

Silverrudder 2020 race report

This year's Silverrudder Race deserves a Heroic Saga to be written. I won't do that. Neither skill nor will. Instead, in short: what at Wednesday looks like one-day-ish race, has turned into over 40 hours struggling against weak and even weaker wind. At the end, P1-P2: 11 s; 4 min later, P3-P4: 8 s, but then again: 1.5 h more for P10. Seems odd talk about 'rich get richer' when 'rich' BS was 1.5 kn, but any lag was brutally penalized. About an exception one paragraph later...

I think that WRF grib with 0.05x0.05 resolution (i.e. 3 NM H/V raster) is great for races in a relative small area. Even when with new WX you can experience almost IRL sensation your wind is suddenly dying, and maybe no further than 100 m, but out of reach, rippling surface is moving toward your opponent and leads him away, away...anyone remember VOR 2017/18 Newport finish?

And that almost has happened with second to last WX. Bonk and Zorba, some behind Mirek, calmxy, Naga and Šime, must asked themselves (with respect to Danish ground we were sailing around):

To go, or not to go south of Avernakø, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The quiet and drag of calm misfortune,
Or to take arms against troubles of sea
And by opposing end them. To gybe—that ship,
No more; and by a gybe to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That WX is heir to: 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd.

And they went. Right about the time the new WX brought misery to leading pack, they enjoy dizzying almost 2 kt of wind that fly them toward finish. Like turtle past snail, they have overtaken one by one helpless opponent, until only one remained.

But that remaining skipper, aware that in Vikings operated waters must be vigilant and fast, has endured all challenges (meaning: managed to cover bonk, and, more important, succeeded to stay awake second sleepless night in row) and now comes in front of you to tell the story...

... and talks about himself in 3rd person, sure sign of an alienation caused by a sleep deprivation. I'm asking for your forgiveness.

Thanks and congrats all SOLers for racing, and SOL Team for their work and nice surprise prizes.

Fair winds!

(and a bit stronger that this ones were)