

## Race Report - Lake Victoria SPRINT 2019 - WINSTON\_4

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Those who read my race reports, rare but by now quite numerous indeed, know that the first chapter is about my feelings "PRIOR" to racing (windy, slow boat, quick and easy, long and painful or else), where I normally find the stimulus to race or that of resting.

This time, during the couple of days prior to the event I felt like Hamlet, with a "To do or not to do " ...rather than a "to be or not to be "type of feeling for the reasons below:

Just a few days before, I had written in my previous report that at the end of race 13 out of 16 I have found mathematical certainty of winning the 2019 Sprint Championship. Temptation of having a good rest and discard the next one was very strong , especially when I saw that the boat was to be slow in a very very light breeze , making of a very short race ( 17 nms ) a matter of a number of hours to complete.

Then I remembered that during my IRL sail-racing activity I have learned a number of important things that make one become a true Yachtsman if known and applied , amongst which the sense of Sportsmanship that always drives the true ones in real life.....so....why not here ?

I felt that my opposition had the right to confront with WIN once more, even if the Championship matter was already settled, and that I had the duty to honor their effort to compete and, indeed to demonstrate that I can be beaten at any possible occasion.

So: "To honor the boat's name" as we say in Italy ....and "present on the start line "!!

The good news came very quickly: it was going to be another one good for WIN, full of technical choices and opportunities for good result.

The first leg, down towards Ntabwe already contained a nice and nasty trick: although the predictor indicated that it was possible to do it in one shot, the polar indicated that by tacking for about 10/15 minutes in the middle of the stretch, the reward would have been that of being able to polar-hop to higher speed towards the end of it. In this case one plus one would make sort of three .....LOL

A number of boats did it and before the end of leg one were the leading boats in the race. Bonknhoot, who was leading the pack before the tacking did tack back too early and lost the podium there. Rafa did the perfect run and knockando did that too. At the end of the stretch WIN was third as it remained a bit too much on the windward lane.

What happened immediately after the mark gave me a shiver first and then quite an amount of satisfaction : before getting there I had " MANUALLY " calculated that during the short run under the cape the polar would have gone in the grey area , with indication though that even after the cape a short polar hop was needed . Relaxed by the fact that any result would have been good for me, I did continue slightly SW after the mark, to hop a bit later. When I have seen that everybody else was going straight along the land line, I shivered, and anticipated the hop to the slower part of the polar, not to lose too much distance .....BUT ....when I have seen that rafa had changed his mind and come down where I was, I was extremely happy, because there were just two possible reasons for that move: 1) he had found out that the move I have invented by heart was the correct one to do and he was coming alongside ....OR 2) He had decided to cover

WIN .....In both cases, rafa being rafa, his move was to be taken as a compliment. I hope that reading this perhaps my friend Juan sends me an email and tell me which one it was .....;))))))))))))))))))

What happened in the last leg was easy and simple:

Rafa was defending well his leadership

WIN, thanks to the second hop move was fighting very fiercely with knockando for that second place that was lost before the mark.

Knockando was fighting very fiercely not to lose that second place.

The last part of the run was WIN and knockando tied up , but WIN had a slight edge of windward position , that made both WIN and knockando think that perhaps , given the right time and distance , the overtake could happen. How much distance was needed nobody knew of course.

Very very unfortunately this situation gave knockando that amount of stress that at SOL is the prime trigger for mistakes. In an attempt to invest the max possible resistance against the attack he reduced the passing distance from the pin below the crucial one pixel, and he overshot the finish line, ending in 10<sup>th</sup> position from a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in a matter of seconds.

In my heart though the race ended like this:

Rafa - knockando60 - WINSTON\_4

**(Just to reiterate the concept of the first few lines of this report .....)**

Ciao ALL !! .....WIN