

# SSANZ Lewmar 60 PIC 2020

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## Pre-race

I had many doubts regarding participating or not in this one. Main reason against: a loooong and slow one nighter starting at 10:25 PM Portugal time finishing the next morning... Main reason for: I am missing racing in sailonline and the first 3 races since I returned were enjoyable but I had yet to reach a podium place. The 4th place in the Shetland Race 2020 -Leg 2 got me motivated!

The outlook of the race presented itself clearly once the 16:30 grib was issued. The key to this one was the first half - the rounding of Motutapu and the windward path to the Tire buoy. The rest was basically a drag race.

The race was challenging, it was weekend... I thought... Let's go!

## Race

The start of the race presented itself as a very tricky, very light wind approach to round Motutapu. I've managed to get a very small advantage up to the point where it was necessary to decide to go east or west of the Rakino Island to find the layline to the Tiri buoy. I decided to leave Rakino to port, together with rafa and others, while some decided that the west path was a better option. The east option I took proved to be the best route.

By this time it was late at night and I was struggling with sleep to find the best layline to the Tire buoy. I waked up just minutes away from the tack to Tire and, in spite of going a little wide to the layline, I managed to tack in the right moment.

Approaching Tiri buoy, I had rafa and Vida Maldita very close. The outcome race would be about the efficiency of the turns at the Tiri buoy and Gannet Rock - I am not very good at these - so I was worried.

At the Tiri buoy, I did the turn in two steps while rafa made it much more efficiently in just one step and my advantage got reduced to almost nothing. It would all be decided on the Gannet Rock turn... I set up an alarm and got a couple of hours sleep. Waking up just before the turn, I was keeping my very slight lead and all would be decided on this last turn. I took a conservative approach but, just after the turn I saw rafa boat ahead of me and I thought I'd lost it then.

Unfortunately, rafa failed the turn, and I was left with a comfortable lead for the leg to the finish.

It was very nice to win again on a SOL race. Thank you all!

Nacrr/Nuno