

SUSAN HOOD TROPHY RACE 2023

It was a very competitive virtual Susan Hood Trophy Race and well attended. 68 boats from 21 countries registered. From a local perspective there were 5 from Canada and 17 from the USA. **WRmirek**, the No. 1 sailor in the Sailonline world, won the virtual race in 13 hrs, 3 mins and 56 secs. By comparison, **Stegra** was the fastest of the 8 Beneteau 36.7's on-the-water finishing in 13 hrs 26 mins and 43 secs.

The SOL Podium was **WRmirek** in 1st place followed in 3 mins by **bmd** of USA and 2 secs later by **rafa** of Peru, the No. 3 sailor in the SOL world. My **Satori**, the first Canadian boat, after recovering from a missed rounding of the Niagara Buoy, was 4th, just 15 seconds behind **rafa**.

In the virtual race, rounding the Burlington Weather Tower was particularly difficult. You were coming down to the mark and then rounding more than 360° crossing your track and heading west parallel to the rhumbline between Niagara and Burlington before heading north to the Finish. I was at the helm of **Satori** during this rounding and all the way to the Finish Line. As I mentioned above the three boats behind the Leader finished within 17 seconds of one another. **Satori** lost its spot on the Podium because I was busy trying to cover both **bmd** and **rafa**. In retrospect it would have been smarter to just focus on one of them and settle for 3rd place, but I had 2nd place in mind and ended up 4th. It was a mistake to try and stay on the bow of two boats and think about the east west angle of the Finish Line and the favoured starboard end. Of course, this is single handed racing. I had two one hour power naps during the Race. Just like IRL!

The international ocean racers on Sailonline find both the Susan Hood and the Lake Ontario 300 challenging and extremely tricky races to navigate because of our Lake Ontario weather. There is always a "hole" to stay out of in the Susan Hood. They refer to the Lake Ontario 300 as "snakes and ladders" or "chutes and ladders"! They are not bored on Lake Ontario!

I think that this is a great partnering, making the LOOR one of more than 50 yacht clubs around the world whose races are mirrored on Sailonline. LOOR, and its Sponsors can only be pleased to know that their Susan Hood Trophy Race is on the international map and known in the 21 countries of the online racers who participated!

Satori / June 2023