

## Race Report - Galloo Islands SPRINT 2019 - WINSTON\_4

---

When I looked for the first time to this race I was very unhappy for the fact that the winds were going to imply a very very late “going to sleep project”; something I am not too willing to do in recent times .....

On the other hand there were two extremely attracting facts:

- 1) Should I have had the strength to participate and eventually finish well ( say in top 10 ) the mathematics would have given me a precious prize : the guarantee of victory in the 2019 Sprint Championship with three races left to run ( that I would be able to discard without losing the CUP)

And.....

- 2) The flickering winds were also highly shifting, making of it a difficult race to interpreter and run, with plenty of technical sailing instead of VMG all the way along .....That is a scenario where WIN is known to deliver the best performances.

So .....OK...let's do it and see what happens.....!!

The race turned out immediately as highly technical, and I found myself well placed from the very first half of it ..... I had prepared a “watch list” of boats I wanted to keep an eye on, both for reasons of Championship rankings and because I trusted they were the best opposition in the race, and I was very right, as those boats have always been in the race leading group.

When you do not need to win , you do not suffer as can do everything in relaxed mode and accept whatever results , provided it fits with your goal ....and for much of the race in lead position it was fitting the goal more than needed .

The turning point had been the southern leg after Galloo Island Light, to return to Hoveys Island:

When the leg started there was clearly a shift to the right in front, before the need to tack north, and this was coupled with better breeze incoming after a dull 1 to 4 knots of TWS in the upper part of the course. For this “double good reason” I applied a sensible amount of footing and running towards the breeze and the shift at some plus 6/8 degrees versus VMG.

The bad news arrived right in the middle of that leg, when the 22:30 update delayed the shift by a good 30 minutes plus. There was no way for me to change strategy at that point, as by tacking I would have passed behind a few boats that had steered more upwind. I trusted that the lift I would have enjoyed when tacking would have saved the day .....so I did not follow the others when they tacked early on the left side of the south north funnel that we had to go through.

When I tacked the lift was there, but only for a few minutes .....In actual facts it turned out that towards the point where we should have tacked to the right again to go towards Hoveys the new wind was going to the left ;(((((((((((((((( ...that was the end of the race for me ....what I could still do, and I was sure of being able to do it, was to limit the damage and go back to goal N.1 = top ten for the Championship numbers ...;))

I managed to do better than that , and to be able to put still some pressure on those boats that rightly tacked early ( bonk , WINDEGG , knockando) , and ended up on a podium that was not even dreamed some 30 minutes prior to finish .

In my opinion bonk deserved victory as he interpreted the course the totally correct way, and the top finishers deserved their spots for not giving up in a difficult race. Everyone deserves “Hat off”!!

On the finish line I found those numbers that deserved the effort, and am now able to say that WIN has won the 2019 SPRINT Championship with three races to go.

The single item that went through my mind on Saturday night (Sunday morning), when going to sleep at 02:40 am local time (something that I was not doing since several months) has been:

**WITHOUT SUFFERING .....SUCCESS CANNOT BE COMPLETE !!!!**

Something that has been thankfully true during my entire life .....;))

Ciao ALL !! .....WIN