

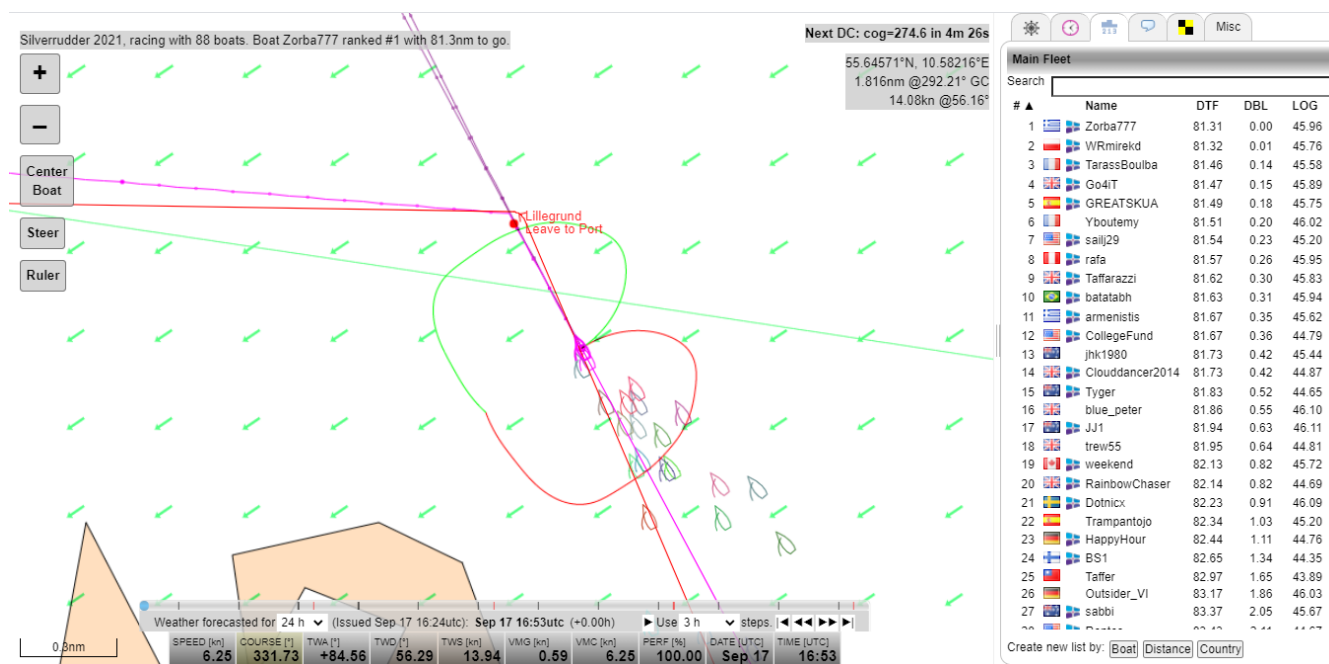
Silverrudder 2021 – Report by Zorba777

The 2020 version of this race was done in very slow winds. Only a handful of boats reached the finish as it took 36 hours to complete the 125 NM course. We all hoped to be a bit quicker this year and got what we wanted.

The race was of course done with our good friend Bimmer in memory, and Mirek made the beautiful gesture of providing a prize for this occasion.

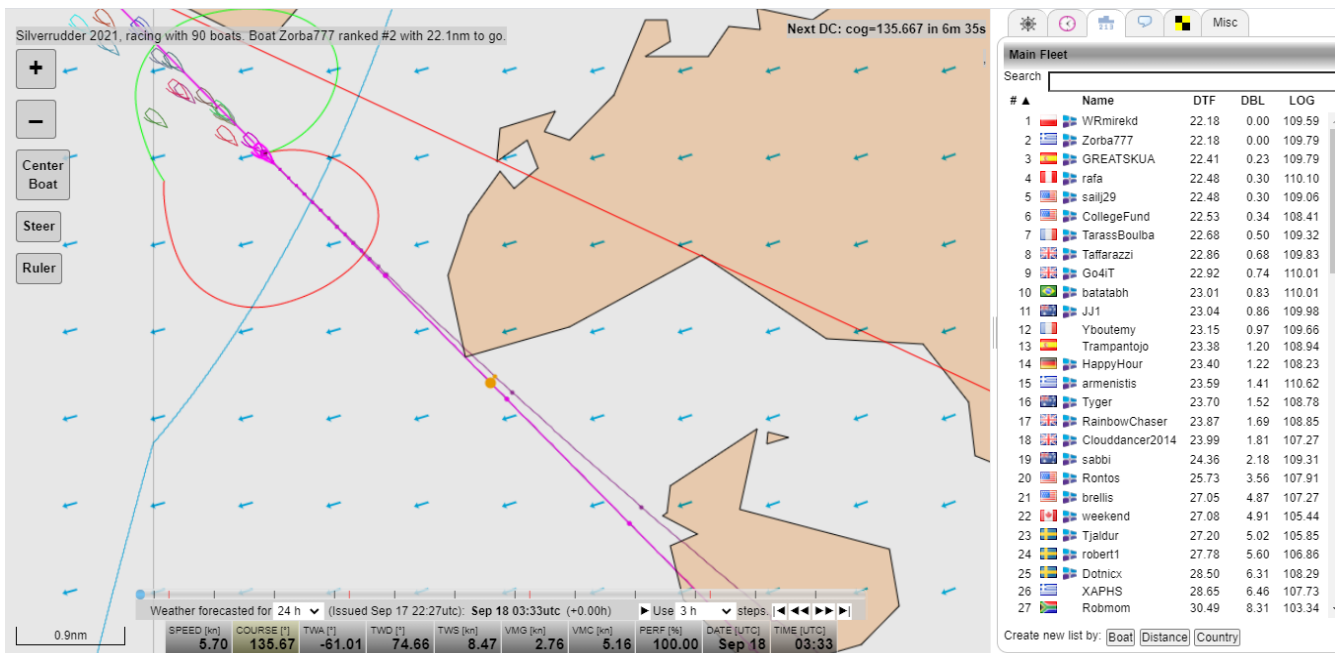
The race as it happened:

1 – Good winds to sail towards Lillegrund waypoint. It was important to arch in smoothly, and I was able to get a minimal advantage on Mirek, with a bit of a gap to the rest of the fleet already:

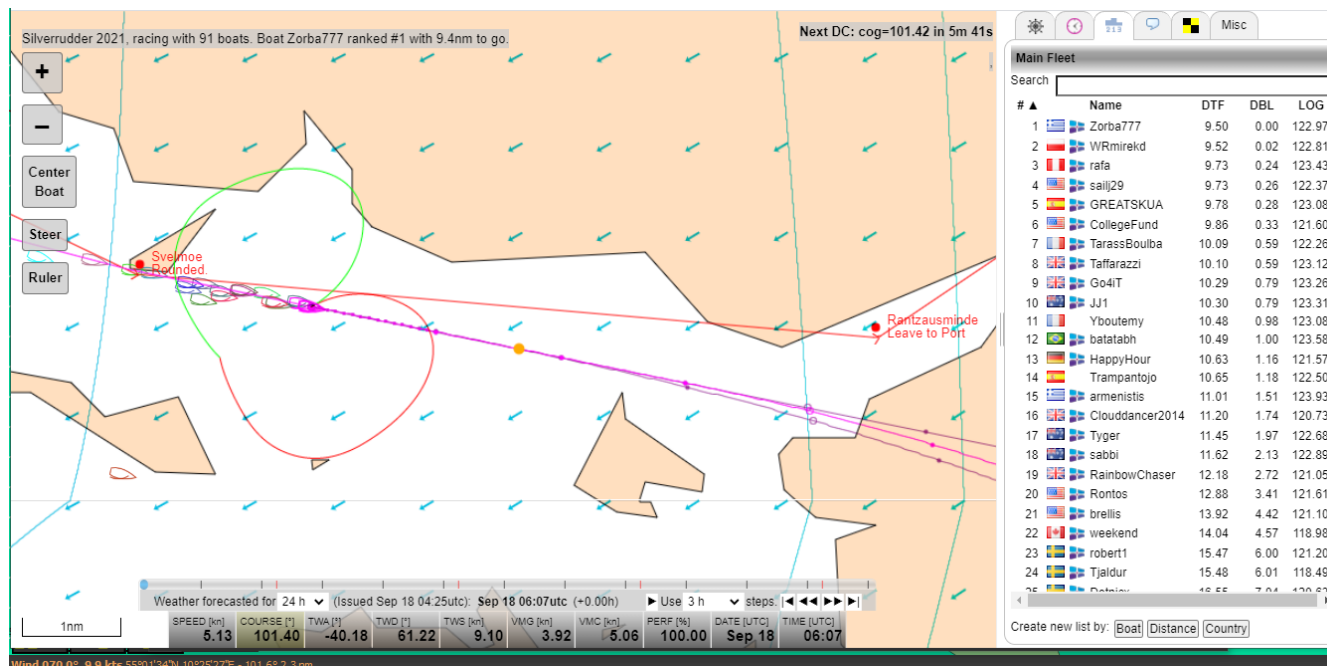


2 – After Lillegrund the routing was straightforward, so I took the chance to sleep until the next WX, which comes at 2:30 AM in my current timezone. Luckily the narrow passages near Strib Odde Fyr were reached at the same time, so a few more hours of sleep could be had after that WX.

Mirek had taken a small 0.01NM lead at that point, but he made a little error and we were back to neck and neck racing the next morning. We then had a 0.20NM gap to Greatskua and Rafa, so podium looked safe but to win was still a toss-up. Here is a screen taken after the Helnaes waypoint. Nothing to separate our boats, with 22NM left to go :



3 – I tacked a bit earlier while passing North of Lyø island, which I remembered from the tactical shenanigans we had in last year’s Silverrudder. It seemed to earn me a few seconds, enough to get a 0.01NM lead again. Here is my last screen. It shows 0.02NM advantage, but that’s because I took a bit more Southern route. From there on it was business of keeping the nose in front while tacking towards the finish line:



It was a deja-vu, as last year I had the same 0.01NM advantage on Mirek going into the last 10NM. But now the win was on the line.

Last year I kept 8 seconds advantage: <http://www.sailonline.org/races/1385/leaderboard/>
 And this year I also kept 8 seconds: <http://www.sailonline.org/races/1485/leaderboard/>

Since there are over 80,000 seconds in a day you can estimate the odds of finishing with the same gap, to the second, with the same opponent in subsequent years. Not a bad way to win my 8th SOL race, and I am very happy with the prize. I will remember Bimmer and Mirek every time I use it.

Thanks Mirek, great battle for seconds, and congrats Rafa for a fine 3rd place.

Thanks all for racing, and see you in the next one.

Zorba777

