

Singapore Visit 2021 Report

Due to my university studies and the pandemic, I decided to take a year-long break from Sailonline to give priority to my studies.

Now that I have just recently completed my studies and graduated, I have a lot more time on my hands and decided to make my return to Sailonline. At first, I was very nervous, and everything seemed to be very "foreign" to me as the website had a completely different UI (User Interface) that I had never seen or experienced before.

I decided that I would sail my own race and not follow or cover anyone. As the race started my brain became completely "scattered" as I saw all the boats going off in different directions, something I had to get used to again after being away for almost a year. I stuck to my game plan and once we were about halfway to the Pulau Tioman rounding I was in the groove and was used to everything again, it almost felt as if I did not even leave.

After rounding the Pulau Tioman mark I knew for a fact that I was in a very good position and that my game plan was working, however, I then started making the "rusty" mistakes. I sent a command to change my course by a few degrees on a TWA course and it had a sneaky minus in front of the TWA degree and my boat ended up completely gybing. I lost quite a few positions due to my performance loss and knew that I had to sail my own race again to get those positions back. The rest of the leg to Kampung Gambut went relatively smoothly and I had worked my way back into a podium position, which I was very surprised by.

The last leg to the finish was a very exciting one, firstly I had to decide which side of the finish line was the better side to sail to and I had NagaJolokia hot on my heels. I decided that I would aim for the starboard side of the finish line, set my DC's and watched. I, unfortunately, could not hold NagaJolokia back, but I managed to secure my 3rd position on the podium! I was very surprised by this as it had been so long since I had sailed a race and it felt great knowing that I was back and had not lost my touch!

All in all, there are a lot of things that I had to relearn from the mistakes I made:

- The main one was that your boat needs to be at 100% performance before setting a DC, I made this mistake way too often and sat there like a clown wondering why my boat was not turning when I wanted it to LOL.
- The second thing that I had to relearn was that if it is late in the evening and your boat does not need to be adjusted for a few hours, get some sleep! I often found myself sitting there watching all the boats and being too tired when it came to the crucial parts of the race, not being able to concentrate.
- The third thing was that I very quickly realized that I needed to do what I always used to do, which was creating a boat list with just myself in it. This way I can create a game plan and stick to it, if I don't do this then when I see most of the fleet going in a different direction I often second guess myself.

I would just like to say thank you to everyone at Sailonline for the great race. It was truly a breath of fresh air making my return and it was great reuniting with the amazing community that SOL has.

Congratulations to Sax747, Nagajolokia, All in the top 10 and to all the finishers of the race. It was truly an honour racing beside all of you and I look forward to joining you all in the next races to follow.

Fair Winds,

Patrick / Patrick70119