

## BLOCK ISLAND SOUND 2020

This race started slightly later than usually, not interfering with Saturday night cooking or dinner. Maybe I hadn't analysed the race nor the course well enough, because I first thought it would take longer time, but reading calmxy's comment that he (or his router) estimated the race time to 202 minutes, made me more interested. Usually I go to bed quite early, but even adding two hours to UTC, made it reasonable in time.

Of course I started with a DC, and the first few nms went on quite well. When I realised that not everyone sailed closer to the leaders, I decided to give it a go. Focus! Too often I don't focus enough, but now I really tried to do so. And to read where the winds were best. Northwest, where many went, was not as promising as East and South-ish, so I steered in those directions, now high up in the racelist.

After Gardiner's Island, quite a few went on North, but the well known "best bunch" went on more eastwards, and so did I. But for how long? I really needed and deserved a shower, and saw that there was a window for this here. At the same time I was dropping places, but didn't care at the moment. This was the only DC I set, and I only corrected it slightly after a nice shower. Then I had gained places again, surrounded by the guys usually making the podium, which felt good!

I succeeded with the zigzag at North Hill and West Harbor, and again decided to go East rather than North. Now I was doing unusually well (for me), and corrected my course about every sixty seconds, to get highest speed towards the finish line. Next decision was when to go North, straight to the finish. With winds changing all the time, decision had to be made as late as possible. I think I did as good as I could, again racing, with shifting position, with the hard guys, again correcting the course frequently. Fourth, second, fourth again, and so on. Especially bonkhoot and sassy63 were really encouraging me – many thanks to them and others! It was very warming!

Maybe I was a bit coward, and didn't dare to go to the extreme SE point of the line; I was afraid to lose too much speed, so I didn't make the podium. But so what? My best result ever, apart from practice races, on SOL! Really happy and satisfied to make a fourth place. Without a router...

Musigny