

Raid on Lindisfarne 2021

Before I start to write about this race, I must say again that I'm not a "race reporting enthusiast". I love to read reports, but I have a huge difficulty to write details about a race in English. I barely remember what I ate in the past 12 hours, so there are big chances for a boring report, without pictures or fun facts.

That said, this race was again a very fun and hard one for me. First because my work routine changed a lot in the last 8 months. I'm not in home office anymore, so I'm routinely missing out two or more WX updates every day, and sometimes this works OK, but most of the time it does not. Besides this, my sleep routine after I recovered from Covid has changed a lot. Now I'm an early sleeper, so a further challenge to night WX updates.

In this race, the start was my first dilemma, because I had to set a start DC at 22:30z on the day before. But I got lucky and 24 hours after start I was not BBQing in Denmark but heading for the Norway shore.

At this point, near Kristiansand (Amem), I saw a lonely boat south of fleet, and that was my first insight about Pitt's choice. Maybe it would pay off for him in a few days time.

Nevertheless, I decided to keep to the router suggestions and started a battle with my spare lunch time and trying to not miss 16:30 WX update, but I was not sure what could come of it. Some android app checks later, the complete unknowingness remained – the boat position variance was insane. I decided to give more attention to the race.

SURPRISE!!!

As the finish line approached, I was feeling more confident of perhaps a Top 15, whilst the router keeps telling me the best route was south near UK shore and then avoid headwind till the end. The same route as a week before.

The dilemma now was cover the north fleet or keep best angle till Holy Island. I kept faith in QT. The dream was now Top 5. Did the 22:30hs WX update and started praying to "Saint Awake of mercy". I should not sleep and maybe I have a chance to podium.

And it comes!

Congratulations to all top finishers but a special toast to Pitt and his strategy.

Cheers!!!

batatabh (aka Adriano) / November 2021