

# Tyger - AWKR Race Report

When a SOL virtual race starts in front of my irl club and the coords of my home are within the virtual race boundary, there must be a case for 'local knowledge' and so it was for this race.

It may only be early winter down here but already Melburnians have experienced record low temperatures for this time of year and plenty of snow has been dumped on the Victorian Alps NE of Melbourne. Sailing from the comfort of one's armchair at home is far better than in the teeth of the cold southwesterly coming up from the Southern Ocean. Much respect to the intrepid ladies competing in the irl AWKR.

A simple triangle course saw the first leg have the fleet bearing almost due south but with a slight shift coming in to more southerly a straight line course would mean pinching up to the first mark off Beaumaris or having to bear away and give up distance. I decided to head a few degrees to starboard, ride the shift around and then set a straight course to the mark so as to be on VMG when at the Beaumaris mark. This proved to be the correct tactic and Tyger rounded in the top 5.

The next decision was whether to save distance and sail a straight line to Point Cook or drop down and get a faster angle to the mark. Tyger chose the straight line and again this proved to be the correct tactic with Tyger maintaining position and rounding the mark close to 1st place.

The final leg from Point Cook back to the finish at RMYS would be the 'make or break' leg. Before the mark, I saw from the flat bottomed polar that VMG could alternate anywhere between low 140's and mid 160's. I decided on a twa of +143.00 and was very pleased to see WRmirekd on my tail heading in the same direction after we rounded Point Cook. Others went for the shorter but slower route of sticking to VMG. At this point I was confident of a podium and if ... if I could cover Mirek, maybe a win as I was ahead and downwind, the classic downwind covering position. I kept a keen eye on Mirek - when he wiggled, I wiggled. It was like a match race, a case of cover and keep covering. I waited for Mirek to gybe for the finish line so I could continue to cover and we did so in 6th and 7th positions. Again the faster twa of approximately -140.00 meant we could get past the boats ranked ahead. We regained the lead half way up the short dash to the starboard end of the finish line with Tyger taking the win.

Congrats to WRmirekd for the close action and to College Fund for adopting a similar tactic on the final leg.

I must add, that the start time being after breakfast on a Sunday morning meant that I could be 'at the helm' for the entire race and manually steer the boat around marks. I think this was a major factor in the win.

Fair winds to all SOLers.

Tyger