

Southampton – Punta del Este

Traditionally N-S races in the Atlantic are not my favourite playground. I tend to get lost in the vast high pressure areas or choosing the obviously wrong route. So this time I spend quite some time in studying the historical data and routing the race with the OD65 polar. It turned out that the coast of Brazil was too dangerous as an option so I decided to avoid it at all costs.

The first part of the race was more or less straightforward so the fleet was quite compact down to Dakar. Soon after some W-E separation started to appear and one day a “not-so-clear” west route appeared in QT. Other routes were competitive so I stuck to the original plan and proceeded southbound for a long while, happy that some of the preferred competition was on the same side. Some other (bonk, freya) decided to join the W fleet and, at one point, their advantage to the finish line was in the 12hr range. Still the E route had a lot of downwind sailing so I was confident that the 400nm distance could be quickly filled.

The rest was easy. Putting the boat in a perfect controlling positioning during a transition in the high pressure gave me about 1 hour of lead on SCARABOCCHIO which I was able to keep until the end.

Amazing that 4 fellow Italian boats were in the top spots of this race

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