

NEWPORT BERMUDA 2020

In praise of SOL: the Sailonline platform really simulates real life sailing amazingly well. The difference, besides not getting wet, perhaps is that the game allows for more time to concentrate on strategy and tactics as we don't have to contemporarily worry about capsizing, hitting other boats, going aground and real things like that.

Re. my performance, of which I am very happy, of course, the critical moment was when we encountered a very unstable weather forecast and the router started to point to a long course towards east, even though the suggested route on the east wasn't free of some unstable conditions as well.

In this situation I thought that having a forecast of light air blowing from many directions and for at least 24 hours is almost as bad as having no forecast at all. Consequently, I decided to disregard the router and sail towards Bermuda as close to the rumb line as possible in order to be closest to the finish when the stable conditions would return. And it worked!!

When I finally exited the variable light air area I was in position 1, but not by much. We had still more than a day to sail to the finish. In second place was ij from Finland, who is an excellent SOLer and besides understands really well how this platform works, I mean the software, so I had to concentrate to maintain my slight advantage as much as possible.

I was lucky that the wind remained pretty stable and so there was not much chance for "ij" , and also other followers, to overtake, so that is how it stayed.

Thanks to all competitors and organizers. I enjoyed it very much. However, I think the most enjoyable aspect of this ace has been the great number of new "SOL-ors" that joined Sailonline for this race, particularly those who were expected to sail in the real race if not for the virus. Great initiative! Congrats to all those behind!

Hope to see all next time.

rafa/June 2020

PS special thanks to ij not only for the competition in this race but especially for developing the new HTML5 client for Sailonline.