
Melbourne to Osaka 2023

Well, dear fellow SOLers,

I usually fail to write reports and, for this race, I really don't know where to start.

My first choice was easy: going east of Australia was the most effective route.

The real problem to overcome was the approach to Solomom Iceland, a sea of blue bubbles was blocking our way and finding the right passage was crucial.

The first idea was to pass, as usual, east of Bougainville Island but, after much indecision, I chose Vangunu Island as the right target.

Seeing that the choice was also shared by RICOTINA, aner59, Dingo and other TopSOLers convinced me that it was the right solution and I no longer followed the weather changes.

Suddenly Dingo, rafa, batatabh and others pointed east while other boats put their bows to the west: I admit, a thousand doubts arose but I chose to follow my plan even at the cost of coming last.

At this point the big doubt was whether to choose the easy way by passing east of Vangunu Island or opt for the riskier route to the west.

I believe that choosing the narrow passage to the west was decisive in gaining miles on the rest of the fleet, which headed decisively east.

After days and days in the blue (I no longer remember how many ...) RICO, aner and I finally emerged from the doldrums and the light went on: we had made the right choice and found ourselves with a huge advantage over the rest of the fleet. Race over and podium all Team Italy?

The battle for victory was probably down to the three of us but there were more than 2000nm to go and keeping an eye on Freyja & Co was always a must. It was still a decidedly easy 2000nm to the finish and the battle with my good friends RICO and aner began.

Only the three of us Team Italy friends and the rest of the fleet behind more than 100 nm: a surreal situation but it was fun fighting each other for first place.

RICOTINA won and that's fair enough: 4 Ocean races and 4 different winners but all from the fantastic Team Italy!

Big honour to Freyja, nordee, BadgerOne, Dingo, Pit8008, Kaganisso, rafa and all SOLers: you never give up and that always makes you winners!

From SCARABOCCHIO (2nd between two Andrea's ...) that's it, see you in next races, Fair Winds all and CHEERS!

SCARABOCCHIO - April 2023