

## **Raja Muda Selangor International 2018.**

### **Seat of the P or of the Qt?**

**This should have been a Saturday night with a delicious dinner and a wonderful night with my girlfriend. The dinner I made WAS delicious, cod, shrimp and all things wonderful. Then the call came. Her mother had been hospitalized, again, 200 kilometers from where I live. There was no option. She had to leave to take care of her family. I've not been properly introduced yet, so I had to stay behind with nothing to console me but the Raja Muda Selangor International 2018.**

**At the P flag, an hour before the start, I started deliberating the race course and the most favourable route. The wind was Southerly and we were going North. I tracked the wind back and forth over the approximate length of the race observing that the longer the race progressed, the more the wind would die. The best wind was out West, so I decided to go West as soon as possible after the gun. Up North, about 9 Nm before the finish, there would be a passage under land lasting about an hour with 3.5 knots of wind. Around it, the wind would be less than 1.5 knots. Consequently, it would be expedient to be there by 06:30 UTC, Sunday. I positioned a QtVIm mark up there, but whether it was at all possible to reach the passage would depend on the WX.**

**I studied the upwind and downwind VMG at various wind speeds and, after that, only had the performance loss to worry about.**

**Then came the start. I had to make a decision between starting on port tack to reach the best wind, gybing twice and sucking up two performance losses. The other route was starboard, with weaker wind but only one gybe. I decided the latter was an OK solution and chose it.**

**Wolff started well at max. VMG and soon gybed to max. VMG on port tack to pass very close to the island to port of the start line. Unfortunately, my gybe was a bit premature. I had to go for 12 minutes at 3.4 degrees lower than max. VMG downwind before I could change my course and avoid a BBQ.**

**Off West we went then, gritted teeth, toe cramps, coffee and the occasional phone conversation with my girlfriend to keep her awake on the road after our splendid dinner.**

**I was at max. VMG for 16.5 Nm to reach the stronger wind that I would utilize for the leg North. Now, however, the big question: When to gybe? I tried to route the course on QtVIm, but all it did was lead me into weaker wind too early. I killed the router and sailed on my own devices looking at where and what the wind wanted to do and where it might help me. Then, the gybe and going North in good wind and at speed.**

**Meanwhile, my girlfriend had arrived at the hospital to oversee the efforts to save her Mum. I so wished I could have been there with her.**

**Once again I tried routing. This time it looked rather commonsensical, so I established my DC's to take a little break. Further up North the wind would shift from Southeast to Southwest. A while before the windshift, I cancelled all my DC's and sailed Wolff through the changeover by hand. This is where I met Bonknoot, with whom I would have an exhilarating race later on.**

**After the gybe, on we went in a Northerly direction at a screaming 1.5 knots of speed. The passage I had seen before the start - 9 Nm before the finish - was still there and, once there, the wind did not disappoint. Wolff was now in first place.**

**Another QtVIm routing looked sensible and afforded a one-hour nap. When I woke up, Bonknoot had passed me, but he was closer to land and the wind was moving Northwest. It was difficult to maintain speed aiming at the finish line, so I aimed towards Bonknoot's future track. There was a slight depression in the polar diagram that I could use to my advantage. Bonknoot, Rafa and Kipper were closer to land in all kinds of adversity and had to come out towards me in more of a headwind. This is where The Bonk had to let go of first place to Wolff. Rafa and Kipper also had to stretch arms as everything was about keeping the boat at max. payoff on the polar towards the finish.**

**Precariously established in first place, the remainder was finding the wind and utilizing the polar to advantage to keep Bonknoot behind Wolff. Successful at the finish, Wolff FINALLY prevailed over Bonknoot by nine seconds.**

**After three years of SOL, this was Wolff's first win.**

**My girlfriend's mother is now stable after a second blood clot.**

**Wolff/Kim**

**Lessons Learned in Raja Muda Selangor:**

- 1. Always question QtVml**
- 2. Trust QtVml only if you question your instincts**
- 3. Override VMG to avoid performance loss**
- 4. Rafa, Kipper and Bonknoot are not invincible**
- 5. Floss your teeth**
- 6. Relax your feet**
- 7. Feed your significant other well. You'll never know what happens next**
- 8. Run a logbook. You may win and feel compelled to write a report**