Knowledge x Time = Luck… and maybe a win

The Formula to win a SOL race is easy to understand. The more you know about sailing, and the more time you have to be in front of your race page, the more luck you will have.

Now, before I start to write about this race, I must say that I'm not a "race report-writing enthusiast". I love to read the reports, but I have a huge difficulty to write detailed English about a completed race. I barely remember what I had to eat in the past 12 hours, so there is a big chance to be boring, without pictures or fun facts.

This is my first win in SOL but it is far from be the race I had more fun.

This race was the one I was most able to to dedicate extra time and less sleep to, over the last several months. For me, sleep is a very important daily task. I hate to wake up early, weekdays or weekends, but the fact that a first win began to look possible, made me dedicate a lot more time to achieve that. And that was not so fun.

Sometimes I read comments on chat about using a router or not, and for me, this is up to each one, but I don't understand complaints about who uses a router. It is a fantastic tool to make races more enjoyable (at least for me this is the biggest benefit).

Even with a (tiny!) real-life sailing background, when I have to race on Sailonline a couple of years ago, I quickly realized that I knew nothing about winds and race strategies, and for me, learning new skills is always very exciting.

But after a year trying to discovery the Router Secrets, I realized that the router is just a small part in the process. You need to have time to do the weather updates, you need to decipher the winds predictions, you need to deal with performance loss, and you have to follow the **Italian Team Academy lessons,** a must-read Sol tutorial at http://gaidano.eu/page4.php.

I can only thank you all for that.

So, I am a new SOLer, if I can say that, but I have the good fortune to have some great friends here that make me love this game/simulator ever more each day.

Starting with my Greek friend Anthimos Sa (aka KinkyMiou). He had the heavy duty to teach me the first steps on using a Router to race. That was the first attempt to learn a new thing and increase the fun while sailing virtually.

Then I met my big friend and Master Bimmer, who spent some weeks in Facebook messenger calls teaching me How to use QT and AGL. That was amazing. A lot of new possibilities come from it, and I love it.

Recently, The Brazilian Gang was born, and I kept learning a lot from my friends Pedro (Nagajolokia), Nelson (SeeUlater) and Guilherme (Guimaza). Pedro is my coach in Performance Loss and advanced Routing, but Nelson was the one that lit the flame about PL. Both you guys are "guilty" for this first win, without your tips (and my luck), this first win would not have been possible.

And last but not least, I have to thank the most important tool on SOL, the Race Chat Room. What a fantastic way to learn from the best racers and also have a lot of fun listening to the wise ones.

So, that is it. Thanks SOL and all volunteers that make this such a great community.

batatabh/October 2020