

Thank you all for participating in the Colin-Archer race! It was definitely a most exciting one.

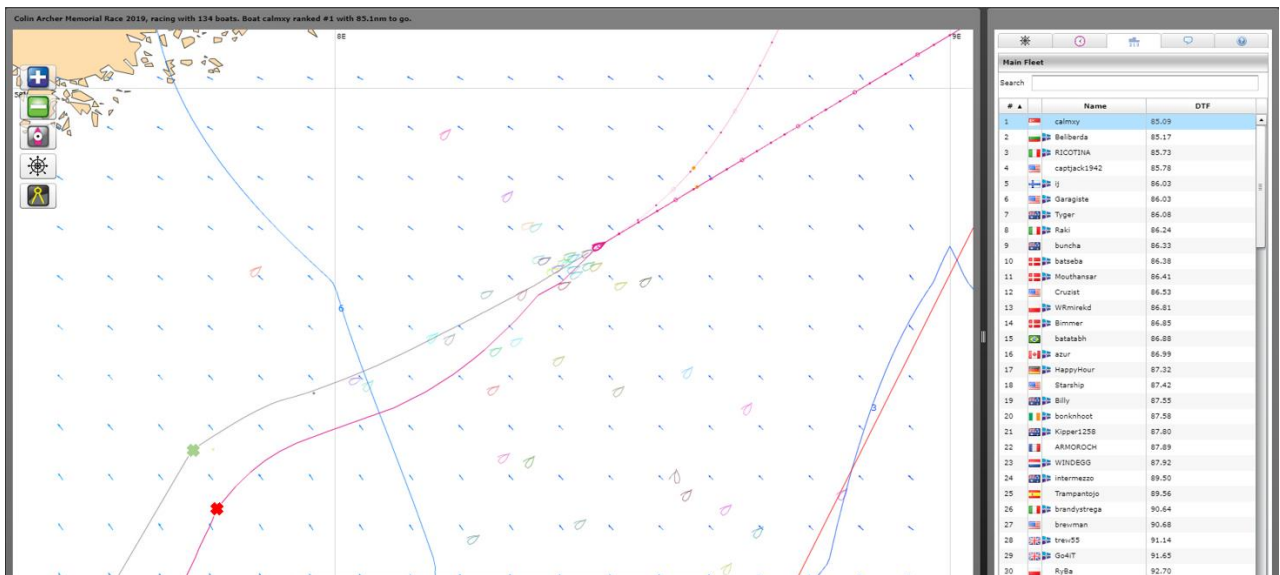
The part of the race leading up to the EF/B buoy was more "structured" in that the marks to be rounded meant that there was less leeway in what could be the best possible route. Apart from the few who missed those marks, this was relatively straightforward.

Compared to the part before EF/B buoy, the rest of the race was "open-ended" as once that mark was rounded, any route could be taken to the finish. This opens the possibility of many possible viable routes that may be equally fast. Two main groups of boats emerged: one which went along the straight line (to minimise distance travelled) and one which went in a more northern direction (to get faster and more favourable winds). I was among the few boats that travelled on a route somewhere in between the two main routes. The image below shows the leaderboard at different time intervals between EF/B Buoy and the finish.

8 May, 9.30pm					9 May, 4.30am					9 May, 1.30pm				
Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	DBL	Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	DBL	Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	DBL
1	bonknhoot	Farr 38	266.0	0	1	bonknhoot	Farr 38	142.7	0	1	Beliberda	Farr 38	95.9	0
2	ij	Farr 38	266.1	0.0	2	Tyger	Farr 38	143.0	0.3	2	RICOTINA	Farr 38	96.2	0.3
3	Mouthansar	Farr 38	266.2	0.1	3	Beliberda	Farr 38	143.1	0.4	3	calmxy	Farr 38	96.2	0.4
4	WRmirekd	Farr 38	266.3	0.3	4	Mouthansar	Farr 38	143.2	0.5	4	ij	Farr 38	96.6	0.7
5	Tyger	Farr 38	266.3	0.3	5	WRmirekd	Farr 38	143.3	0.6	5	Mouthansar	Farr 38	96.7	0.8
6	Billy	Farr 38	266.4	0.3	6	ij	Farr 38	143.3	0.6	6	batseba	Farr 38	96.8	0.9
7	Kipper1258	Farr 38	266.4	0.3	7	Trampantojo	Farr 38	143.4	0.7	7	Raki	Farr 38	96.9	1.0
8	RICOTINA	Farr 38	266.6	0.5	8	RICOTINA	Farr 38	143.6	1.0	8	Tyger	Farr 38	97.0	1.1
9	batseba	Farr 38	266.8	0.7	9	Frangipani	Farr 38	143.7	1.0	9	WRmirekd	Farr 38	97.1	1.2
10	Beliberda	Farr 38	266.8	0.7	10	calmxy	Farr 38	143.8	1.1	10	bonknhoot	Farr 38	97.1	1.3
11	calmxy	Farr 38	267.0	0.9	11	Raki	Farr 38	143.9	1.1	11	Bimmer	Farr 38	97.2	1.3
12	Bimmer	Farr 38	267.1	1.0	12	ARMOROCH	Farr 38	143.9	1.1	12	WINDEGG	Farr 38	97.2	1.3
13	Starship	Farr 38	267.2	1.1	13	Garagiste	Farr 38	143.9	1.2	13	batatabh	Farr 38	97.4	1.5
14	captjack1942	Farr 38	267.2	1.1	14	captjack1942	Farr 38	143.9	1.2	14	buncha	Farr 38	97.5	1.6
15	LittleSurprise	Farr 38	267.3	1.2	15	Starship	Farr 38	144.0	1.2	15	azur	Farr 38	97.6	1.7
16	Raki	Farr 38	267.4	1.3	16	Bimmer	Farr 38	144.0	1.3	16	Garagiste	Farr 38	97.6	1.7
17	Garagiste	Farr 38	267.4	1.4	17	batseba	Farr 38	144.0	1.3	17	captjack1942	Farr 38	97.7	1.8
18	Trampantojo	Farr 38	267.6	1.5	18	Billy	Farr 38	144.2	1.5	18	Starship	Farr 38	97.7	1.9
19	HappyHour	Farr 38	267.7	1.6	19	brewman	Farr 38	144.4	1.7	19	HappyHour	Farr 38	97.8	1.9
20	azur	Farr 38	268.0	1.9	20	Kipper1258	Farr 38	144.4	1.7	20	Trampantojo	Farr 38	97.8	1.9
21	batatabh	Farr 38	268.1	2.0	21	WINDEGG	Farr 38	144.8	2.1	21	Cruzist	Farr 38	97.8	1.9
22	Cruzist	Farr 38	268.1	2.0	22	Hythem	Farr 38	144.8	2.1	22	Billy	Farr 38	97.9	2.0
23	buncha	Farr 38	268.1	2.1	23	HappyHour	Farr 38	144.9	2.2	23	ARMOROCH	Farr 38	98.1	2.2
24	Frangipani	Farr 38	268.2	2.1	24	azur	Farr 38	145.0	2.3	24	Kipper1258	Farr 38	98.2	2.3
25	WINDEGG	Farr 38	268.5	2.5	25	batatabh	Farr 38	145.4	2.7	25	Hythem	Farr 38	98.7	2.8

All times in UTC; Trampantojo's represents the approximate straight-line route from EF/B Buoy and the finish.

It was the 10.30am Wx update on 9 May that caused the results to change significantly. Before that, it seemed like going in the middle was a worse choice than following either of the main routes, as there was a seemingly unavoidable patch of weak winds that would have to be navigated through. But with the change in Wx, this shifted the advantage from Bimmer's group to me and Beliberda.



My route vs Ricotina's route as of 3.30pm, 9 May. The crosses indicate approximate positions just before the Wx update at 10.30am, 9 May.

This unexpected twist in events meant that instead of losing places, I had found myself in the lead! This was the first time that I was leading a fleet race and quite possibly also true for Singapore as a whole (on Sailonline). It was a surreal experience that, having finished around 20th in previous races, that I was ahead of the "big names" like Mirek and Bimmer. I believe that it would have been possible to carry that win all the way to the finish, if I hadn't been so nervous to keep adjusting the boat's course.

It is very important to pay attention to the Wx especially when it gets updated and also (to an extent) what the other boats are doing, so that you can react quickly and be able to maximize the advantage gained from that. RainbowChaser did say to "never lose hope" in an earlier race when I had slipped quite far behind the leader as I had made a poor decision at the beginning of that race. However, this is the first time that I fully believed in that, possibly because I had finally managed to capitalize on the opportunity.

calmxy / May 2019.