

2018 40' Series Championship Race 4 - Auckland to Gisborne

Let's start with a look on the past editions of this race, #2 in all, where the first raced, wasn't yet part of the SOL 40' Series.

Auckland to Gisborne 2015							
Race #887							
				Start Time (UTC)		Time	
				25-11-2015 20:00			
Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	LOG	Finish Time (UTC)	Days	Hrs
1	kenza	First 44.7	0	291.1	27-11-15 9:59	1,583	37,99
2	bonknhoot	First 44.7	0	290.8	27-11-15 10:00	1,584	38,01
3	longreacher	First 44.7	0	290.8	27-11-15 10:01	1,584	38,02
4	bmd	First 44.7	0	291.2	27-11-15 10:01	1,584	38,02
5	Kipper1258	First 44.7	0	291.3	27-11-15 10:02	1,585	38,03
6	DIKKEHENK	First 44.7	0	291.5	27-11-15 10:02	1,585	38,04
7	Lou	First 44.7	0	291.4	27-11-15 10:04	1,586	38,07
8	rafa	First 44.7	0	291.8	27-11-15 10:04	1,587	38,08
9	2by4	First 44.7	0	293.4	27-11-15 10:06	1,588	38,11
10	rumskib	First 44.7	0	291.3	27-11-15 10:07	1,589	38,12
11	RICOTINA	First 44.7	0	290.0	27-11-15 10:08	1,589	38,14
12	HappyHour	First 44.7	0	290.2	27-11-15 10:09	1,590	38,16
13	Tyger	First 44.7	0	293.6	27-11-15 10:09	1,590	38,16
14	Trampantojo	First 44.7	0	290.3	27-11-15 10:19	1,597	38,32
15	buncha	First 44.7	0	292.7	27-11-15 10:19	1,597	38,33
16	Bluesy	First 44.7	0	293.5	27-11-15 10:23	1,599	38,39
17	Guadalete	First 44.7	0	290.2	27-11-15 10:24	1,601	38,41
18	K3	First 44.7	0	291.9	27-11-15 10:29	1,604	38,50
19	psail	First 44.7	0	289.2	27-11-15 10:32	1,606	38,54
20	Saint_Lucia	First 44.7	0	293.1	27-11-15 10:34	1,607	38,57
2017 40' Series Championship Q1&Q2 Auckland to Gisborne							
Race # 1039							
				Start Time (UTC)		Time	
				08-04-2017 02:00			
Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	LOG	Finish Time (UTC)	Days	Hrs
1	bonknhoot	Ker 40	0	318.7	09-04-2017 18:03	1,669	40,06
2	Olubalou	Ker 40	0	317.7	09-04-2017 18:06	1,671	40,12
3	Robert1	Ker 40	0	322.6	09-04-2017 18:31	1,688	40,52
4	Wolff	Ker 40	0	316.8	09-04-2017 18:35	1,691	40,59
5	rumskib	Class 40	0	314.3	09-04-2017 18:43	1,697	40,73
6	Mirilonde	Class 40	0	312.7	09-04-2017 18:46	1,699	40,78
7	Knockando60	Ker 40	0	321.8	09-04-2017 18:54	1,705	40,91
8	GREATSKUA	Ker 40	0	324.2	09-04-2017 18:59	1,708	40,99
9	nut15	Class 40	0	317.5	09-04-2017 19:05	1,712	41,09
10	fastpassage39	Ker 40	0	320.7	09-04-2017 19:06	1,713	41,10
11	psail	Class 40	0	314.5	09-04-2017 19:08	1,714	41,13
12	New565	Class 40	0	320.7	09-04-2017 19:10	1,715	41,17
13	Bimmer	Class 40	0	316.3	09-04-2017 19:18	1,721	41,30
14	Mouthansar	Class 40	0	312.9	09-04-2017 19:23	1,725	41,40
15	Tyger	Class 40	0	317.0	09-04-2017 19:25	1,726	41,43
16	Smo	Class 40	0	315.0	09-04-2017 19:33	1,732	41,56
17	lavakeda	SOTO 40	0	320.2	09-04-2017 19:38	1,735	41,64
18	SimeMali	SOTO 40	0	319.3	09-04-2017 19:42	1,738	41,70
19	rafa	SOTO 40	0	319.2	09-04-2017 19:45	1,740	41,76
20	Kipper1258	SOTO 40	0	317.6	09-04-2017 20:02	1,752	42,04
2018 40' Series Championship Q1&Q2 Auckland to Gisborne							
Race # 1141							
				Start Time (UTC)		Time	
				27-04-2018 02:00			
Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	LOG	Finish Time (UTC)	Days	Hrs
1	EastCall276	Farr 400	0	0	27-04-2018 23:57	0,915	21,95
2	Knockando60	Farr 400	0	0	27-04-2018 23:57	0,915	21,96
3	psail	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 00:05	0,921	22,10
4	buncha	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 00:07	0,922	22,12
5	New565	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 00:07	0,922	22,12
6	JoeB	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 00:07	0,922	22,12
7	intermezzo	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 00:10	0,924	22,17
8	Farrar	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 00:25	0,935	22,43
9	RideTheWind99	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 00:39	0,944	22,66
10	Careka	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 00:47	0,950	22,79
11	RainbowChaser	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 01:19	0,972	23,32
12	Kipper1258	Ker 40	0	0	28-04-2018 04:30	1,105	26,52
13	rafa	Ker 40	0	0	28-04-2018 04:32	1,106	26,54
14	rangipani	Ker 40	0	0	28-04-2018 04:34	1,107	26,57
15	Beliberda	Ker 40	0	0	28-04-2018 04:37	1,109	26,63
16	Smo	Ker 40	0	0	28-04-2018 04:42	1,113	26,70
17	LittleSurprise	Ker 40	0	0	28-04-2018 04:47	1,116	26,79
18	Trampantojo	Ker 40	0	0	28-04-2018 04:50	1,118	26,83
19	Captjack1942	Ker 40	0	0	28-04-2018 05:00	1,126	27,02
20	Kaltak	Farr 400	0	0	28-04-2018 05:23	1,141	27,38

Some facts can be extracted from the 3 race editions:

- In April.2017 New Zealand *Eolus* went on holidays. Even with the availability of the fast Ker 40, it was even slower than the previous race edition (in 2015), raced on OD mode with the First 44.7 and won by Viktor of **Kenza** fame;
- One year and some days after - the present 40' race - we had the fastest of all three - almost 34 % faster than previous one, just compare the overall time of the first Ker 40 this year, **Kipper1258**, with the time of the 2017 edition honorable winner, *in casu*, Jan from **bonknhoot**.
- Again, the Farr 400 boats evaporated the remaining fleet times. Something that's consolidating, particularly in races where you have a longer cumulus of downwind legs, which was/is the case in the Auckland-Gisborne SOL course;
- Comparing the times between the first Far 400 and winner **LastCal276** with the first non-Far, Andrew's Ker 40 **Kipper 1258**, we conclude that in actual race conditions, the Far is 17 % faster than the Ker;
- Using an average distance made from the previous editions winners $(318,7 \text{ nm} + 291,1 \text{ nm}) \div 2 = 304,9 \text{ nm}$, we see the Far 400 gets roughly 0,90 minutes per sailed nm against the Ker, so, the longer the downwind leg the greater will be the final time difference. Simple and no less faster;
- Two ways to avoid this chronic leaderboard bias (for the Farr 400). The first solution, the fairer IMHO as it applies from dead slow to ultra-faster boats, is by means of corrected times, alias, something already suggested by several SOLers, me included. The second solution can be achieved bringing inside the Series new 40' boats that can level the actual sailing differences. Also suggested, as we have a Carkeek 40 parked in the SOL boatyard (when it comes the time to put her on sails she'll have to go on an overall paint job).

The race.

This year we had essentially four wind legs.

Start upwind till Cape Coolville, ease the sheets for a long curve till White Island rounding, "touching" before the SW tip of the Great Mercury Island and sail inside more WP in the East side of the rhumb line. Rounding White for the second upwind leg with a right shift wind while losing pressure before reaching near Otarawhat Island and last, a smaller and quicker pure downwind leg till the FL in Gisborne after rounding East Island.

While the gun was fired in Auckland at 02:00 hrs UTC, I was nicely resting in my bunk confident with the previous routed DC's from the 22:30 hrs UTC WF.

We had two options for leaving Auckland SL.

A conservative one which would put us tacking between Motutapu and Motuihe Islands and further up till reaching an "horizontal" layline to make the North of Fletcher Bay, or to leave the SL on Starboard till two tacking points around Shakespear Regional Park land tip.

The last option was a little more risky (lengthy tacks more exposed to eventual wind shifts or to a more dramatic 04:30 hrs UTC WF change), with less LP (=less tacks) but proved to be the correct one and the result was **psail** went for the downwind leg in Colville even behind some non-Far boats (if I recall right around #10 position just after being crossed in the bow by **RainbowChaser** - yes, she sailed again superbly this upwind leg and was then comfortable in front of **psail**).

Rounding Colville early in the morning was easy and allowed me to use the previous 04:30 hrs UTC WF to make a partial route till White Island. By then I was around #8 - #9 and the remaining non-Ker boats not very far. Again, speed outside the rhumb line...ruled.

Before the second upwind leg the remaining boat fleet was out of sight well behind, This leg was also an easy one and to me the right option was to sail it a little above VMG,Up and tack 8,50 nm before the coast to get again inside better WP to North, avoid an extra tack in poorer wind near the Coast. It paid with one more position on the leaderboard.

Last leg, after rounding East Island, **psail** was in #4 smelling **hew565**.

A quick walk on the previous routing confirmed the correct option: go a little offshore for an increasing WP and compensate it with the right wind shift plus with extra speed. The majority of near followers went for the "shortcut" sailing inside VMG,Down near land.

Initially sailing lower gave the (false) impression that was the faster way to touch the FL. No, it wasn't and allowed **psail** to gain the final podium position to **buncha**.

Brass again.

For the Series I'm now on #2 but still with a couple of brand new Sotos to sail in and a spare Far and Ker.

Next races will be very interesting on skippers' boat choices.

Congratulations to all Class podiums.

Cheers all!

João / **psail**
28.April.2018