

Well, what an interesting race!

You would think that a Transatlantic crossing would be a well-travelled path, not so.

To start with there was a chicane to manage around St Pierre island. For me that was in the middle of the night and I do like my sleep. So it was a safe DC passage without clipping the coast and allowing space to round the mark.

Then it was decision time. The time-honoured route would be north of the great circle and come down between the Isles of Scillies and the UK mainland. But the router gave three possible routes. One was north, one south and come up across the Bay of Biscay and one almost on the rhumb line. When in doubt, choose the middle. I know it's not scientific but why not. Also as I live on the Lizard peninsula I knew that we were having strange Easterly winds as a forecast and not the usual south westerlies. So something said not north.

The main crossing was uneventful until entering the Channel when the wind dropped. I am so glad that this is SOL and not IRL. It was Spring tides and some may know what that is like along the Brittany coast.

I was just happy that I had a router to work out when to tack or gybe in the final stages as I had to rely on the 1630 forecast for the whole of the night. If the 2230 wind was vastly different, I would be in trouble.

So well done to Rico, who showed us the way home with a well-deserved victory.

For me, I have now had a first followed by a second. My best ever results in any SOL. So the pressure is on for the next race.

Stay safe everyone. Enjoyable though this is, I can't wait to be allowed to put my boat back in the water for some real adventures, maybe even to St Malo.

Mullionman / May 2020