

## MELBOURNE OSAKA PRELUDE 2024

I'm very happy to have managed to get on the podium once again, I was lucky due to the "rudder failure" of Ibis but that's how racing goes... It was an exhausting one; It's the second time in my short experience that I've sailed this route and both times a boat that chose the West won! I analysed the possibility of following that option from the beginning but I considered that even if the distance was shorter it didn't guarantee enough so I preferred the "central" route rather than taking a gamble. The final fleet compression entering Osaka Bay was the most exciting phase, Gry took home a well-deserved victory and Taras maintained a position he deservedly earned in the phase after the doldrums; in that moment I chose to move slightly to the west to try to get close to the leaders who had a 270 nm advantage, it is a tactic that notoriously doesn't work and I lost the wake of the group to the east, to me the wrong routes and tactics act like a magnet :D. Later I was able to re-catch them steering back towards the group I belonged to but with great difficulty as everyone in this race navigated very carefully and I want to congratulate all the participants. As often happens, Hippo looked for an alternative, to the east this time, he wasn't lucky but he deserves a mention.

Siaki / May 2024