

Round Robben Island Sprint 2022

I honestly don't have a lot of specifics as to how I was fortunate enough to land in the top spot. I will tell you that this was a total surprise.

I had an unplanned commitment with my wife to have lunch with some friends (that I had to fulfil of course), and set DC's for the entire race, although I was able to be at my computer during key mark rounding's (Robben North, Bloubergstrand and Milnerton Beach) and was able to adjust for Robben West with the 16xx wx update. My strategy was to set a course using COG only, as this was a race where I would not be in front of my computer for over 2+ hours in the middle, I spent a little extra time preparing the DC's and hoped that it would all end up okay. Obviously, it all came together for Freyja.

I started looking at this race the day before, creating initial plans, but they dramatically changed at the 04xx (Nov, 11) wx update, this is where it looked better for me to start on starboard instead of port as I had initially planned. I was surprised that there were so few boats that started on starboard and thought I had made a big mistake right from the start. I did feel some confidence when I saw that Patrick70119 and some other key SOL'ers were with me. I was looking for the best option to get to Robben North as quickly as possible, as I knew this was the key to being in a strong position on the return to Cape Town. Only 1 tack certainly to Robben North was a good plan in my mind.

After rounding Milnerton Beach I took an immediate port tack that really was the key to finishing ahead. There was a header building going to the port pin and I was convinced that this was my best option to get ahead of it, although I dropped back to 8th in the standings along the way. I honestly think that angle was more important than wind speed. I sailed .72 further than the second place boat (Patrick70119), but with the additional boat speed was able to luckily come out on top.

I want to thank all the SOL Ops/Admin team for all you do. I know this takes a lot of effort, but you are all amazing and I look forward to many years ahead!

FreyjaUSA / December 2022