

# Pantaenius Shetland Race 2019 – Leg1 i 2 Report

Hello friends!

As probably most of you already know I am currently busy with the last preparations for the IRL cruise from Iceland (Reykjavik) through the Faroe Islands and Shetland Islands to Bergen in Norway.

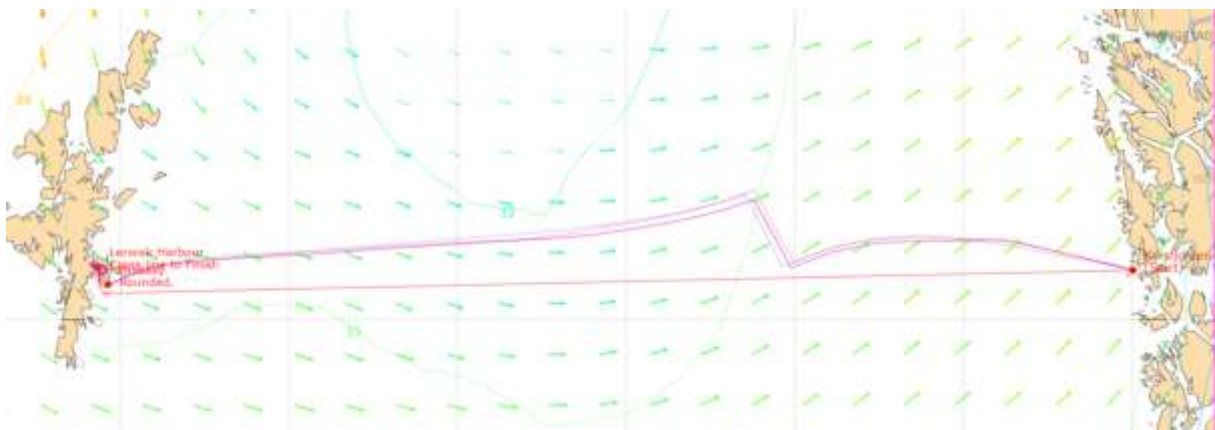
When I saw that Pantaenius Shetland Race 2019 was planned - Leg1, of course, I could not refuse to participate in it. The more that the yacht s/y VINDEREL which I will lead, sailed with my friend as a skipper from Bergen to Shetland and then to Iceland on June 25, the day before our start on race. On 9 July in Reykjavik, I will change my friend and board new crew and then we will go back to Bergen.

I am leaving home on July 7 in the morning (of course by plane) and in the afternoon I plan to enjoy the warm baths in the "Blue Lagoon".

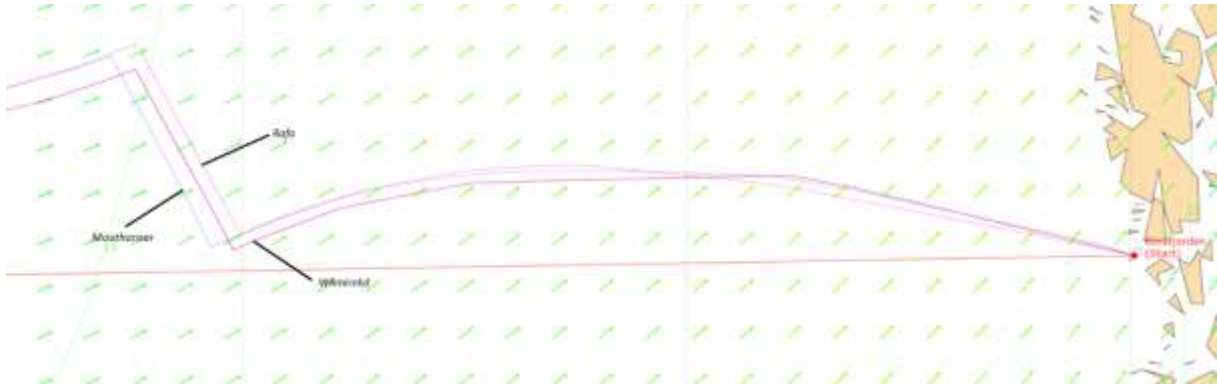
But let's get back to our races.

## Leg 1:

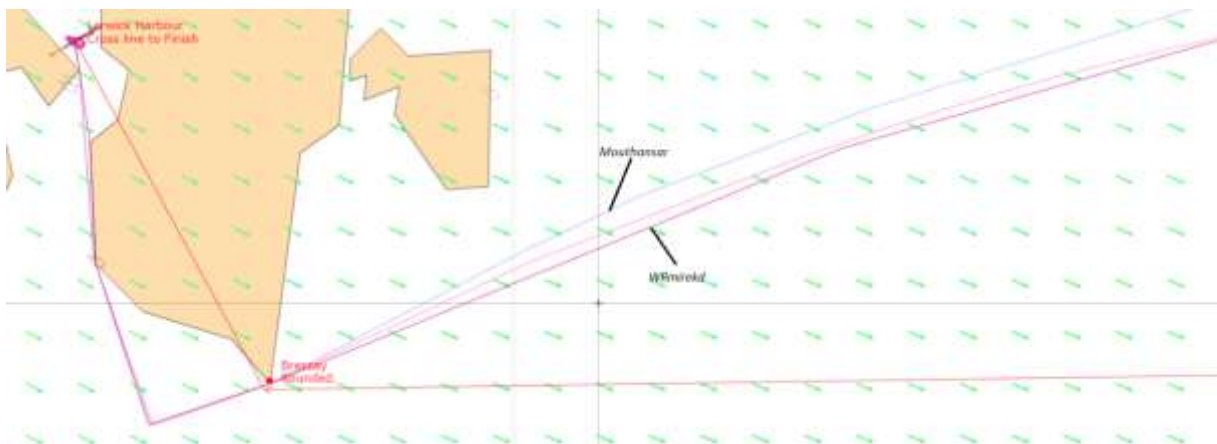
The route from both races (leg1 and leg2) except for the short approach and the exit from Lerwick was simple and did not require precise manual navigation.



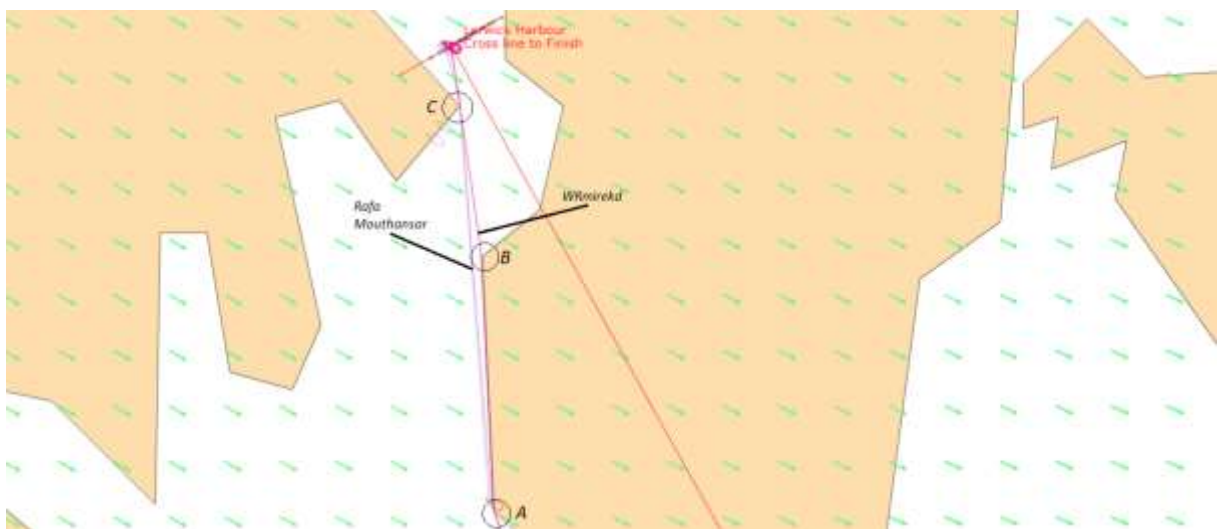
The barometric situation and WX changes did not give much room for manoeuvre. In practice, the first 10 boats sailed along a route similar to the one shown above, doing two returns before "Bard Head" (Bressay).



The choice of the place and time of performing these returns was of great importance for the final result of the race. I should go here more north as Rafa and Mouthansar did. I already knew that Rafa escaped me forever, though a glimmer of hope was still smouldering in me. After all, you can always run aground at Bard Head ☺. As for my second position, as it turned out, I was rightly disturbed by the height of Mouthansar.



Immediately after or little before passing Brassay, I lost my second position and Mouthansar slightly jumped forward. Because I expected such a situation, I analyzed the last 4Nm very carefully between "Bard Head" and the finish line. It was the last chance and a tiny spark of hope to regain the second place.

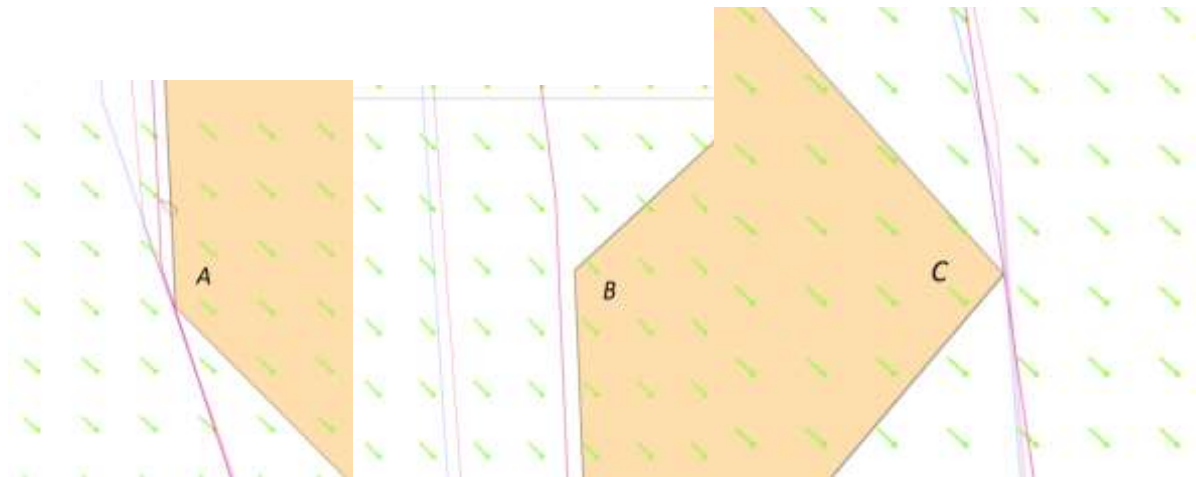


At this point, Rafa helped me unconsciously. Having enough advantage over us, he did not play in the details. He chose a simple course from point A to C and a small patch is to port from C to the finish line (in his case it is completely unnecessary).

Probably Mouthansar thought that Rafa had chosen the best possible route and sailed exactly the same. But the truth turned out to be different.

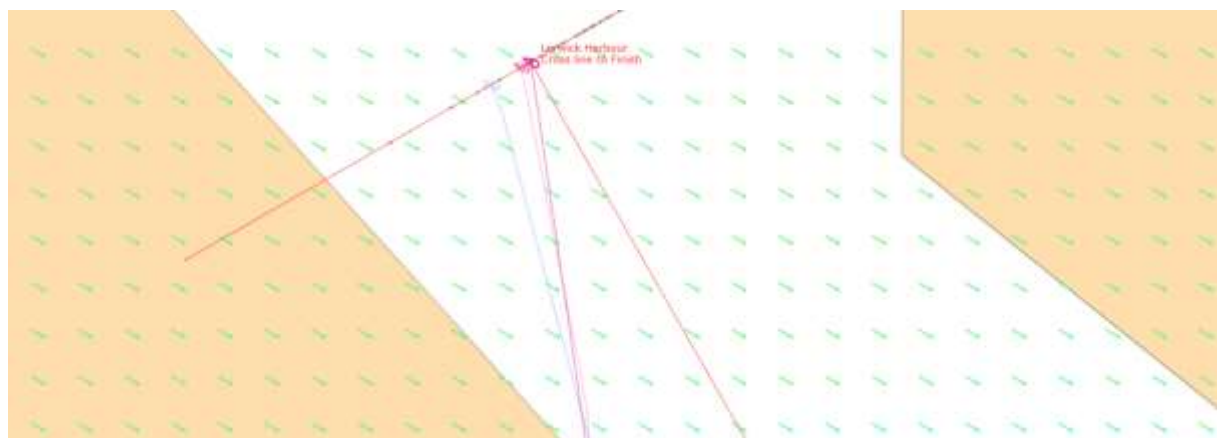
And because "Sinking razor is catching" and I had nothing to lose, I decided to check my plan. From point A to B near the shore and then straight to the finish line.

The plan worked and I saw Mouthansar change course more to the port after point C to reduce the distance to the finish line at the expense of losing speed. Since I miscalculated this manoeuvre earlier, I was very happy. Eventually I regained my second position and I was 4s ahead of Mouthansar at the finishing line. Rafa finished 28s calmly ahead of me.



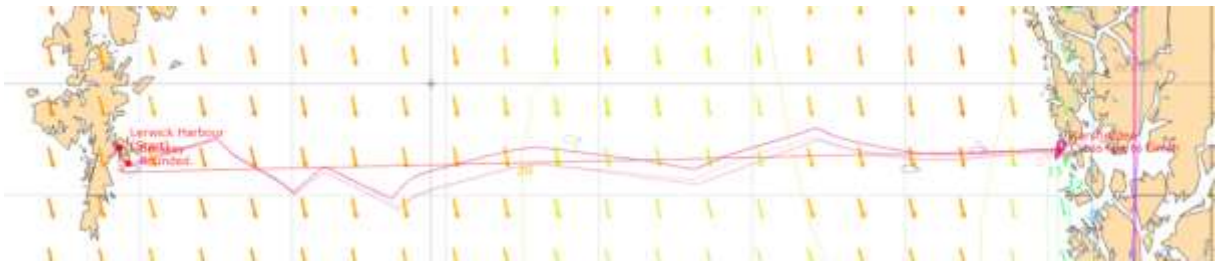
In this way, an easy race transformed for me in to a full of emotions with nerves strained to the limit.

Mouthansar, thank you for these wonderful emotions !!!



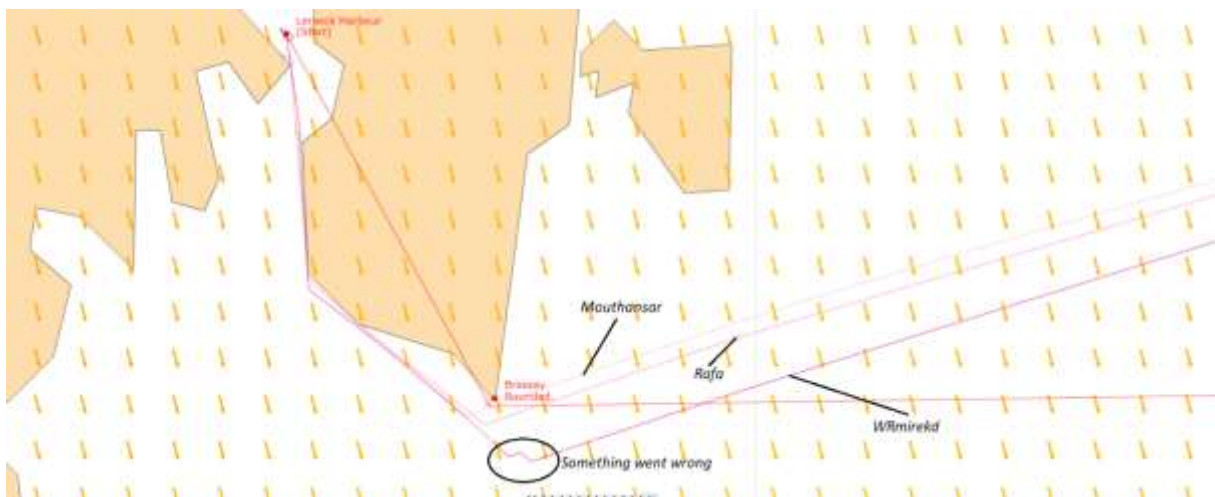
**Leg 2:**

This is obviously a great desire to win with Rafa.



I only forgot that I have a very important social event sometime when I start for the second race. It would be good to control the first hour of the race due to the possibility of visiting the BBQ. In addition, the new WX was approaching and it was only to clarify the situation whether we are going down or up?

Finally, until the first WX change, DC was set to secure courses.



After the change of the WX, I set up something in a hurry and looking at Rafa's and Mouthansar's route I almost saw the race as a loser. Finally, I set the DC and the same without much conviction after the next WX change on 2225UTC.

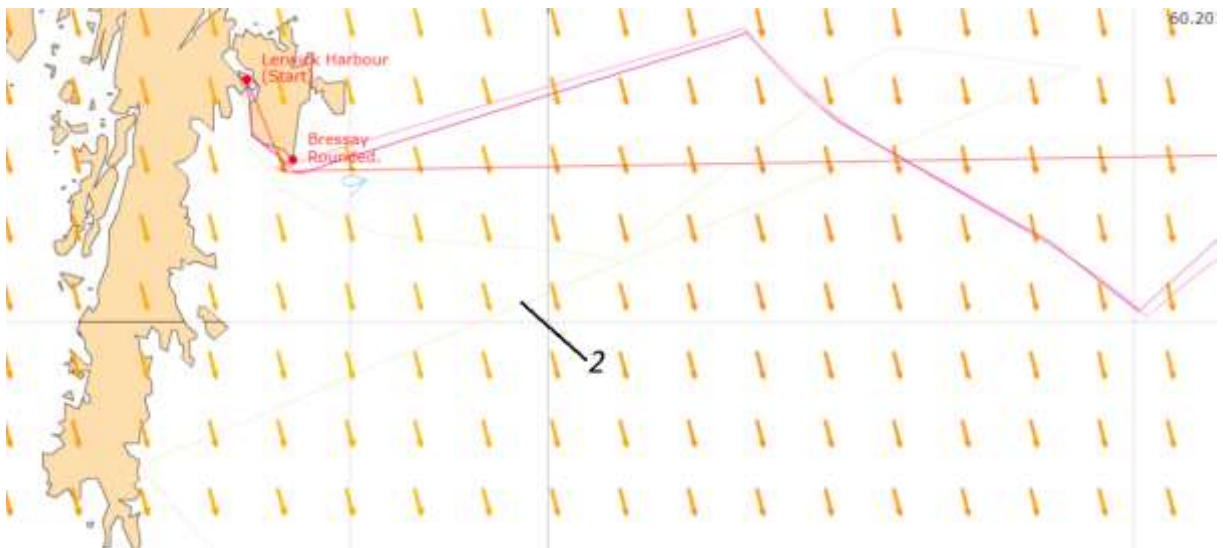
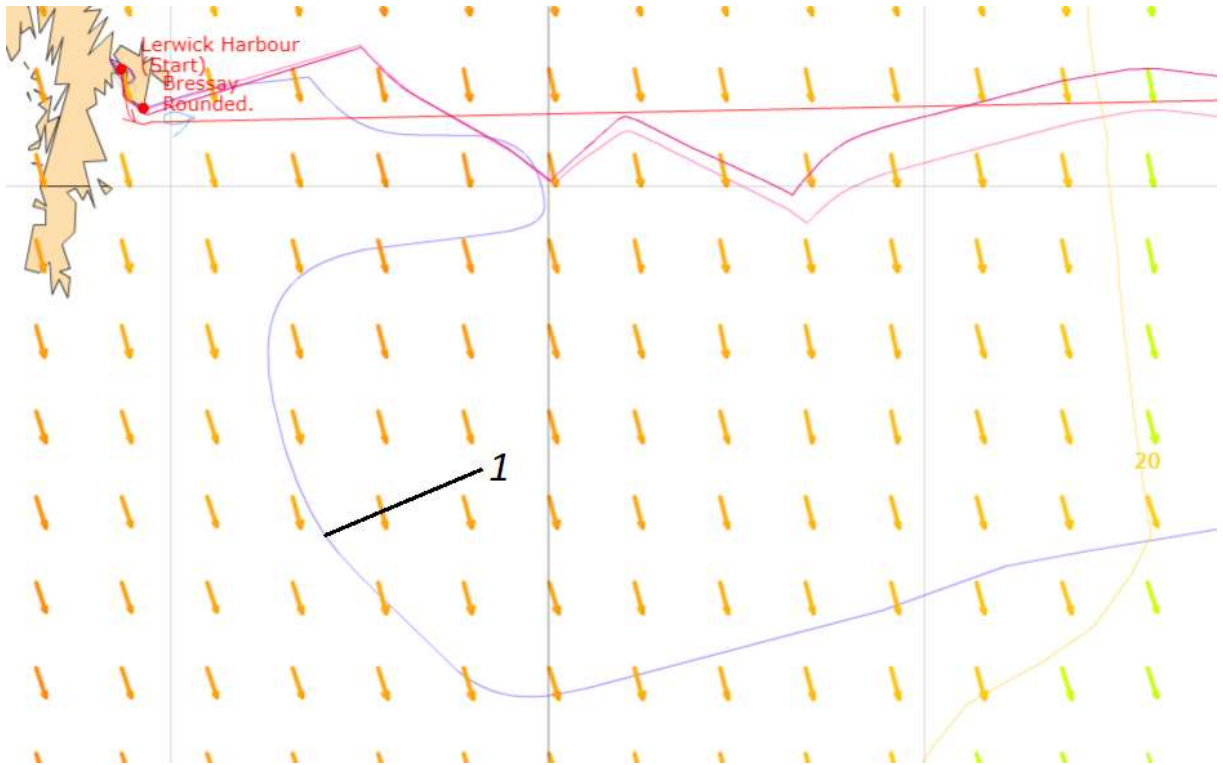
The next day, it turned out that the situation is not so hopeless. The barometric situation allowed for a lot of combinations.

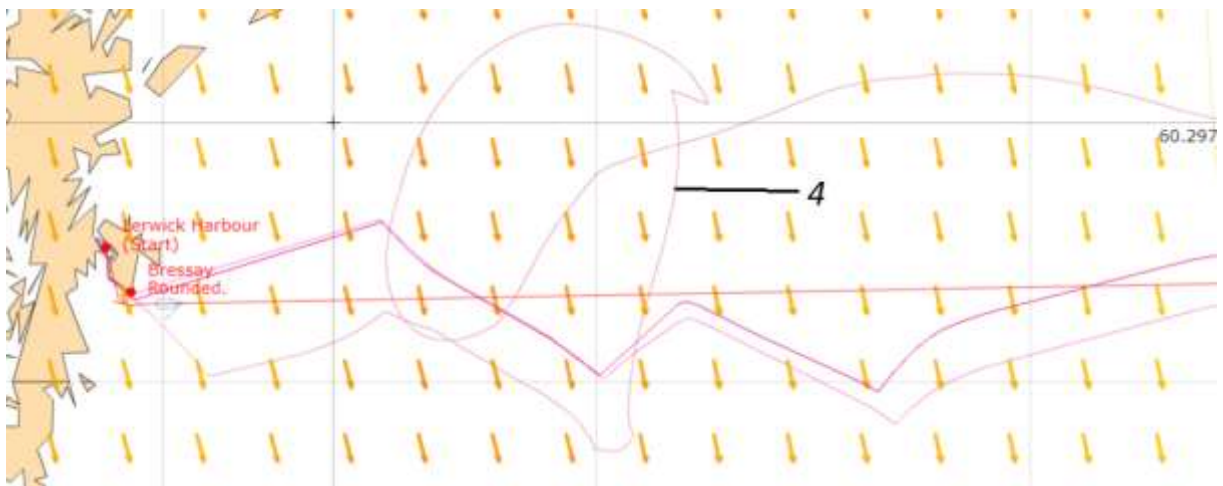
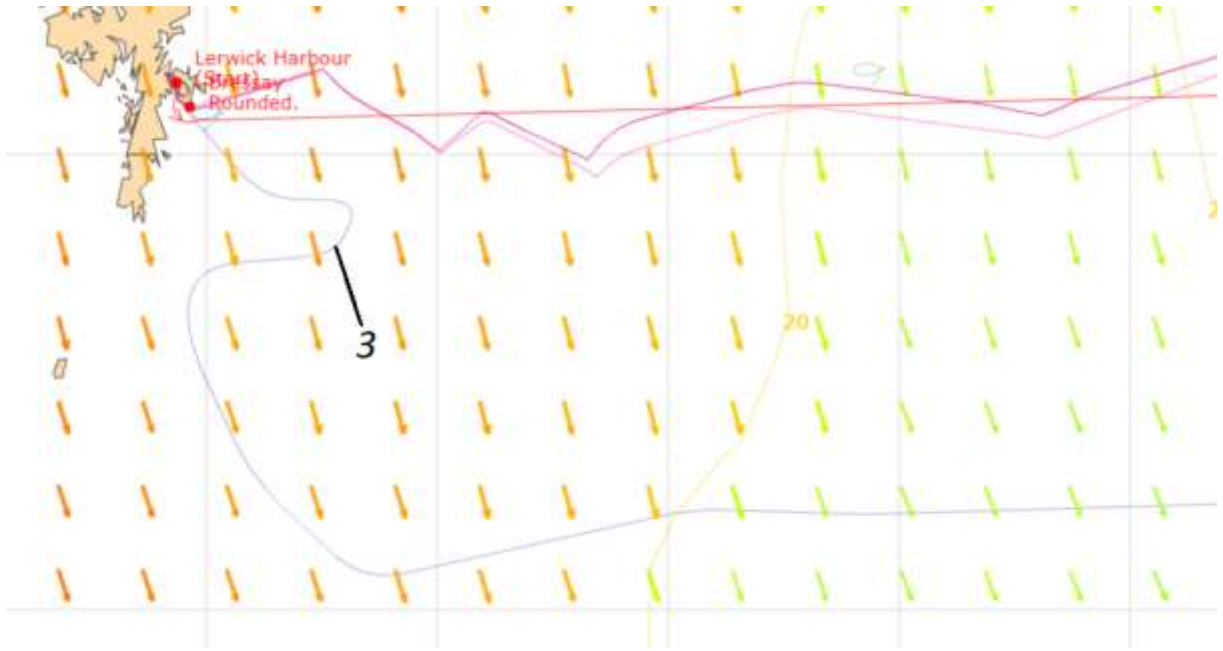
I found myself in a relatively stable second position. Rafa, of course, again guided as if inspired. Mouthansar was behind me.

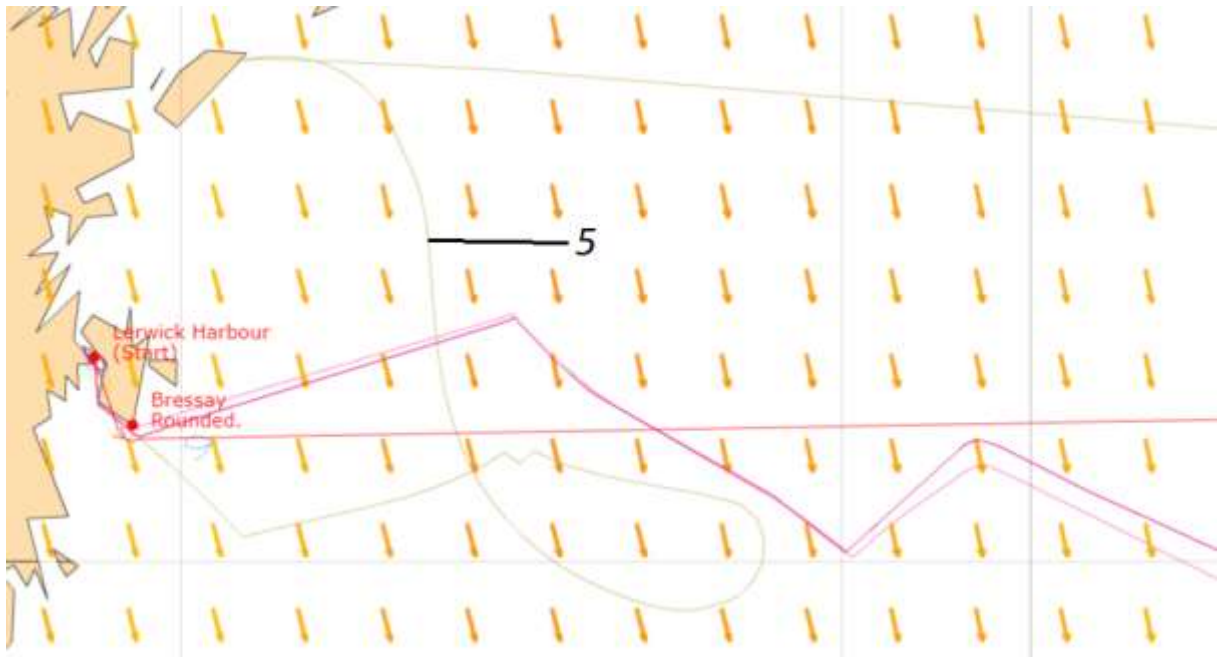
Reading posts on the chat I checked how others sailed ???

I am out of competition, I still have to learn a lot ☹️☹️☹️☹️☹️.

See the traces !!!







Wonderful, is not it?

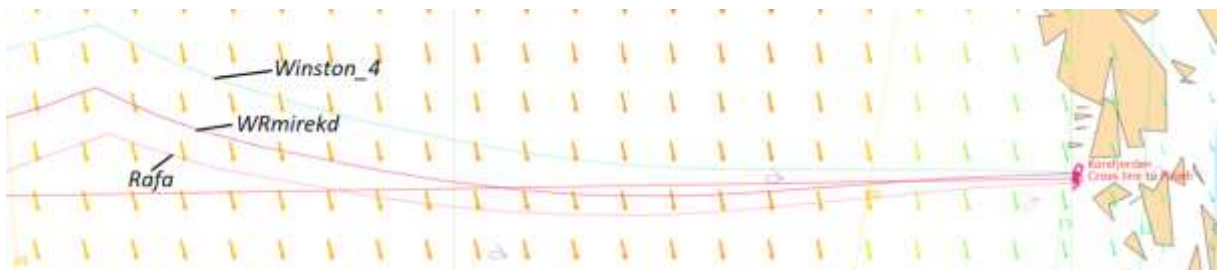
We should award special awards for the fanciest route. 😊

The cruise was sailing lazily in a stable pattern: Rafa on the lead, Mouthansar and I behind him.

Suddenly Winston\_4 broke my peace. Attacking with good speed from the north. I even thought it could threaten Rafa and win this race. Quick calculations and great uncertainty. Who will be swallowed before the finishing line? Another horror.

In the end, it turned out that we are traveling on a relatively flat piece of the polar diagram and the differences of  $\pm 3^\circ$  of the course do not give any change on the final straight to the finish line.

Thus, the result was copied from Leg1. Winston\_4 finally took 4th position which coincides with the name of the yacht. I suggest changing the name to Winston\_1 😊.



At least Mouthansar did not make me a heart attack, thank you 😊.

Compliments and warm greetings to everyone.

WRmirekd / Mirek

2019-07-02

PS.



It is a fishing net float from the North Sea.

But about this next time.