

Seychelles Circuit Sprint 2025

CriticalHippo

Saturday night, little hippos in bed, and time to race!

Some quick routings in QTVLM showed straight lines between each mark, except for the third leg which would be tacking upwind. I generally prefer setting a straight compass heading rather than a great circle in these situations as it makes timing the turns easier.

I was a bit lucky I guess with the order the server updated us at the start, as I found my boat in the 2nd row, within 10 seconds of the lead. I had a wake-up DC set before the first 2 marks, and I made a big blunder – as my wake-up DC approached I was thinking it was the DC to turn. Therefore I sent a command to fine-tune my course to the 2nd mark as soon as the DC passed. This would have had me BBQing on La Digue! Fortunately because of my straight-line course my boat had not been issued a command since the start, so the server was only updating it every 30 seconds. I was able to correct before my boat moved, but the double gybe cost me 9% performance loss and ultimately set me back by 24 seconds.

After a clean rounding of Marie Ann the decision had to be made when to tack. I believe this was the key move of the race. Since the wind was rotating clockwise I waited as long as possible to tack while most everyone else tacked early. Likewise I tacked as early as possible past Grande Soeur, and after another clean rounding at Petite Soeur I was in the lead. From there it was a straight line to the finish and a win by 31 seconds! Therefore, nearly a minute was gained on the third leg.

