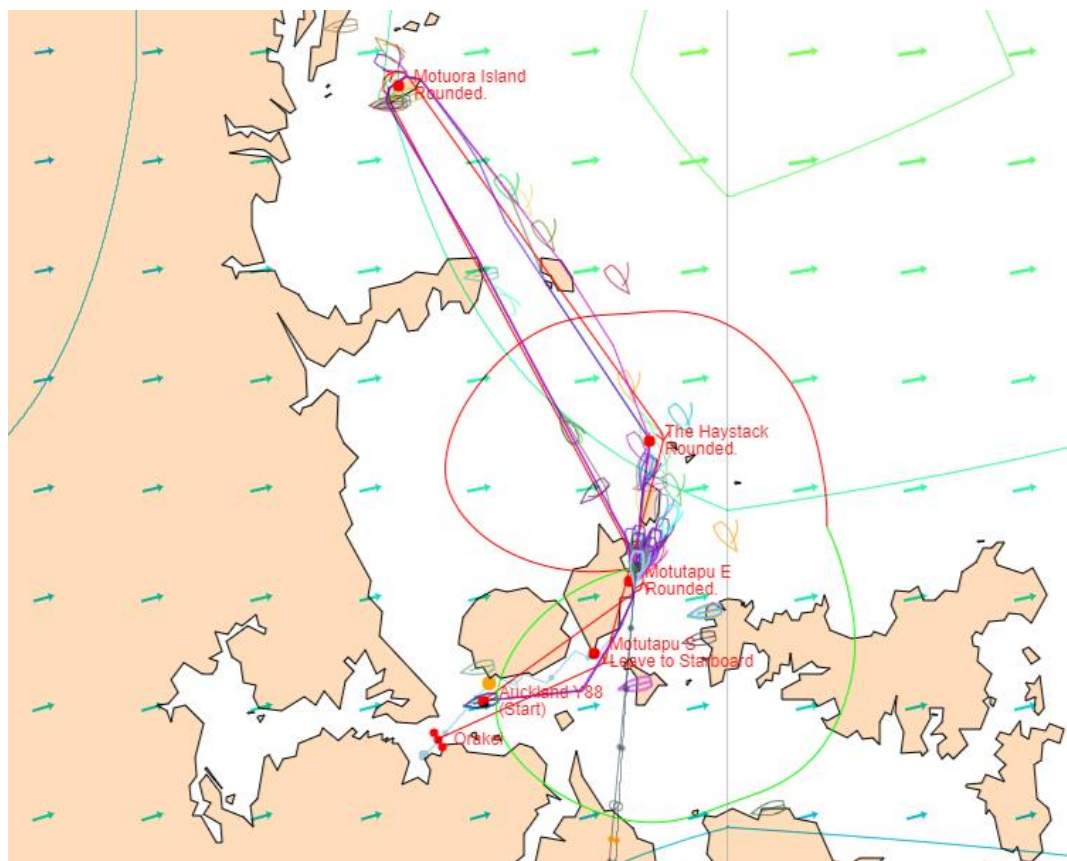


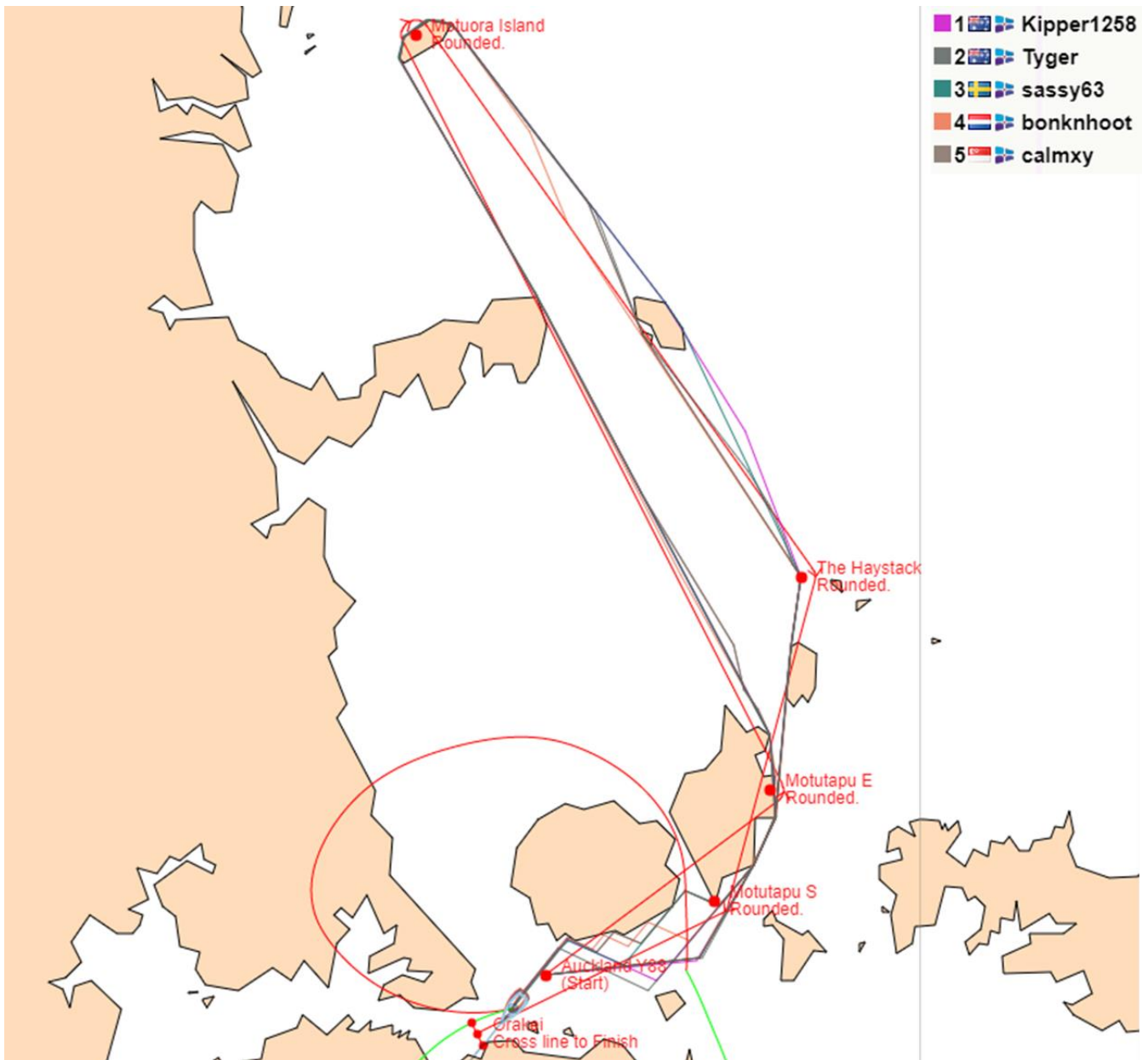
Here we are, back in the Hauraki Gulf for the SSANZ buddied races. While the course layouts themselves change, they always start at ~9pm UTC and involve weaving your Young 88s around prescribed waypoints and islands to get to the finish. Of course, there are other races such as PIC Coastal, RNI and Yates Cup which take place (or at least start) in the Hauraki Gulf. Oh, and let's not forget the Practice Races, the last of which tends to finish at Beepbeep's Mooring ☺



For this race, we had fairly decent winds coming from the west. For certain boat polars, it would have been a pretty obvious choice to sail the rhumb lines north of Motutapu. Indeed, [there have been races](#) where this was the case – you remain attentive, pray for favourable server jumps when rounding land and hope for the best.

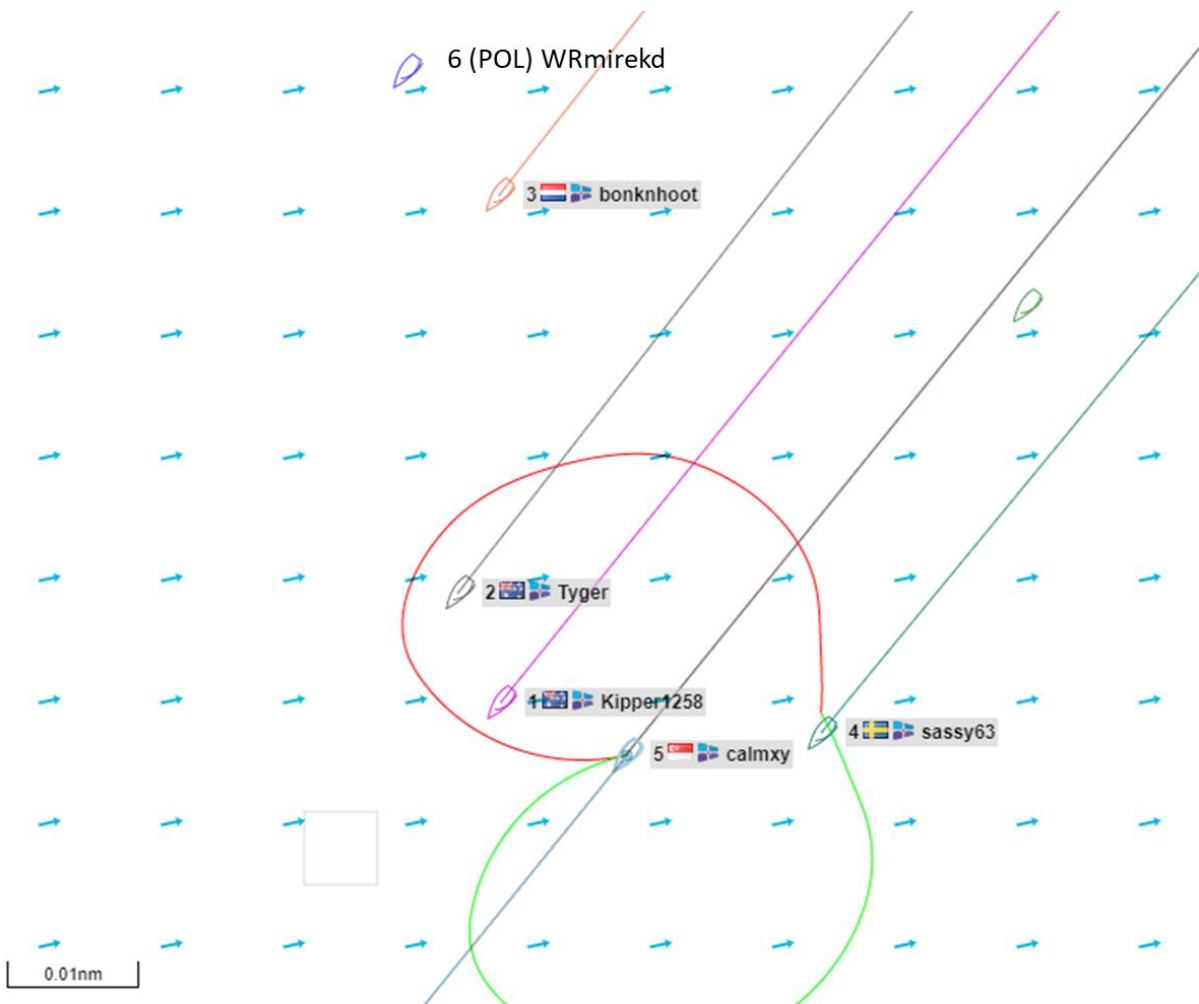
However, the Young 88 polar has a depression at around TWA 90-100° in the winds that we were sailing in (exact TWA range varies with wind speed)... not good considering that we essentially have beam reach winds on both legs between Motutapu and Motuora!

Indeed, while that first gybe SE of Rangitoto was universally done by all the frontrunners, there was substantial deviation of the paths thereafter.



Between Motutapu E and Matuora, I did some polar hops around the depression, but due to the associated performance loss of the maneuvers, this didn't really save any time compared to the rhumb line. Heading southbound to The Haystack, all frontrunners made a polar hop somewhere along the way, but the timing of this hop was quite variable; the only consideration was that the path had to avoid Tiritiri Mātangi Island.

Unlike the initial gybe heading eastbound, there was a variety of tacking strategies heading towards the SE point of Orakei Finish Line. Tacking more often resulted in staying in better winds, but at the cost of some performance per tack.



Amazingly, after all these deviations in strategy, I found myself in very close proximity with Tyger, Kipper, bonk, Mirek and sassy63 (note that this screenshot was taken about 1nm before the Orakei finish and on extra zoom). This meant that the payoffs of the different decisions made must have been incredibly close!

The slightly more favourable wind angle of those further north meant that there was some overtaking in the final nm straight of this close race. In the end, it was Tyger who eked out just that little bit of distance to let him clinch their third win on SOL!

| Rank | Boat Name | Boat Type | DTG | DBL | Finish Time (UTC) |
|------|------------|-----------|-----|-----|---------------------|
| 1 | Tyger | Young 88 | 0 | 0 | 2021-07-10 04:24:34 |
| 2 | Kipper1258 | Young 88 | 0 | 0 | 2021-07-10 04:24:36 |
| 3 | bonknhoot | Young 88 | 0 | 0 | 2021-07-10 04:24:40 |
| 4 | WRmirekd | Young 88 | 0 | 0 | 2021-07-10 04:24:42 |
| 5 | calmxy | Young 88 | 0 | 0 | 2021-07-10 04:24:46 |
| 6 | sassy63 | Young 88 | 0 | 0 | 2021-07-10 04:24:49 |

[Timelapse of this race](#)