

# SOL TSR 2020 Report - The Lockdown Tall Ships Race

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It has been a novel experience for most of us in the Rona Sailing Project to sail online, but we are exceptionally thankful to the creators and organiser of SOL for allowing us to participate. You are all invited to the After Party, so get your togas ready!!

Over the three races we have managed to enter 23, 20 and 18 boats respectively. As Covid restrictions have started to be lifted, some lucky ones were able to swap their Clippers for slightly more nimble lasers! Sadly our own boats (Merrilyn, Donald Searle and Rona 2) are all still in harbour.

TSR 1: Clearly our Irish contingent partied too hard in Lisbon. One managed to find the spot furthest away from the finish line whilst another nursed a hangover on the start line for a little too long. Having said that, the majority of the team (20 out of 23) managed to get in the top 50% of the fleet. As we struggled with VMG and VMC etc, our personal VHF channel was constant (even at 0400 UTC as a fellow skipper is in China). It was general chitchat, eg photo envy of RSP\_OlyMay's rum, but mainly providing moral encouragement and questioning why some were going in totally the wrong direction!

TSR 2: Having worked out in the first race who the real competitors were and what VMC actually meant, we proceeded to waste no time and head off in every direction imaginable, (except possibly the right one!) Such were the wind conditions. These Clippers are notoriously difficult to handle in light weather and RSP skippers were clearly not experienced in this... probably due to hangovers again :) (guys we really must invite you all to the raison d'être of TSR races!)

TSR 3: Off to a storming start, at one point (perhaps with a little disillusionment) we had 2 places in the top 3! The pressure on RSP\_FTomlimson was too much however, and she went to bed, only to be overtaken during the night.

So, after all that hard work, sleepless nights, and mathematical acrobatics the likes of which some of us have not done for over 30 years, it is now time to have a proper party. Safe journey to Dunkirk, and we will see you all soon.

It is difficult to compare this to a physical TSR, as of course being at a party and drinking at home alone are quite different experiences - not to mention the sailing part! The lack of seasickness has been very much appreciated by some, who have enjoyed brushing up on theoretical skills without needing to pop up for air every couple of minutes. In the spirit of the real TSR's, it has been great to get to know some new sailors from across the globe. A truly international event!

Thanks once again for allowing us to join this fantastic community and race!

RSP SOL Skippers