

ASTO SSR1 2020 – Race Report

When I checked Sailonline site on the 2nd of October, I saw that a new race was planned for the weekend. This race was a short one, on the Solent (good start time) and to be raced using the Tall Ship Class B with which I enjoyed some good results. Therefore, a must participate race!

The general outlook for this race was clear, specially taking into account the polar of the Tall Ship Class B and its handicap sailing upwind. Therefore, the mostly upwind course between NE Ryde Middle mark to the Solent Bank mark was where this race could be won or lost.

As expected, the start was quite straightforward until the NE Ryde Middle buoy, with very small differences between the leading boats rounding the mark. On course to the next mark, East Lepe, I tried to keep the ship slightly south of the rhumbline to profit from the stronger wind. Again, there were just small differences between the leading boats up to East Lepe.

Then came the deciding leg to Salt Mead. The big question was to tack and go south for stronger wind with another tack to the mark or keep north and profit from the better angle from the wind shift with only one tack straight to the mark. I chose the later one and it proved to be the winning course. I rounded the mark first with a small but clear lead from the rest of the fleet.

All was left was simple reach to West Lepe and the use of the shift again to approach the Solent Bank mark where the only difficulty was tacking on the right place. This time most of the boats took the north option. After Solent Bank mark, it was just following the rhumbline to the center of the line.

This was a lovely short race that I enjoyed very much and I would like to thank all the participants for racing and keeping SOL fun and competitive.

I want also to thank ASTO for partnering with Sailonline for this race. SOL races partnered with real races are an extra motivation!

A last word to the brilliant race made by ChallengeWales, a newcomer to SOL! I hope he continues to sail with us.

Porto, 6 October 2020

Nuno (nacrr)