

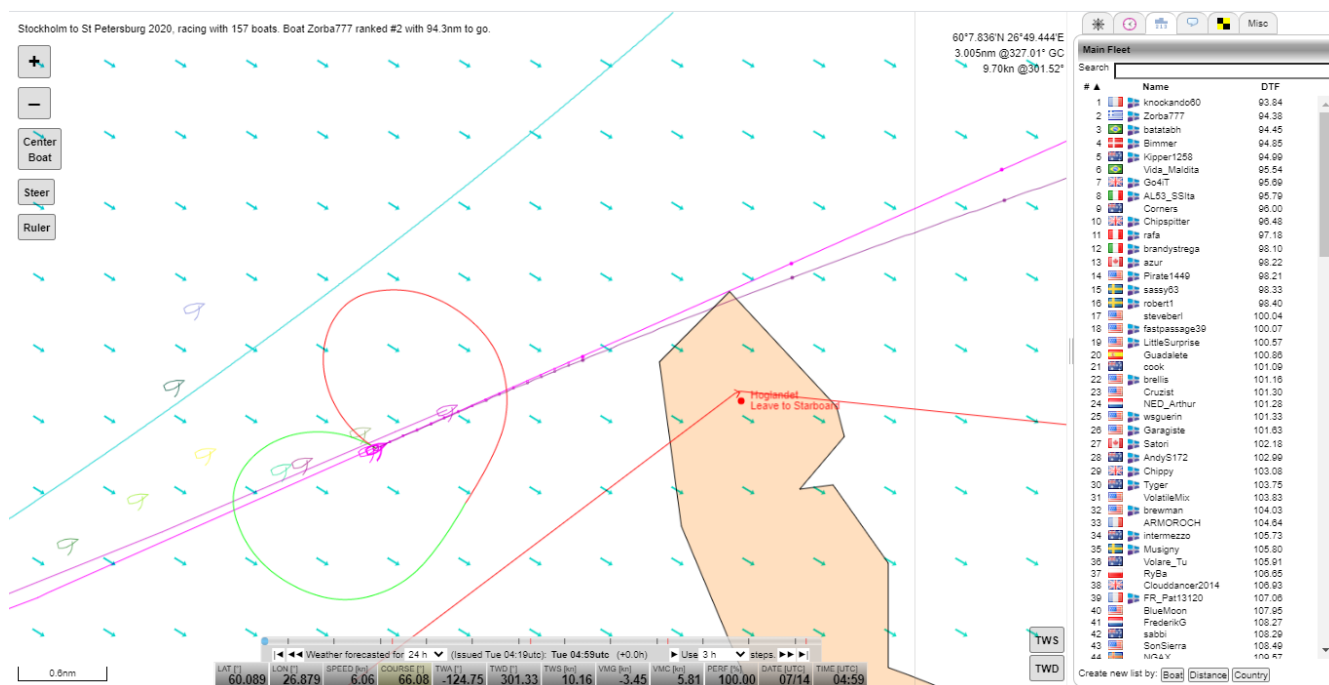
Stockholm to St Petersburg 2020 – Report by Zorba777

I almost didn't join this race, because I had a planned 7 hours car drive that would make it impossible to check out my boat or that evening's WX update. But the routing showed me I wouldn't be in my car until after the first buoy at Saaremaa, so I decided to start and see what goes.

The start went well and I turned at Saaremaa near the top 10. I then set DC for the next 8 hours and kept fingers crossed for a rather close passing at Hiiumaa island where a BBQ is always possible with DC settings.

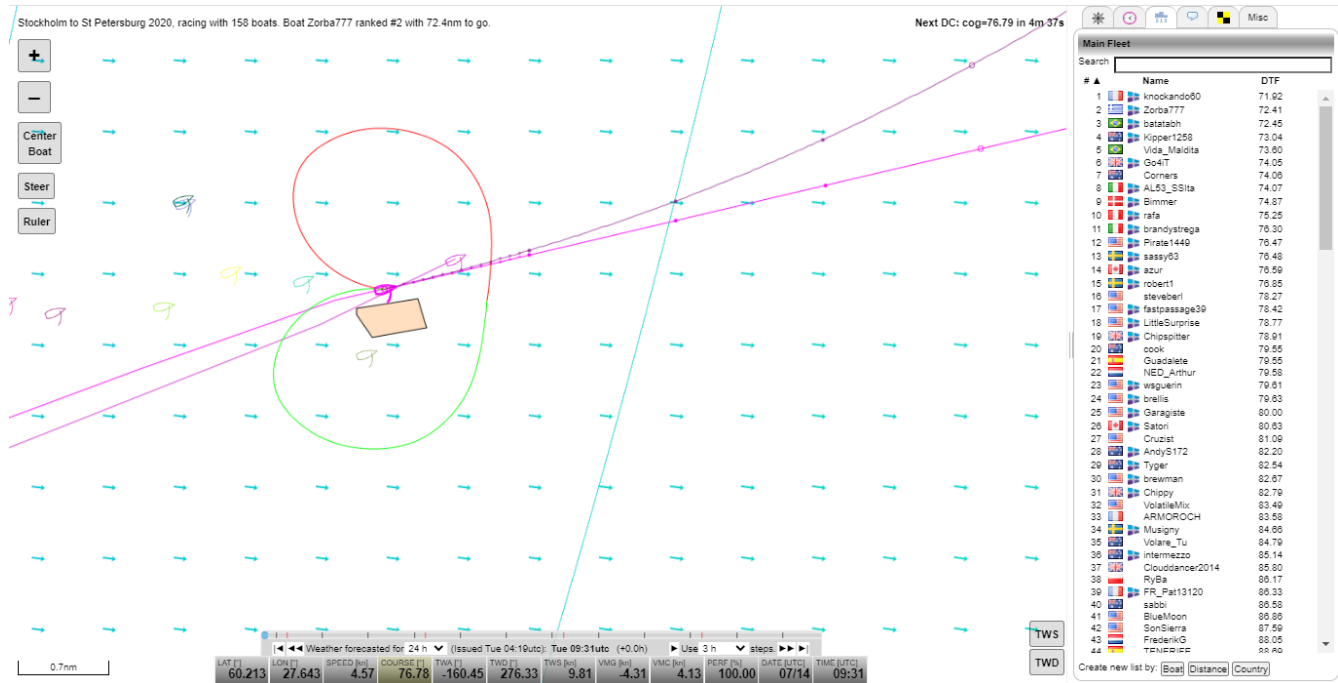
Luck was with me as I found my boat in a very good position at 1 am morning and waited 20 minutes for the next WX to set DC for the rest of the night.

Sleep was only 5 hours and my boat was in 3rd position when I woke up. It was one of those races where a good start proved crucial. The winds kept favoring the leading boats and pulled the fleet further apart. Not making costly mistakes was the way to go. This was the situation as we approached the turning point at Hoglandet:

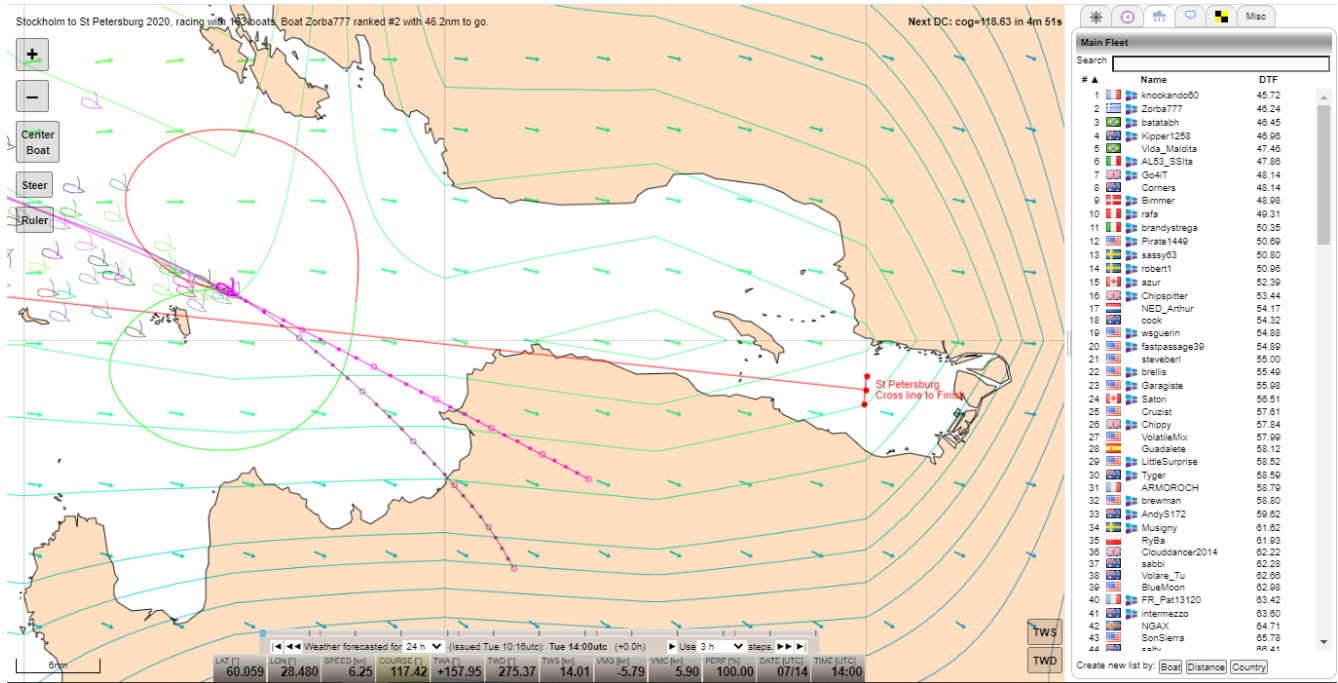


Knockando60 was 0.5 NM ahead, and that looked like a gap that would be very difficult to close. And Batatabh was right next to me. I realized I better focus on securing 2nd place. I had never finished in top 10, much less a podium. But I wasn't too nervous as with the given wind it would also be very difficult for the boats behind us to catch up. I didn't have to do any crazy things, just bring the good position into the finish.

A small Island to the Northeast of Hoglandet loomed as an important turning point in the next routing. There was a choice to pass North or South of the island. I took the North side, but Batatabh went South and would briefly take over 2nd place. I could see it would probably be a close battle until the finish line:



And here is my final screenshot about 9 hours before the finish:



Knockando60 was clearly out of reach at this point. I had gathered a 0.2 NM lead on Batatabh. That would prove enough to hold on to 2nd place.

I am happy with that result and now hope to go one better some day. Thanks Knockando60, Batatabh and all the others for an interesting race. Especially all the other SOLers who have been generous with tips on how to set up the router program and how to tack optimally. I probably wouldn't have been in top 3 without that help.

Zorba777