

Carib rum run 2019

This race is one of my favourites in the SOL calendar as it has pretty long legs and, although having varying conditions, it doesn't demand a lot of time watching the screen and doesn't consume much sleeping time either, at least in my time zone.

Besides, I love IRL sailing in the Caribbean: excellent sailing conditions and all you need is a T-shirt. Unbeatable for family vacations.

As far as I can remember from previous years the last leg from Jamaica to Cancun has been normally quite straight forward with little to win or lose. But this time it turned to be all the opposite and final positions in the race depended fundamentally on performance in this last leg.

Coming out from Jamaica the forecast was very light and variable winds (lots of "blue") all the way to Cancun. The router and simple observation showed that the fair and favourable wind would be staying on the north, along the Cuban coast, so the recommended route was to go north and get that wind along the Cuban coast and down to Cancun.

Nevertheless, it is not wise to rely on the router when there is so much blue around as light winds may change very much from forecast to forecast. So my strategy was a compromise to sail as fast as I could towards the finish line, and at the same time position myself to the north of my closest competitors. This way, when it would become evident that north was definitely the way to go, about one sailing day left, I would turn north and get the fair wind before the others.

Fortunately it worked that way for me and crossed the line first to win the nice prize, very finely chosen and presented by Rainbow Chaser, by far the most enthusiastic sailor in the whole SOL fleet. Thank you Joanne!

Congrats to my fellow podium sailors and really to everyone who had the patience to finish this race, and thanks to the SOL team who organizes all these races for the rest of us.

Good winds!

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