

2019 2nd Quarter – SRC Report

This has been a tragic quarter during which we have lost one of our hardest SOLers **João Malafaia ('psail')** who died on Sunday 7th April in Lisbon while having lunch with his son and his father.

João had been a stalwart SOL sailor who had submitted many new polars to SOL for which he should be remembered in the years to come. In addition, he had been the most prolific protestor of SRC, requesting redress, and from those constructive discussions SRC and SOL have only got stronger.



João's death caused SOL to organise a Memorial sprint race to be arranged out of Lisbon to Setubal and back on Sunday 14th April sailing the AC72 for a sextant that had been generously donated by Mirek of WRmirekd. João's death has also given rise to suggestions of renaming some SOL waypoints with the names of those who no longer race with us so that they are remembered as we pass by.

João's death coincided with a server problem on the Miami to Lisbon Ocean race caused by a software glitch that only affected some boats and then quite randomly such that it took some time for our Tech Team to diagnose the cause. Once identified, the cause of the problem was corrected but the randomness of the glitches meant that they could not be rectified for all such that the racers could be fairly compensated. The only fair result for all was for SRC to decide that the race should lose its rankings for its Series and for prizes. The race was continued as an experience of transatlantic sailing itself that became a tribute to João. In addition some skippers elected to form 360⁰ turns/loops in the race, some spelt out his name with their boat tracks, and many waited at 10⁰W for psail to finish (psail was being helmed by SOL volunteers who knew him well) so that João had a decent finish in his last race.

The server problem that impacted the Miami to Lisbon race reappeared one week later albeit in a lack of any server weather output for seven hours on 21st April affecting both the replacement Ocean race from Boston to Plymouth and the Hong Kong to Puerto Galera SYC race. In each instance the whole fleet was affected. The impact on the leaders in the Plymouth race was minimal but far more damaging on the leaders in the Galera race. Calls to SRC for Redress were raised with suggestions to award podium places to boats perceived to be adversely impacted in the Galera race but to let all results stand in the Plymouth race. Thus SRC was set a very difficult pair of questions where subjective but diverging decisions were requested from an identical causation. In an attempt to replicate the wisdom of Solomon, as Chairman of SRC, I recommended that SRC applied the same decision for that common causation that clearly caused mayhem for the leaders into Puerto Galera in light airs but far less so for the leaders into Plymouth. In making this recommendation I was considering not just the leaders in each race, who do tend to be more vocal, but also the bulk of the fleet as it is SRC's duty to respect the whole of our racing fleet. In addition I could not perceive of a valid explanation to any SOLer's query as to why SRC had come to one decision for one race but a different decision for another simultaneous race! SRC has to consider the whole fleet and whilst the leaders into Plymouth were hardly impacted that was not true for the chasing pack. Indeed many of the bulk of the fleet have remained loyal to SOL for many years, do not use sophisticated routing programmes and would have been severely impacted by a seven hour server outage with no access to the new weather report. I noted that the leaders into Plymouth had steady fresh winds but such was not the case for the following racers south of Ireland and off the South-West corner of England who were transiting a light airs ridge requiring frequent course changes. Racers may care to note that the Golden Globe Race has been kept open by SRC long after the last real life finisher to allow those who have spent over a year circumnavigating our planet to receive the pleasure of actually finishing their race. The GGR Leg finally closes on 30th June 2019.

SRC supported my recommendation for both races to lose their rankings for their Series and for prizes, for which I was most grateful. The SRC decision was duly posted in Forum and I hope that such a challenge does not confront SRC again in the near future.

In addition, I hope that our Tech Team has been able to add or modify the software such that any failure of the server to issue the weather update as scheduled is widely and loudly flagged to the appropriate parties.

Turning now, at last, to the racing in the 2nd Quarter of 2019:

Ocean Series. This series was reduced to just two races as both attempts to cross the 'pond' - The Atlantic - were scuppered by server problems. Despite these challenges our clear winner was **ij** sailing under the Finnish flag with a win in both races being Tokyo to San Francisco and the Migaloo Migration. Unfortunately nobody told Migaloo to join us or just

maybe he is swimming further offshore this year? Second was **aner59** tied on points with **SCARABOCCHIO** but split with aner59 having a better result of a 2nd from crossing the Pacific between Tokyo and San Francisco.

SYC Series. As with our Ocean Series, the gods of fortune were not with us in this quarter and we lost the HKG to Puerta Galera race with a server problem. This did not deter **ij** who once again showed a clean transom to the fleet with a 1st in the new Baltic 500 race and 4th in the Colin Archer Race. He was chased in the Series by **WRmiredkd** with a 2nd and 7th. Third was **Mouthansar** from Denmark with a 5th and 6th. *CORRECTION:* With SRC's apologies, the server report of 3rd place in the 2019Q2 SYC series was incorrect and under NOR rules the tie-break should have been decided in favour of Raki due to the result in the last race.

Timed Series. The pirates relented in sabotaging our racing and allowed us to complete our Timed Series of just two races. Once again **ij** proved superior to all others with a pair of bullets. He was followed by **Kipper1258** with a 2nd and 7th and then **NNYC_Ironman** with a 2nd and 10th.

Sprint Series. This four race series was duly completed and was won by **WINSTON_4** with a steady set of results (2nd, 2nd, 3rd and 6th) - most consistent. Chasing Winston_4 was **Mouthansar** with a more varied set of results (1st, 5th, 6th and 14th), who in turn was chased by **sassy63** (4th, 8th, 12th and 23rd).

In closing this quarter's report I would like to pay tribute to the support that I have received from all across Sailonline in managing some challenging questions with our races in this quarter.

But even more so I would like to pay tribute to all the SOLers who went out of their way to pay their tribute to **psail** of Portugal who has sailed his last race with us. May there be yachts, blue skies and fair winds with João now as that is how we will remember him.

Richard Hardcastle / Go4iT

Chair – SRC

30th June 2019