

Lord Howe 2020

Report by **Galmoli**

It has been 3 years since my last online race and 5 years since my last real race. This has been my second regatta at SOL and in the short time I have been here I have seen how great the community is. I felt like I was at home.

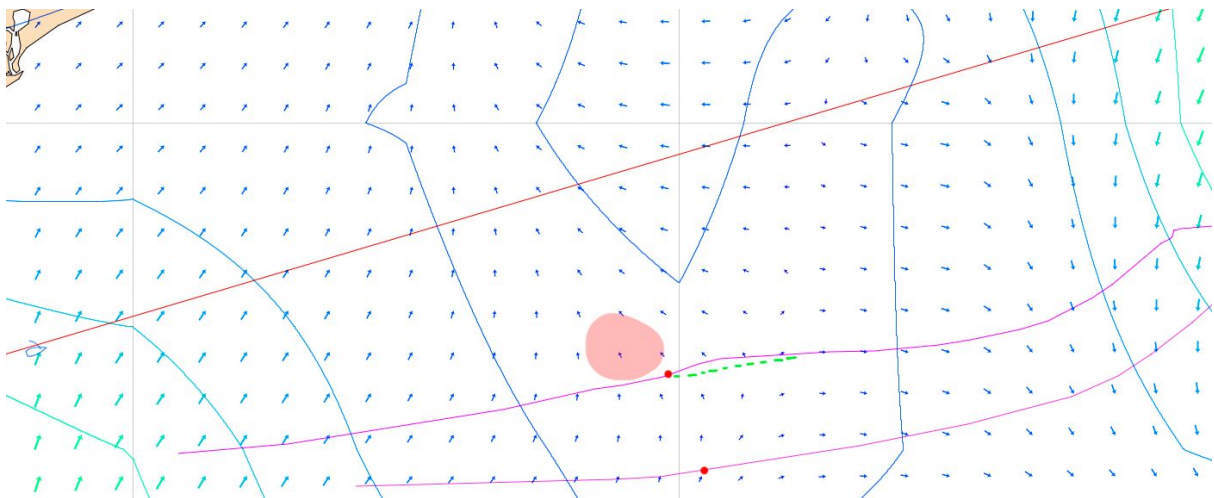
I don't have any screenshot from the first 10h of the race but it was really demanding for me because I don't have enough practice with DCs and server ticks. I managed to not BBQ and I only lost 1 minute to the lead in the first mark.

After the first mark I started to plan the route. There were 2 (more or less) clear routes. The first one with more wind pressure but with a longer path. I started to create several routes with QT forcing the route to go further south than it showed me, I wanted to see how much time would be lost with the current WX. If I remember correctly the difference was between 10 and 15 minutes. With the current WX prediction it wasn't worth it.

My objective was to score a Top 15 and I knew that following the current QT route would be enough because I don't know how to use AGL and the more experienced player would outperform me.

I threw some more south routes with different wind pressures. I needed a WX update that brought 4% more wind pressure in the south to outperform the original route. I took the risk but I didn't go all in, so I took a moderate south route.

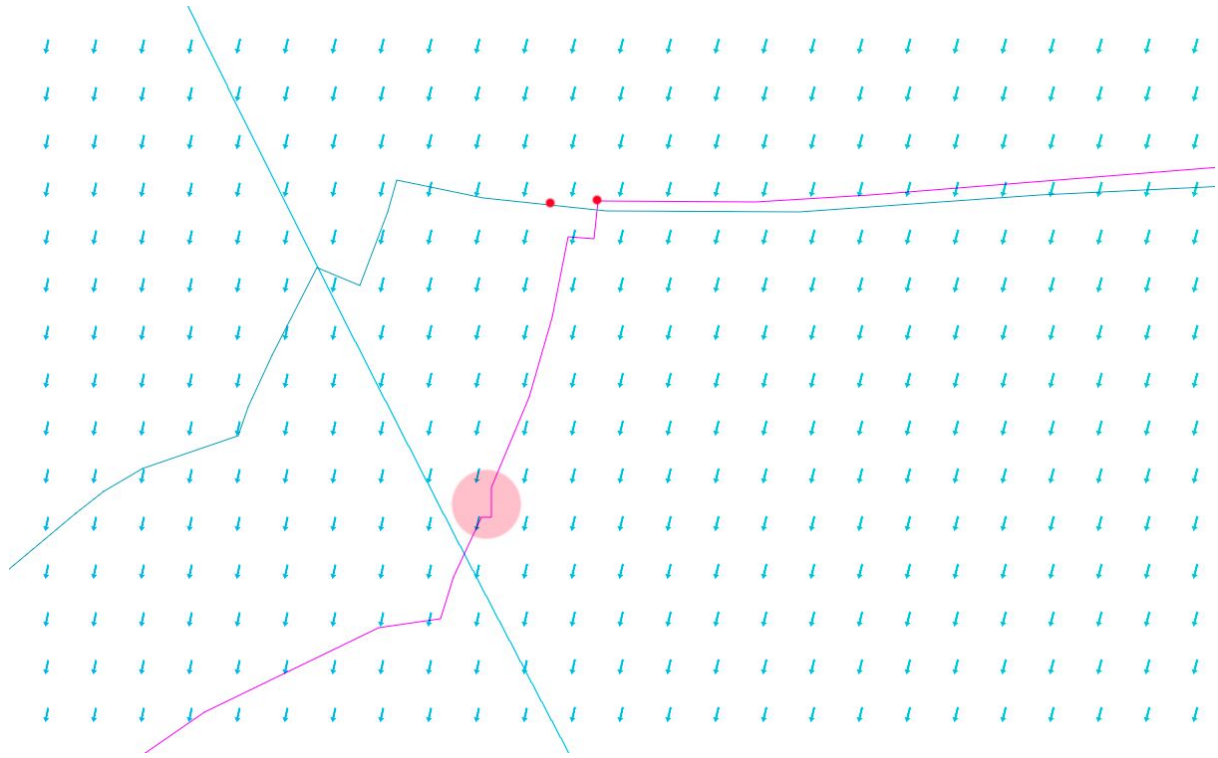
When I got up early in the morning I was in the right spot. The 4:20 WX update played in my favour. Now it was time to defend so I could get a place in the Top 15.



My first defense maneuver was to approach the main fleet (the green dotted line is my original route). I knew I couldn't do anything with **@Zorba777** because he was too south and I decided to defend from the rest of the fleet rather than persueue the win.

As I knew that I wouldn't be home all day and seeing the situation of a possible Top 10, I decided to take the laptop with me so I could update the DCs with the new WX updates.

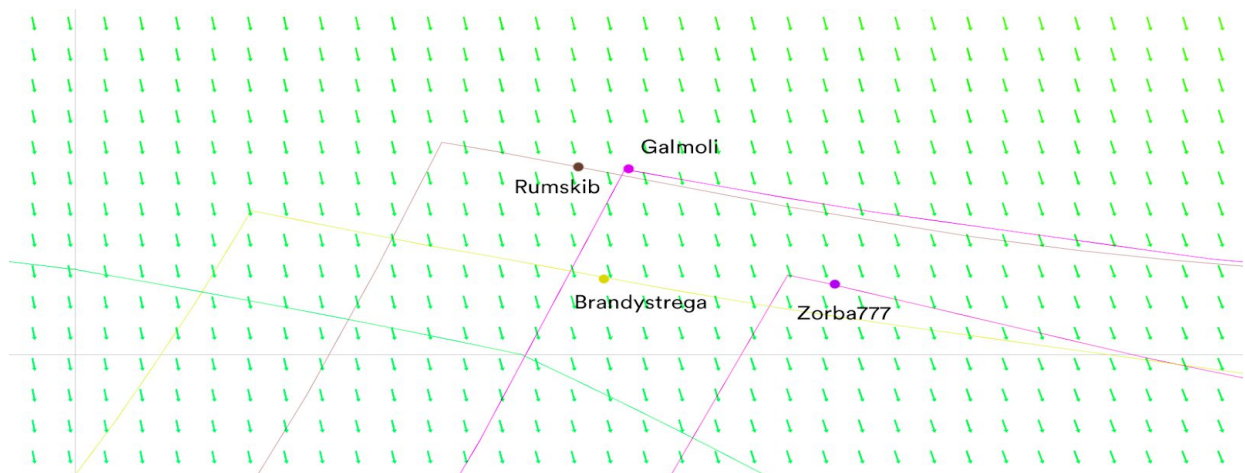
When the < 1 kn winds went in all my DCs were wrong so I decided to race setting the cog by hand. But I didn't delete old DCs so I did a strange maneuver.



At that moment the closest boat that I had was **@Kerran** from Sweden, so gybed in front of him to defend from a possible wind shift.

After this gybe the path to the north started so we could get stronger winds and a better angle to approach the finish line, at that moment I was already in the Top 5.

Approaching the last tack I decided that I would tack after **@rumskib** and **@brandystrega**. I made the decision because although tacking soon would bring me closer to the finish line, being further east would mean having less wind pressure and less angle.



I tacked in front of **@rumskib** and set the DCs to get to the finish line.

I spend more time planning on how to defend from the main fleet rather than going for the lead. Next time I will go for it **@Zorba777** ;)

Special thanks to **@elbetico**, who have taught me about qt and gave me advice in difficult situations.

Now time to relax, and fulfill my duties at the university, exams are coming. See you at the Christmas race. Fair winds!

Galmoli