Lanzarote to Grenada 2023 – Report by ita10267

I started planning this race a couple of days ahead, using historical data to decide the preferred approach. Although early routing suggested two equivalent approaches I decided to stick with a traditional trade winds sail while few boats tried the northern route which did not end up well.
At the start first decision was how close to Africa go. Or, in other words, where to leave Cabo Verde islands. Some of my competition (Aner, Scarabocchio) decided for a southern approach while me and Dingo, Freya and some others decided to leave Cabo Verde to port. We were close, possibly within a mile and the choice revealed to be good as we could go further south with a better angle later in the race.
Freya was little late to gybe south and me and Dingo took the chance and a small lead. We had one last gybe before a super-long westward leg, Dingo gybed early while I decided to take a more southern approach. Better angle and stronger winds for many days paid well off and I managed to accumulate 0.5nm (!) lead before the final gybing duel. But at this point routing tools became very reliable and there were no opportunities to attack, although some close covering was needed, at the expense of a less optimal approach, to avoid any surprise! This was one of the few races I managed to sail having a definite plan from the start to the end and adjusting it only minimally wx after wx.

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