Report on Shackleton Challenge 2018 - Leg 4

Let me begin with the fact that I am very happy that I won the race. I celebrated this fact with a glass of good drink.

I was wondering whether to write a report but today I received an email from RainbowChaser (thank you) and it is not right to refuse.

As Wolff (greetings) wrote in his report with "Raja Muda …" he waited three years for his first victory, but it finally came. I started my adventure with SOL only in March 2018 thanks to a virtual cruise (hence my WR) run by recognized in Poland specialists in sailing, meteorology, law and safety at sea and electronic navigation. I wanted to test my knowledge and skills in this area and be assessed by specialists despite my sailing qualifications.

As part of this course, there was also a race through the Bay of Biscay in which I took the 14th place but the first in my group of course participants. I completed the course as the best in this edition and I was even offered the instructor function in the next editions. It's nice.

I am a Zodiacal Aries and the victory I have in my blood, unfortunately sometimes not counting with victims (family). If we add that in the past, I practised sport competitively, the mixture is explosive.

So much about myself. Maybe after another victory, I will write something else. Wolff / Kim I completely agree with your points.

1. Always question QtVml

2. Trust QtVml only if you question your instincts

3. Override VMG is an 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

Returning to the main topic.

I have often wondered what kind of race is more difficult?

Simple theoretically from start to finish, like this "Shackleton leg 4" or the example "Gray Whale Migration Autumn 2018" Each of them has its own specificity, that's something. However, this straight line gives a smaller error field and the distances between the yachts are very small at all times and decide the time to make a decision and almost a second of the course.

I had moments of doubt, but BONKNHOOD gave me the strength on the chat with a simple message "outlaw is v dangerous, WR. But hold your course" what I did. Thanks to BONK and best regards.

This concerned to "OUTLAW" position, which chose a radically different route and went very well.

Maybe I'll start again from the beginning.

I planned to win the race many times and many times after losing I wanted to not start again.

Something always bothered. I got up too late to correct the course on the new WX or WX went not in that direction I expect or passed a not predicted BBQ, etc.

This time I decided that it will be the last attempt.

The start was ok as I predicted. At 2225 I picked up WX and planned a further route. There were not many choices. Intuitive tuning of what showed QT and sleeping. Morning tragedy. The server is not responding and there is no control over the yacht, no communication and no one knows anything. Fortunately, this time I set DC until 1200 UTC the next day and I hoped it would work. I was also seriously thinking about whether the organizers should not restart the race. On the other hand, everyone had the same problem and I did not know the site's ability to repair the race.

It was a small horror in this race.

After the server resumed work it turned out that it was not bad and after a while, I was in the first place. This obviously means nothing but in the case of a straight race gives a certain picture especially as the parameters of recognized competitors were similar. For a moment, I adjusted my course so that the distance shown to the head (KIPPER, OUTLAW) did not decrease, but I allowed my intuition and QT calculations to be heard. After repeated checking of routing and manual tuning, I decided to trust my calculations. I was very stressed that KIPPER and OUTLAW were in front of me many times. Especially KIPPER once on Starboard once in Port. But CPA control showed that after each change, I will be minimally the first. The situation seemed to be stable but ...

The end of the cruise required a sophisticated approach to the finish line. I was afraid of it like hell. I did not want to make a mistake. BONK encouraged me. I wrote on the forum that the last two weather forecasts will be of strategic importance. I analyzed the trends of changes through the last forecasts, although it is always a lottery and the decision was made. Nothing more I could do just wait for the result. Once again KIPPER moved on the lead and OUTLAW returned to the top of the stake as predicted. Analyzing the wind and the previous KIPPER games, I knew that this time it will lose. His position was a bit worse and as the finish approached the distance was increasing from 0.03 to 0.12. I stayed in suspense until the very end because I remember the race I lost with KIPPER by 2 seconds.

Here the differences were very small among all. I did not have such comfort as BATSEBA in the "Gray Whale Migration Autumn 2018" race.

Sometimes I wonder if KIPPER is a human or a computer? But you can also win with the computer. Fight and do not give up. Everyone can win. There are many factors that decide about many of them that are unchangeable. But your time will come. I wonder how much I will wait for the next victory.

I greet everyone very warmly. I feel like in a big friendly family. And this is even more important than this win.

WRmirekd / November 2018