

Nisi Astypalaia Sprint 2021

The weather looked good for a relatively quick sprint, with a shifting wind direction would make it a tactical race. First couple of hours upwind deciding how often to tack, performance loss against wind shift. Given the speed of the shift I decided early to tack often, just a couple of minutes to recover to 100%.

After the first hour it looked like the right move as Sadler had moved up the leaderboard. onknhoot, rumskib, Smo and a few more were taking virtually the same route, unfortunately for bonknhoot a wrong command was sent losing him a few places. rumskib was proving to be a tough competitor as always, some of the other big names had decided to tack less which didn't seem to be favourable but brewman was very close having tacked fewer times.

Rounding Pounta saw rumskib and Sadler side by side for the back straight drag race, I could not tell who was in front, the lead swapping every few minutes, a very small gap back to brewman, NagaJolokia, Likendeeler and Hirilonde. Poor old bonk was having a bad day losing internet connection and over 20 places, good news for Sadler's quest for the sprint championship.

At the rounding of Flouda, rumskib had a good server jump giving him the lead, but only by a couple of boat lengths, and then all of a sudden brewman was next to rumskib and myself, a rather long land hop got me sweating, brewman popped up in chat apologising for an early fired DC, I genuinely believe it was not deliberate and he would have backed off had he gained any places, but no places were gained, just a raised heart rate :)

The last turn would be crucial, whoever got the better server jump would get the win, I needed a perfect jump to snatch back the lead. I followed my boat every jump measuring the distance of each jump at 0.024 nm. As we approached Poulari my calculations were heading for a poor rounding with a server jump a boat length before the mark, the next jump would send me past the mark too much, but as it happened Sadler's jump was bang on the mark. I hit the set boat course in an instant and got the perfect rounding, the next minute waiting for the fleet update was stressful. rumskib had not been so lucky, Sadler had taken the lead by a coat of paint, a final drag race to the finish and my first victory in over 2 years but by just 1 second with the added bonus of leading the championship by 4 points over Hirilonde who finished 6th.

Well done SOL & sailors, a great race.

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