

JAKOB'S BIRTHDAY BBQ RACE 2022

The Swedish archipelago is always a spectacular place to sail, and this demanding and challenging race is even better, with so many options as there are lots of tiny islands you have to round, to arrive to Jakob's place for a deserved bbq.

As last year, I started not heading where I wanted to go, but with a lower angle to get a bit windward of the main fleet before I opened the angle, heading to the west side of the little complex of islands which we had to avoid. This tactic was the same as the one I used last year, obtained from the Qt routing program. As last year things went pretty well, and when we arrived at the first obstacle, I was in first again.

But this year Jawz from South Africa followed by brewman from America, had chosen a better route, and after two hours of rounding island tips with some of the better solers breathing on my neck, we all saw how these two skippers overtook us, with Jawz getting a clear advantage over us, arriving to the only mark of the race minutes later. When we went around the mark, I managed to overtake brewman, and when we started heading west, I was in second place, with not that many options to hunt Jawz, who had a 0,05 mile advantage.

Then I started to set dc's to pass through the web of islands we had ahead just in case I couldn't helm my boat to the end of the race. I didn't realize that Jawz and most of the "SuperSolers" had taken a different route to the one that I had chosen. My chosen route was the most direct way to arrive to the final leg. As Careka said at that moment in the chat, "you always think you are wrong when others do a different thing to you", but this time it took several minutes for me to realize that they were doing a different route. I had no doubts as by then it was too late to change my mind. In addition, the only way to try to beat Jawz was to do something different, so I kept my first thought, followed very closely by HappyHour and Careka, we all went ahead with our plans.

The route that the others had taken (northwest) meant that they would lose distance on the first leg, due to a worse angle than us for at least half an hour, so I overtook Jawz on the leaderboard quite soon, hoping I could get enough advantage to keep that position when we met again as they started to head west with a better angle than us.

Hopefully the straightest line was the fastest, and as last year, I could keep my position to the end, getting a victory that is always a bigger pleasure when we are celebrating the birthday of one of SOL's founders, so happy birthday, and thanks Jakob and the entire SOL team for this amazing entertainment.

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