

SoCal 300 2020 – Report by Dingo

A 240nm race in light variable winds is never an easy one to sail. Indeed, I was not going to sail this race because the combination of 1am weather update and 4am start wasn't looking too inviting. However, I decided to set some start DCs using a 12 hour out-of-date grib, and some conservative angles. In the light winds which prevailed, the broader reach I sailed seemed to keep good speed, and when I woke up around 4 hours after the start, at about the first big gybe, I wasn't too far out of the running.

Indeed this lackadaisical approach served me pretty well throughout the remainder of the race, save for deciding to get up for the NOAA buoy rounding, again in the middle of our night, and too dangerous to try to pin down to DCs on again an old weather forecast.

Luckily I just had time to check the latest weather before rounding and changed plan in the last 30 seconds before the mark to go for a starboard tack immediately upon rounding.

After a few tacks there was a big wind shift coming, and that showed a couple of routing options which were quite different, including on with a tack to take us even further south of the SD1 buoy. With the wind shifting to the north, I avoided this and managed to get myself up to second spot with a faster reaching angle as the wind swung through. Couldn't catch Mirek, but then, that's normal for me.

This was the first race I in which I used the new html5 client and I must say, I found it brilliant - many thanks ij and all who have helped with this! I especially enjoyed excluding the night sailing option. My old eyes don't cope too well with that black screen when I get up all bleary-eyed at 3am for a new wx.

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