

## DYER DHOW DERBY 2024

I had missed the inaugural Sailonline Dyer Derby of 2022, so was determined I'd be out this time, which turned out to be 3 o'clock in the morning, because, of course, it's summer in Australia and Q1 of the Sprints Series features Antipodean accommodating start times.

Never mind. I set a super-accurate DC course to fire a few minutes before the start and my alarm for 03:45 and went to bed. The alarm went and I was just in time to minutely adjust my rounding DC at Execution Rocks, and then to pre-anticipate its firing and hit 'Set Boat Course' for a super-tight gybe and take the lead. Nice.

A few of the boats behind me bore off rather than gybed, and that is always worrying. Had I (or rather Cutie) missed something. Pit8008, directly behind me, thought we had, but hey-hoh, now was the time to attend to bonk's other race, Lisbon to Cape Town, where new weather was going to re-routing (we hadn't even got to the Canaries, never mind Cape Verde, so it was still a race for every cable).

Back on Long Island Sound, I was just in time to execute my next and final rounding, the quality of which - dire - nicely balanced that of the first one, thus consolidating second place, as Pit8008 had overtaken me just before reaching the mark. It was a mild curve to the finish and the favoured end was clear, so P2 it stayed, although wsguerin, Dyer Dhow doyen and frequent frostbiter, and one of the handful who had not made the early gybe at Execution Rocks, ran me mighty close (3 seconds).

Great little race, and great little boats!

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