Just before the finish line, when he was sure that I had won the race (I was not) BONK said he would like to read my race report .....therefore I consider it "a must".

This is the format I would like to present it in this time:

## **BEFORE**

Mumble....mumble.....still in SOL-sabbatical time ....BUT ...Sprint is short and quick .....Previous two Sprints of Q3 did quite well ... (9th and 5<sup>th</sup>).....why not ????......Besides ...true that there is no wind and it could be longer than wanted .....BUT .....In low pressures and with bumpy polar ...maybe ...may be ....may be ....may

Only big problem: I have made up an habit to feel sleepy at 2200, and this race will go till my 0200 .....shall I still be able to be that young WIN that THEY remember and know (the sleepless man with Italian coffee) ????? ....big doubts there ......but let's give it a try in good spirit ....!!

## **DURING**

Immediately after the start my concerns were confirmed ...Strong competitors were present in both packs ...N and S .... Will see ....In the meantime it seems that only a few boats are dealing correctly with the VMC run to the tack, and therefore I should end up doing quite well in this pack ......

Tacking !!!! ...at the right moment to land on the first cape ......rafa continues S for long time ....something wrong with me? ...rafa is rafa ...... It turned out that his move was wrong , but in a sense was a different option , and rafa ended up fighting up front till the end ( confirming that rafa is rafa ) ......

All straight now till the decreasing wind and the light shift in twa on lower bump and then HOP on faster bump in the direction of the finish line. In the short in distance but long in time leg I found myself in the middle between a slightly northerly pack of boats dealing with the hop in a conservative way , but condemned to pinch too much in the last phase of the race ....and BONK , south of me , who did same maneuvering with the HOP , but stayed upwind, in fresher air and most likely to go for the S pin ( nearer ) ......My SOL Master always told me that in the middle is no good ( unlike IRL ) and during this lengthy approach I did not feel confident at all .......

When we were some 6 miles to the finish (two hours) I became confident that the N pack was beaten (both the one on the N side of the island and the one N of me) .....BUT ...I was waiting for BONK to come down at full speed on me and eating quickly the 17 cents I had gained that far .....

He did not ....and only when we were almost there he confessed that he never thought to foot fast , because it seemed logic to head for the closest pin. Nobody will ever know if he could make it setting the accelerator during the last hour or so .......At the end it was an excellent feeling to get another victory at SOL after so many months of almost inactivity.

## **AFTER**

In spite of my previous worries to sleep on the keyboard, when the race finished at 0205 AM, and I dashed
to bed could not sleep immediatelythe adrenaline served on a silver plate until then played its
roleand I said to myself:

" MAYBE ......I AM .....YOUNG AGAIN !!! " ......;)))))))))))))))))))))

Ciao ALL!! .....WIN

Milan, 26/08/2018