. I landed a good port layline, and rounded Cape Colville first. That is when things got intense.

Knockanddo60 (recent SWR leg winner and No. 1 ranked on SOL) is a mere one tenth nm behind me. I was confident I could hold him off, but I was very nervous as well. We sailed the rest of the course never being farther than half a mile apart. The 3rd place boat was enough behind us that my focus became solely on covering knockanddo60. My lead stayed relatively the same. The last big course change was a gybe to Tuahine Point. I felt I did not want to be reactionary here, so I did not wait for knockanddo60 to gybe. I was confident I had hit my layline, and went for it. Knockanddo60 gybed within a minute after me. At this point I knew if I could get around Tuahine Point without a mess up I would win this race, and thus I succeeded.

Thank you for the great match race knockanddo60. Your excellent sailing kept me focused the entire race, and led me to my first ever SOL win!

Congrats to all the podium finishers of each class!

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