

Hi friends!

Today it will be short because I have not so much time and I do not remember how it was in the first stage from Sydney to Hobart.

Sydney Hobart is probably one of the most famous races in the world and particularly important for Australian sailors. Many of them compete in our SOL races. That's why I thought it would be nice to make a little fuss, because what in fact do Australians know about real sailing (and real ale; ed.) anyway! ;-)))

And we started.

The start was correct and it looked very promising until the terrible weather forecast, or rather its revision introduced without warning.

I set DC according to WX from 2230, late 20 minutes and went to sleep. Around 0300 it turned out that the WX patch appeared and I sailed for a few hours on the wrong settings.

Something like that should not happen.

Thus bonknhoot, SimeMali, limesinferior and Dingo jumped on the head of the race. This situation has already remained until the end of the race. There is nothing to shed tears. Congratulations Ireland, Croatia and Poland. In 5th place, I managed to divide at least two Australians, Dingo (4) and Kipper (6) who probably had the same problem after the unexpected change in the forecast as I did.

The second stage from Hobart to Sydney was going to be very interesting especially that our Danish friends did not come off very well in the first stage. They will want to attack hard.

The beginning was quite simple and successful, and literally, the details decided about places on Cape Raoul and Tasman Island.

I was aware that the moment of the first turn behind the Tasman Island would be decisive and here I made a minor mistake, losing a position mainly for Kipper.

Horror came on again on January 3, WX at 2230 did not show up and I was afraid of the first-stage replay. Fortunately, bonknhoot confirmed Kipper's request there will be no corrections in the forecast until the next planned WX. I breathed a sigh of relief and went to sleep to remain vigilant in the finish.

In practice until the very end, that is about 50 Nm before the finish, it was difficult to estimate the order in the finish. Of course Kipper was out of our range. It was more and more apparent, however, that the Danish team supported by bonknhoot chose the finish at the B part of the finish line, which according to my previous calculations gave a loss. This was confirmed by Kipper in a message to bonknhoot. Rafa was sailing so close behind my back that I did not know if he does not overtake me using any trick.

Finally, after finishing in the second place behind Kipper, I could admire the fascinating battle between Rafa and Skovser. It seemed that at the last moment Skovser would jump into 3rd place.

As bonknhoot had already counted, I had the same number of points with Kipper. $1 + 6$ and $2 + 5$.

I do not know the conversion rates and rules that gave the Kipper victory. But I would like to congratulate him because he proudly represented Australia and this place is fully deserved to him.

Greetings to all and see you in the next race.

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