

## Silverrudder 2020 – Report by Zorba777

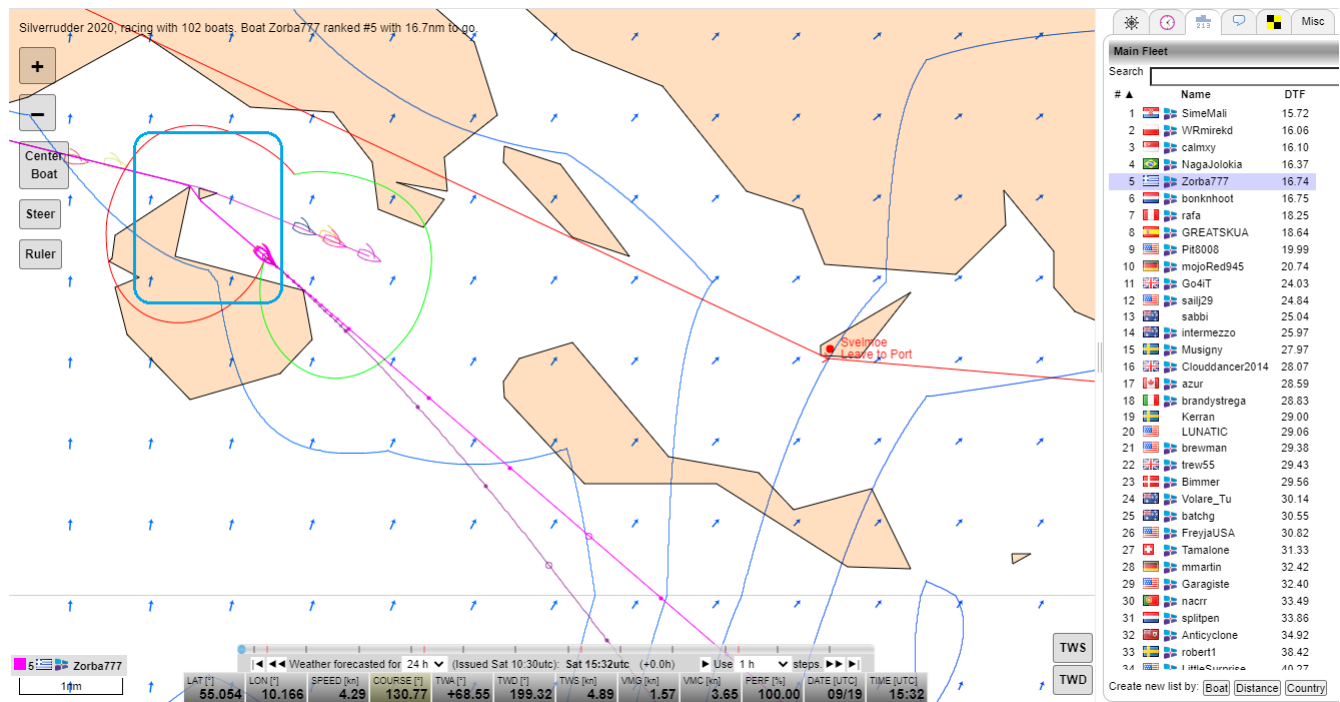
A beautiful event in Denmark, which is normally a 1 day race around the island of Fyn. A total distance of 120 NM.

But this year there was almost no wind, so it became a 36 hour marathon for us SOLers, as well as for the IRL participants. On the event's site (<https://www.silverrudder.com/>) and facebook page it is interesting to watch all the boats crawl at a few knots. Out of 300 boats more than 200 had reportedly abandoned the race after 24 hours.

The start of the race was straightforward, but very slow and it was important to cut the corners crisply to gain a small advantage if possible. That succeeded and I was first boat at Thuro Reef, the first major turning point. From there on we were in more open waters and with some well set DCs some sleep could be had. It was already clear we would need it.

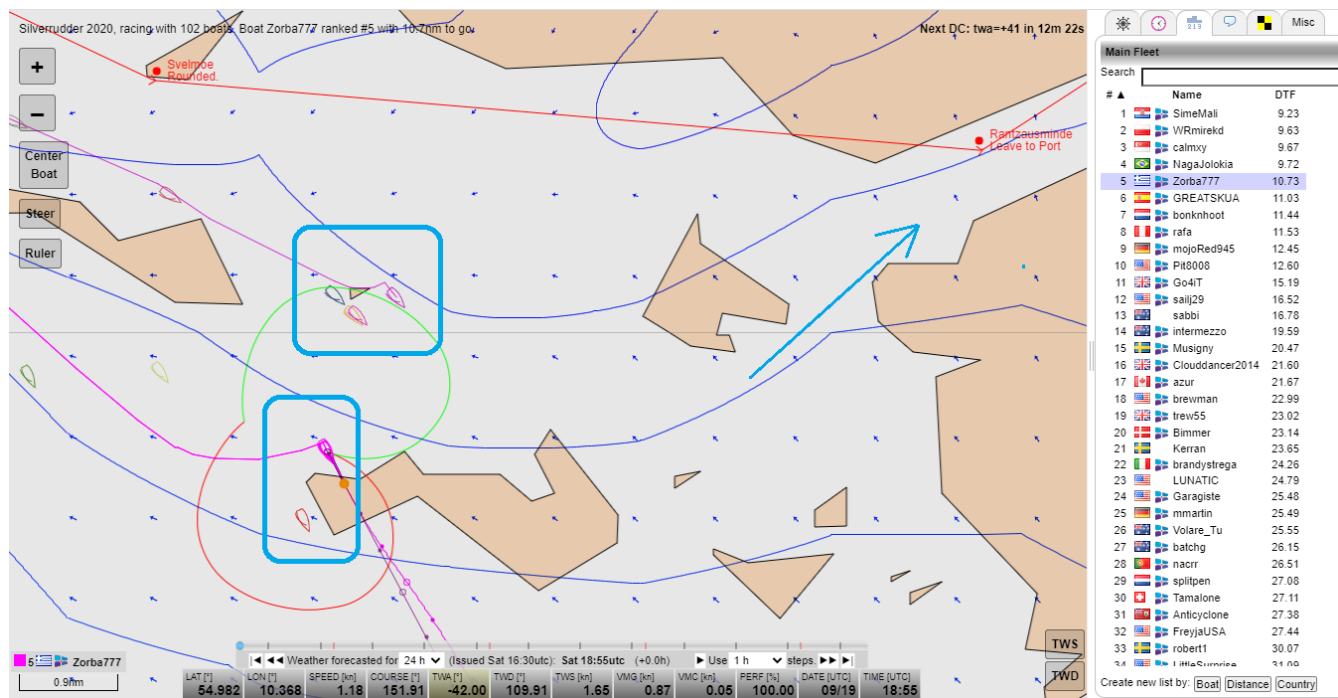
The overnight sailing posed no big challenges, other than patience and the alarm clock was set to wake up for the narrow passages at Strib Odde Fyr. That was around 6AM euro morning. A small leading group of 7 or 8 boats had formed and I was well positioned. But the early coffee hadn't kicked in yet and I did a brief BBQ in the canal that threw me back a few minutes.

Coming down on the West side of Fyn island my gap to the leaders stayed the same. SimeMali had gained a small advantage over WRmirekd and calmxy, who were battling it out for second place. NagaJolokia in 4<sup>th</sup> place. But the final 20 NM had some islands that offered some tactical chances. One hour before a scheduled WX change I sneaked away under a small island and bonknhoot did just the same. Here is my screenshot of what would prove a crucial moment:



Being 15 minutes behind there was no other option to have any chance. The WX would come with Avernako island between the two small groups. And we already knew it would take another 9 or 10 hours to complete the final 16NM of this races.

The WX change brought what we had hoped for. This was the situation with 10NM and almost 6 hours to go:



The leading four encountered <1kts winds and were forced to come to down. Bonk took the longer route under Drejo island for a bit stronger winds. And I tried to tack my way just above it.

When the group rejoined just before Rantzausmunde buoy several hours later it was SimeMali that kept a 0.01NM lead on Bonknhoot, and I found myself in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a tiny 0.01NM advantage on WRmirekd. Unbelievably small differences after 30+ hours of sailing!

That didn't grant us any room for sleep, but the positions wouldn't change anymore. No mistakes were made, even tough we were probably all fighting sleep. An unexpected podium place with a bit of WX luck and an 8 seconds gap, but that's how it goes... A bit bitter for Calmxy and Mirek, who looked like certain for podium. And NagaJolokia, who was a safe 4<sup>th</sup>, must have wondered what would have happened if he had taken that riskier Southern route too.

Congrats to Sime and Bonk. And I hope to be back for Silverrudder next year, with a bit more wind if possible. Thanks to all for a very interesting race.

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