

Race Report

Bay to Bay Leg 2 - 2023

By Vida_Maldita

May 1st, 2023

This was a great race. Wow, that's a bold statement to start a race report, of course, you would assume, that I thought this was a "great race". For one, I won the race. However, besides the gold, there are other reasons that, at least for me, qualifies as a "great race".

The race had options. There were three islands on the way that we had to decide on which side to sail. Not easy decisions to make because the differences in time saved were quite small. Also, because this was a short race, we had little time to settle on wherever side we decided to go. On top of that, we got a new weather file in the middle of the race. In the case of the leading group, the new "weather" came in right when we were turning the "Booker Island PB S23" mark. This made the race more interesting and exciting, both characteristics of a "great race" in my book.

A good way to quantify the level of excitement of a race is to calculate the distance actually sailed relative to the racecourse distance. Take the LOG and divide by the racecourse distance. A higher number means more tacks & gybes were performed. A 1.00 means we sailed in straight line from mark to mark until the finish line. Usually a boring race. Evidently, this is a rough calculation because very long races the ratio is usually low since there are many miles sailed over the rhumb line. But in a short race the ratio works well.

To give you an idea of the ratio magnitude, a ratio above 1.05 (meaning the winner sailed 5% more miles than the course) is a good race, a ratio above 1.10 starts to get interesting. In this Bay-to-Bay race the winner sailed 28.8% more miles than the straight-line course. $\text{LOG}/\text{race} = 1.288$. This was the highest number I ever recorded. Granted I don't do this calculation for all the races, but it is fair to assume 28.8% is up there with the high demanding races.

The Sinbad Madagascar race is another example, the winner ratio was 1.144, a sign of an interesting race.

I would like to finish this report by acknowledging the fact that the entire race happened over night and early dawn for the Europeans which probably gave an edge to the sailors from GMT+5, as far as being alert in front of the computer.

Congratulations to all 11 boats that finished within 1 minute from the leader, Vida_Maldita; Brewman, Pit8008, sassy63, Extractor, SlideRule, Kipper1258, WRmirekd, Sax747, FreyjaUSA and bmd.

Thanks to the volunteers of Sailonline that make all this happen.

Sincerely,

Antonio Ferrer (Vida_Maldita)