

It has been a few years (2018) since the last balloon trip across the pond so I thought why not challenge our grey cells and try a new set of parameters? After the start and having tried zooming North and South up and down the West Atlantic I found a Westerly that would take me across the pond and so I decided to take a fast run then at least I would be roughly in the right location if a favourable wind started to blow in the right direction.

As I crossed a Northerly was forecast and so it became a challenge to get there ASAP. I was very lucky and picked up that Northerly almost North of Scotland and took the ride South.

Approaching the Irish coast I was almost 180 degrees TWA so riding with the wind. I came down the coast in the teens and then into the finish line at 22+ knots and was very lucky to pip sailij29 just short of the line as he was coming much slower in nearer 155 - 160 TWA.

Mind you I nearly blew it by gybing, to ensure that I finished near the port limit mark, and I suffered a 15% performance loss for about ten minutes but I was fortunate. These pesky balloons should not suffer such a performance loss that came as a big surprise to me along with some anxiety and heartburn!

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