

Race Report

Cape Town to Port Elizabeth 2021

By Vida_Maldita

9 December 2021

This was a short overnight race in South Africa. For this race we pulled out our latest and fast C2R74 out of the boat yard. In a way this was a practicing race to get reacquainted with the boat we are going to sail across the Atlantic to Rio next month.

We started in Cape Town Harbour and sailed with the wind in the nose all the way to Cape Agulhas. The C2R74 is a pleasure to do tactics because the best VMG does not change with the wind strength, which means we set at TWA 37.00 degrees and concentrate only in cover the competition as well as tack as close to the shore as possible. The wind was shifting left and therefore we all got as close to shore as possible to take advantage of the wind shift. It was a fantastic zig-zag fighting match.

Some of the top sailors got a bit too close to the rocks and slowly the leading pack was reduced to **Bonknhoot**, **Vida_Maldita**, **FreyjaUSA** and **Cippalippa**. **Bonknhoot** round Cape Agulhas ahead followed almost side-by-side by **Vida** and **FreyjaUSA**. For this first part of the race, it was all SOTP navigation, there was no need to fire up the router software.

After we all rounded the cape, it was a long leg to the finish line at Port Elizabeth. The wind was still in the nose and still slowly shifting left. It was clear that we needed to keep sailing towards the coast and tack with a better angle. The question was, where to tack? Should we sail all the way to almost hit the rock for better angle, or tack at some point before for better wind strength?

The question of better angle and less wind, or stronger wind and less favorable angle, is in the minds of every sailor out there, probably since the great Portuguese sailors of the 15th century.

By then I was exhausted, and I took the easy way out by using my Qt software. The Qt was indeed pointing to the shore but predicted a tack way far from the shore than I would have taken if I was still SOTP. Well, I trusted Qt and went to sleep.

In the morning (my time) I was in a very good spot, I was leading. For some reason **Bonknhoot** had falling quite a way behind, later in the chat I found out he had lost internet. What a pity. **FreyjaUSA** was also a bit behind, I suspect that he extended the first tack a bit too far. Anyways, sometimes is nice to be the one that tacked at the right spot, even if it was recommended by a software.

Then there was **Cippalippa**. I admit, a bit embarrassed, that I wasn't paying attention to him. It is a new name for me. I see by his ranking results that it is a name that from now on I will pay attention. I don't know exactly what happened, but he sailed very fast and managed to overtake both **Bonknhoot** and **FreyjaUSA**. I tip my hat for you.

At the end, **Vida-Maldita** crossed ahead, followed by **Cippalippa** and **Bonknhoot**. Thanks for the behind-scenes work of the SailOnline administration.

Sincerely,

Antonio Ferrer (Vida_Maldita)