

Report for Vasco da Gama Race

Pre Race

It is always an honour to sail in a race with such an illustrious and famous Portuguese navigator's name - Vasco da Gama - discoverer of the maritime route from Europe to India in the XV century. Certainly he has sailed these waters himself!

Except for the small departure leg up to Fairway Mark Durban, this race looked to be mainly an upwind event with a wind shift close to the end and a reach to the line.

Race

There we went on a nice Sunday evening (here in Porto at least), a broad reach to Fairway Mark Durban followed by a small offshore tack and another tack back to land.

The leading boats of the fleet then stayed close to shore in a sequence of tacks up to close to Port Edward. I believe this was the deciding part of the race (where I briefly, as always, beached my nice Farr 38). The difficult thing being to balance the shift with the performance loss of tacking. I think that NagaJolokia nailed this balance and he gained an advantage to the rest of the fleet.

At the start of the long offshore tack close to Port Edward, the leading boats were then NagaJolokia, nacrr, WRmirek, GREATSKUA, rumskib and rafa. Very, very strong competition that didn't allow for any kind of mistake.

After the long tack offshore it was time again to tack to shore before the big wind shift arrived which happened much closer to land. From then on was tacking again to the line, negotiate a small but important polar hop and a reach to the finish. It seems easy said like this but it required close attention to avoid making serious mistakes.

I tried everything to gain some time on Naga but everything I did, going slightly more offshore, negotiating the wind shift earlier and approaching the line more outside, was absolutely useless.

Naga kept his lead sailing flawlessly and won the race. Congratulations!

As for myself, I managed to keep a nice second place followed by WRmirekd in 3rd.

I liked to have 2 Portuguese speaking sailors in the the lead on this one. It was just appropriate.

Nuno/nacrr

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