

## SSANZ Baltic 50 2019

brewman

Fair winds greeted SOL for the 2019 SSANZ Baltic 50. A convenient start time for brewman as well. I had a commitment to be away from the keyboard for the start and was able to return before the Rocky Bay Mark.

Lucky for me as I only sail SOTP.

The start DC's worked & I returned to find brewman just outside the top 10. A good rounding at Rocky Bay picked up a couple of spots and we were in the hunt. Not a lot of strategy involved prior to Rakino as all legs were fetches – basically just try to round tight and go straight.

Rounding Haystack was a challenge as it's almost a 180 degree rounding. A planned 2 step turn fired at the perfect time and pushed brewman into 4<sup>th</sup> place approaching Rakino.

It looked to be a heartbreak finish – just off the podium as brew was trailing bonk, Tyger, and rafa – 3 competitors not known to make mistakes. The leg past Motutapu allowed for some strategy as it was upwind to the finish – a long left and short right. Pinching up a degree past optimal to clear Motuihe Island avoided having to make 2 extra tacks with the associated performance hits. This may have been the factor allowing brewman to edge rafa by 1 second as rafa made the extra tacks.

On the final approach to the finish, bonk unfortunately had a bad DC fire which dropped him from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and allowed brewman to squeeze into a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. Only the 2<sup>nd</sup> podium for brew and matched best ever finish!!!