In the first 30 Sailonline races, I achieved a theoretical 139 points, which led to the decision of becoming an SYC member after the 12th run at Hormuz. The next 30 races saw my performance improve, bringing it down to 67 points at the end of Mistli's BBQ race. This was better than what I had expected a couple months back. Seeing this motivated me to want to break into the top 10 of SYC ranking. Even though I have participated in every race since Van Isle 2019, it quickly became apparent that I typically perform best in sprints, timed races and certain other short courses. Hence, for the purposes of a good SYC ranking, the number of useful races would be quite limited.

This sprint took place over some "20 odd English miles in a cooling breeze, however slight it might be". And typical of equatorial regions (perhaps due to the intertropical convergence effects), the breeze was indeed slight, remaining at under 6 knots for most of the race and including a wind shift. Back at home though, there were (at least momentarily) strong winds of 20+ knots that would have been welcome in Lake Victoria for our race (source: weather.gov.sg). I should be thankful, though, that at least we didn't get the centre of a windhole in our racing path, as that would drag out the sprint even more.
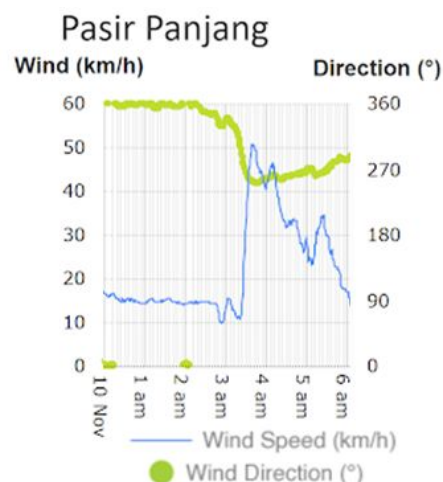
Here are some benchmarks that I was looking at with regards to finishing rank of this race:

| 3rd | SYC - **60 points** (probable top 10 in SYC rankings) Feature in Bimmer's timelapse |
8th	SYC - **65 points** (small chance of top 10 in SYC rankings)
10th	To maintain **67 points** as this sprint replaces Hormuz
18th	SYC - **74 points**; this race won't be used in my SYC rank
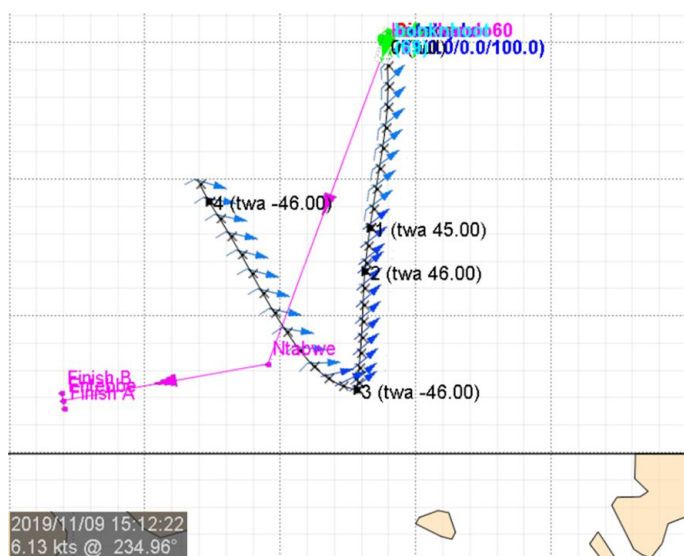
Although I entered this race immediately after it opened (2nd to enter, after Musigny), I was only looking out if there was a Practice Race that I may have set DCs for through Kipper's tool. Unfortunately, since there wasn't a Practice Race here (perhaps the winds were too light?), I didn't even attempt to sail the boat anywhere until Towback. This should not have been a problem in itself… if it weren't for Kipper's tool only loading the map data for the bottom half of the race area (when the race takes place in the top half). Perhaps if I had sailed right along the coastline to create that boat trace well before race start, then "use race start time" and test DCs sometime between 10.30am and 3pm UTC?
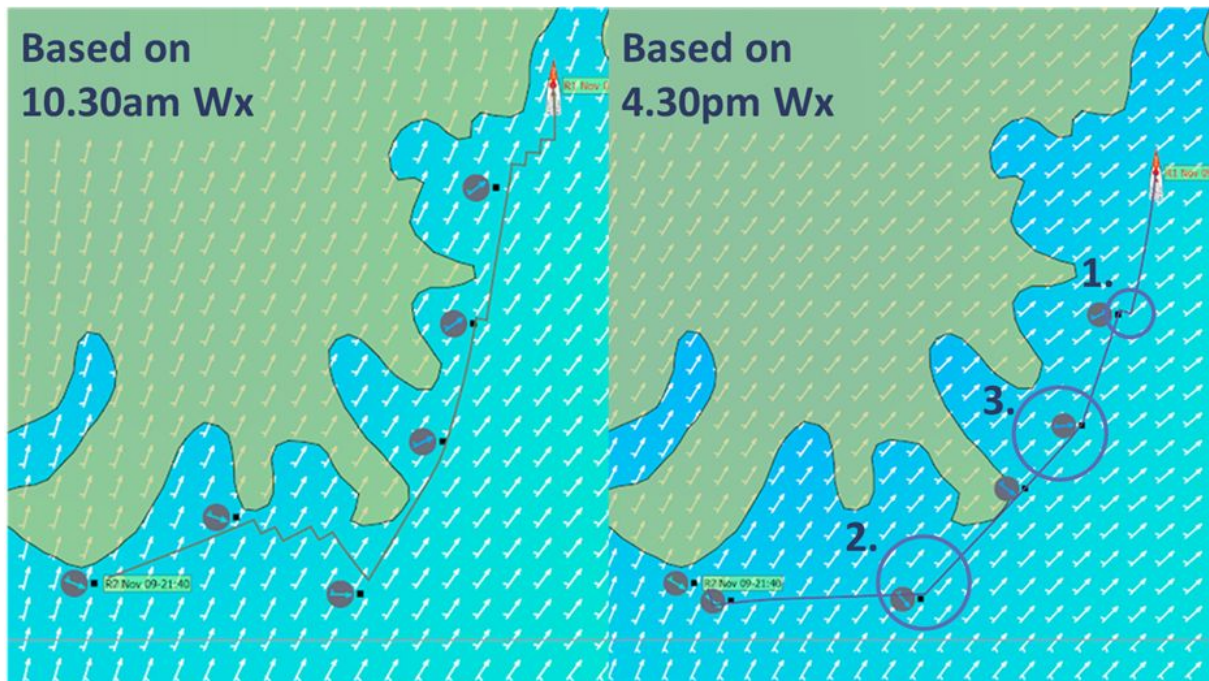
As it would prove difficult enough to set DCs to avoid a BBQ in these light variable winds, I ran QtVlm for an idea of what the best route was. Yeah, it's gonna be tricky given how it's essentially suggesting that you keep close to the west coast (but not too close!) for the best winds. One good aspect of this version of Kipper's tool over the earlier one is that at least you can mouse over the grid for coordinates. By running the DC checker next to the race map, the headland locations can be estimated. This is in fact a technique I use to estimate Practice Mark locations for DC setting. Still, it took me nearly the entire Towback time to finish setting DCs which I would be satisfied with.

At the start, most boats went south immediately around TWA 44-46°, as what QtVlm suggested. YorkshirePudding went west immediately. Would that pay off in the next Wx update? Since the winds were light and variable, it meant that the optimal strategy could change dramatically. Unfortunately for YorkshirePudding, it didn't, only finishing in 11th.

Running QtVlm on the new Wx at 4.30pm UTC (and with the boat position then) didn't require keeping right next to the coast. But based on the output, I had a few questions:
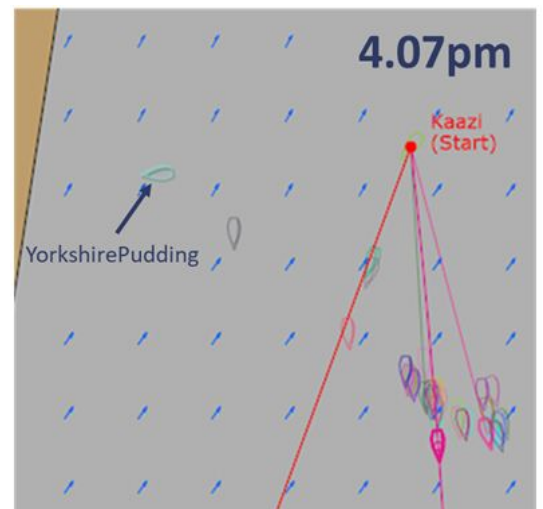
1) Is that pair of tacks actually necessary to get to Ntabwe faster? If so, when's the best time to do so?
2) Why does it suggest that from Ntabwe, I continue straight for a while, then sail at maximum upwind VMG before making yet another tack, when turning immediately permits a faster TWA over a shorter distance to Entebbe?

And, as I found out later, for what appeared to be two straight COG commands,

3) There will be some transitions between COG and TWA commands to make the best of the wind shift (without turning the boat on the spot), how to execute that?
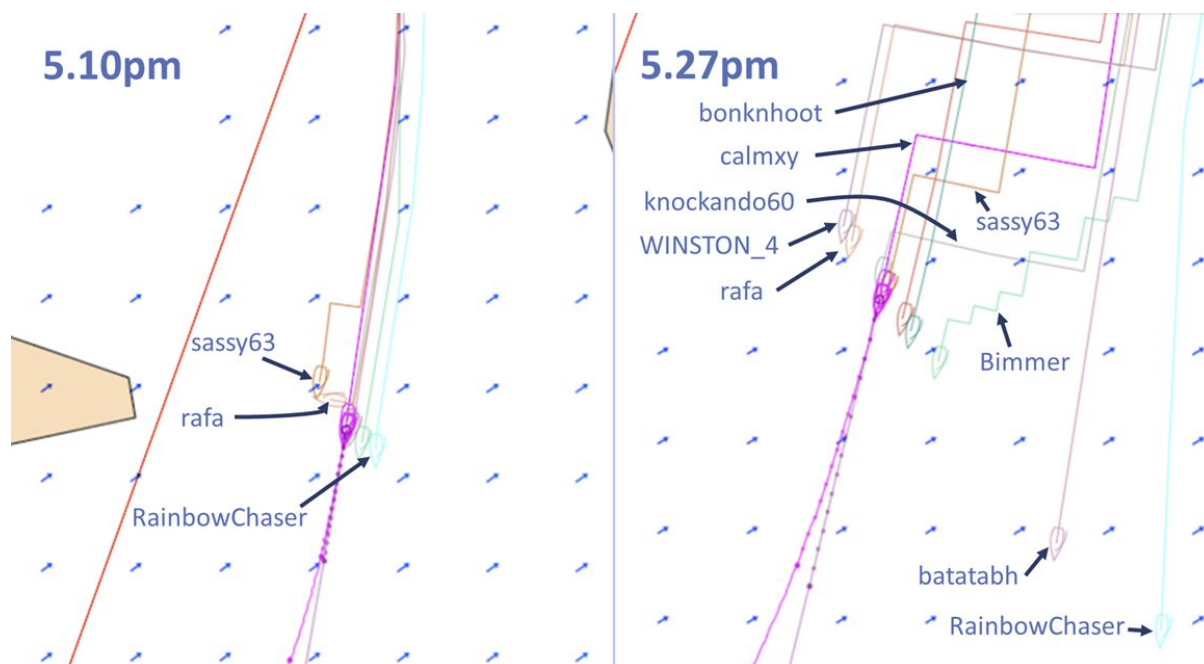
sassy63 was among the first to tack. This was followed by bonknhoot, rafa and Winston_4. As I was one of the later ones to make these pair of tacks, I had time to observe where these boats made the second tack. Noting a gap of around 0.2nm between the boat traces of bonknhoot and rafa then, I made my second tack in the centre of that gap so that I could (hopefully) cover one side and have fewer boats overtake me. sassy63 then made a second pair of tacks to join some 0.02nm ahead of me as their first pair was too short. A few boats didn't tack and even went to increase their TWA angle immediately, which initially saw their rank improve but dropped back after around 6pm UTC due to the additional distance covered.

It turns out that the reason for rafa and bonknhoot's different timing of the second tack was that the next part of the strategy differed. The general idea was to sail TWA first, then watch for the COG line predictor to cross through 0.0543°N 32.5726°E (where the headland was) before switching to COG and following the coast. rafa went for COG for a while and sailed much of this stretch at TWA 54°. bonknhoot followed the optimal VMG upwind of TWA 46°. I had set commands similar to bonknhoot and was testing DCs for the part after Ntabwe when zooming out on the DC checker revealed that my path had crossed that of rafa's!
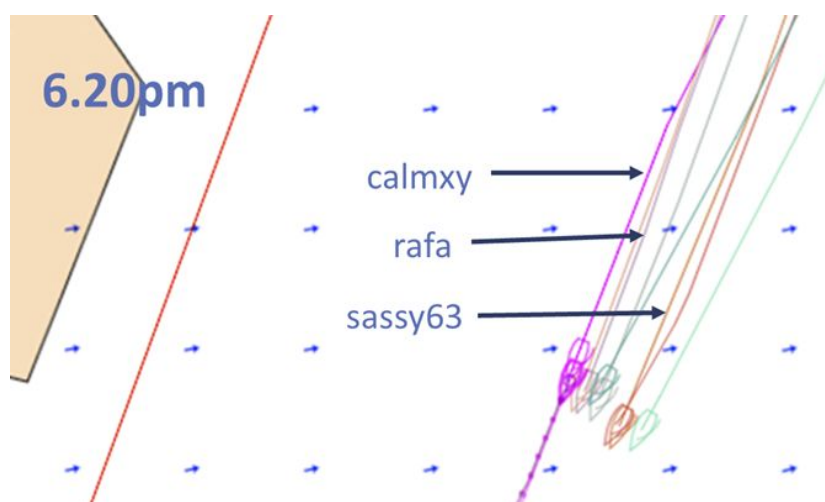
I then immediately changed my command to TWA 54° to match rafa and hope that it didn't damage my prospects of finishing well enough to break into the top 10 for SYC rankings. At this point, I also stopped testing DCs and just focused on what rafa and the neighbouring boats were doing.

As we were on the COG stretch to Ntabwe, some of us made a slight kink in our path. This is because the Platu 25 had a very slight depression on the polar between between 63° and 88° at low wind speeds, which was only apparent if you used the polar butterfly. The same thing happened as we followed the coast right after rounding Ntabwe, although considering the tiny loss in boat speed and possible performance effects, only bonknhoot and rafa deviated from the COG path here.
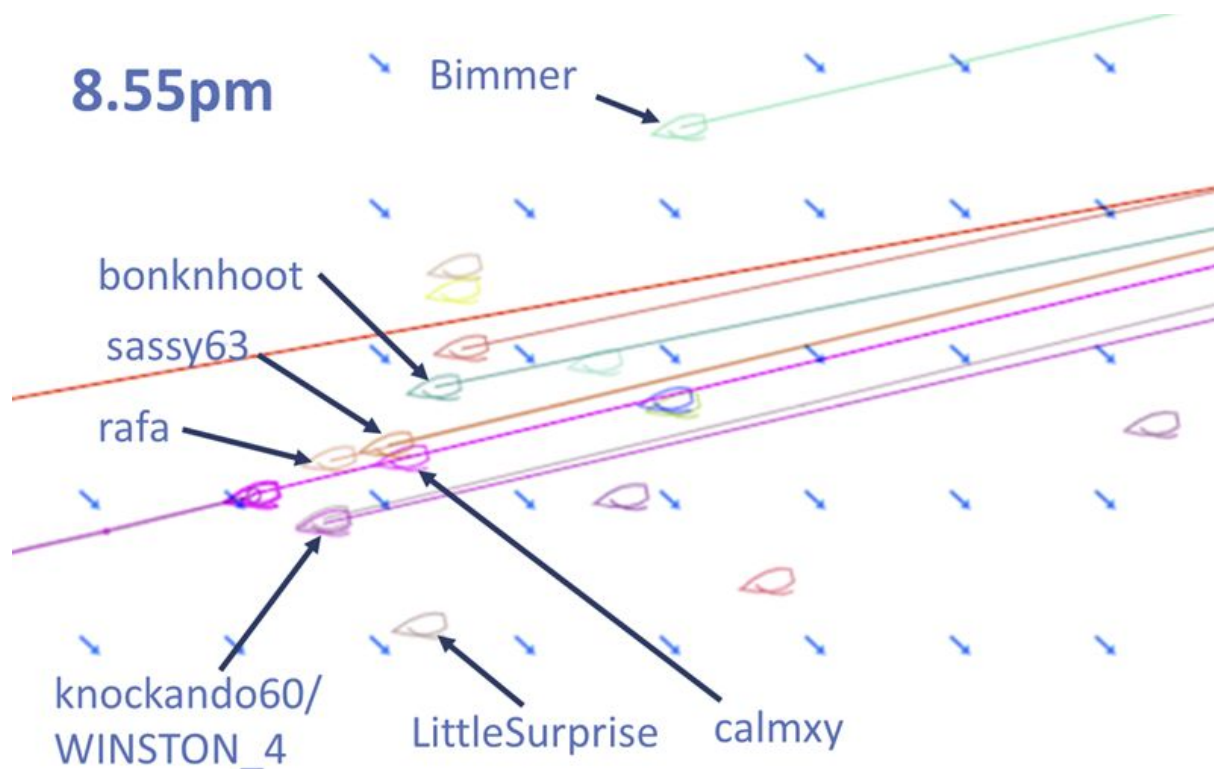
For the final stretch to Entebbe, none of us followed QtVlm's advice; the straight line to the finish was more or less taken. However, we had to decide which end of the finish line to target, and whether to use a COG (higher initial TWA) or TWA (curves into stronger winds sooner) command to get there. Perhaps even some combination of the two. rafa initially appeared to be heading to the north end of the finish line. I was initially confused as to why, since Kipper's tool indicated that it would take 5 mins longer to reach that end of the finish line. Perhaps it was a setup for the subsequent TWA command? But it turned out that it was just a coincidence (the initial part of that straight run to finish was around TWA 65°) and a while later, we then pointed straight towards the finish.

I fell asleep right after setting the final COG command to the finish… only to suddenly awaken in fear as if I sensed that I had not set the command accurately and hence missed the finish. Checking the race leaderboard revealed that someone did miss the finish, only that it wasn't me. It was knockando60, who was otherwise poised for a podium finish! I could only imagine the agony experienced, as that had happened to me in other races. But seeing the finish time for my boat let me sleep peacefully for the next few hours.

With that 4th place finish, I managed to achieve the objective of breaking into top 10 of SYC ranking for the first time. Thanks again for a wonderful race!

Lake Victoria Sprint 2019, racing with 91 boats.

Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	DBL	Finish Time (UTC)
1	rafa	Platu 25	0	0	2019-11-09 21:27:22
2	WINSTON_4	Platu 25	0	0	2019-11-09 21:27:31
3	sassy63	Platu 25	0	0.0	2019-11-09 21:27:48
4	knockando60	Platu 25	0.0	0.0	
5	calmxy	Platu 25	0	0.0	2019-11-09 21:27:55
6	bonknhoot	Platu 25	0	0.0	2019-11-09 21:28:06
7	CollegeFund	Platu 25	0	0.0	2019-11-09 21:28:14
8	fastpassage39	Platu 25	0	0.0	2019-11-09 21:28:14
9	Wolff	Platu 25	0	0.0	2019-11-09 21:28:16
10	LittleSurprise	Platu 25	0	0.1	2019-11-09 21:28:22
11	YorkshirePudding	Platu 25	0.1	0.1	

Summary for all results by calmxy

Total rank **#11** with **67 points**.

Used races (top 10 of last 30 races)

Race	Date	Final place	Points
Cape Horn Record 2019	2019-10-01	1	1
Visingso Runt 2019	2019-08-10	2	2
Mistli Birthday BBQ Race 2019	2019-11-03	3	3
PIC Coastal Classic Yacht Race 2019	2019-10-24	4	4
Silverrudder 2019	2019-09-20	5	5
Galloo Islands Sprint 2019	2019-10-19	8	8
Auckland to Russell 2019	2019-08-07	9	9
Hormuz TIMED Race 2019	2019-07-08	10	10
Lendlease Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht Race 2019	2019-08-02	11	11
Casco Bay RTI 2019	2019-09-28	14	14

Other races

Race	Date	Final place	Points
Wellington In-Port Sprint 2019	2019-09-07	17	17
Sail Around Turkey 2019	2019-08-20	18	18
Hawaiian Zig Zag 2019	2019-09-03	21	21
SSANZ Triple Series 2019 - Lewmar 100 Baltic	2019-08-02	23	23
Newport to Bermuda 2019	2019-09-12	25	25
SSANZ Lewmar 50 Baltic 2019	2019-08-30	25	25
Itajai to Newport 2019	2019-10-03	26	26
hmm's Delivery 2019	2019-08-15	37	37
Return from Lindisfarne 2019	2019-09-23	37	37
Tour Down Under 2019	2019-07-18	40	40
Key Lime Pie-gatta 2019	2019-10-21	41	41
The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club to Nha Trang Rally 2019	2019-10-16	41	41
The Tall Ships Races 2019 - Race 2	2019-07-25	44	44
Galveston to Galway TransAt 2019	2019-07-15	44	44
Barentsz Run 2019	2019-10-07	51	51
Wellington to Lima 2019	2019-09-09	52	52
The Vineyard Race 2019	2019-08-30	53	53
Aden to Goa 2019	2019-08-12	58	58
Carib Rum Run 2019	2019-09-17	80	80
Abel T Appreciation Race 2019	2019-10-28	DNF	102

Summary for all results by calmxy

Total rank **#8** with **61 points**.

Used races (top 10 of last 30 races)

Race	Date	Final place	Points
Cape Horn Record 2019	2019-10-01	1	1
Visingso Runt 2019	2019-08-10	2	2
Mistli Birthday BBQ Race 2019	2019-11-03	3	3
Lake Victoria Sprint 2019	2019-11-09	4	4
PIC Coastal Classic Yacht Race 2019	2019-10-24	4	4
Silverrudder 2019	2019-09-20	5	5
Galloo Islands Sprint 2019	2019-10-19	8	8
Auckland to Russell 2019	2019-08-07	9	9
Lendlease Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht Race 2019	2019-08-02	11	11
Casco Bay RTI 2019	2019-09-28	14	14

Other races

Race	Date	Final place	Points
Wellington In-Port Sprint 2019	2019-09-07	17	17
Sail Around Turkey 2019	2019-08-20	18	18
Hawaiian Zig Zag 2019	2019-09-03	21	21
SSANZ Triple Series 2019 - Lewmar 100 Baltic	2019-08-02	23	23
Newport to Bermuda 2019	2019-09-12	25	25
SSANZ Lewmar 50 Baltic 2019	2019-08-30	25	25
Itajai to Newport 2019	2019-10-03	26	26
Valletta Sprint 2019	2019-11-04	29	29
Return from Lindisfarne 2019	2019-09-23	37	37
hmm's Delivery 2019	2019-08-15	37	37
Key Lime Pie-gatta 2019	2019-10-21	41	41
The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club to Nha Trang Rally 2019	2019-10-16	41	41
The Tall Ships Races 2019 - Race 2	2019-07-25	44	44
Galveston to Galway TransAt 2019	2019-07-15	44	44
Barentsz Run 2019	2019-10-07	51	51
Wellington to Lima 2019	2019-09-09	52	52
The Vineyard Race 2019	2019-08-30	53	53
Aden to Goa 2019	2019-08-12	58	58
Carib Rum Run 2019	2019-09-17	80	80
Abel T Appreciation Race 2019	2019-10-28	99	99