

### **Mellum to Trischen PYOC 2024**

I never start in sprint races as they usually involve lot of corners, rocks, and marks to turn. I looked at this one and I saw it was just an open sea stretch, with an obstacle close to the finish. Both approaches were viable before the start, each route basically reaching the starboard end of the line in the same time. The western route involved a tack and its perf loss while the eastern route was in danger of being in the wrong side of the shift. Nevertheless, I decided for the eastern approach, and I basically sailed trying to minimize route variation to avoid the performance losses. The wx update was in favour of the eastern route as it allowed us to travel in stronger winds for longer time and, most important, gave us a lift to the end mark. I managed to gain some lead, enough to avoid pushing the corner too much, in fact I avoided the last small island with a more than ample margin, losing some seconds but still reaching the finish line with a safe 15 second margin.

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