Channel Islands TIMED Chase 2025 - Race Report by KaSToR

If the earth wasn't round, I could have watched from my bedroom window the 86 nm route from Guernsey, around Saint Anne, around Jersey and back.



The race starts on Sunday 11 May and closes on Saturday 24 at 11pm. That sounds a long way off, but it's going to be important.

Unfortunately, I haven't kept track of the various attempts, and the records don't seem to allow you to find the history, so I'm going to try and do it from memory.

On Monday the 12th (maybe Tuesday), a window appeared with an estimated journey time of just over 12 hours. As I didn't see any other windows in the short term, I decided to go for it.

It would give me a chance to discover the route and who knows, all it might take is some good weather at the end of spring for it to be the right one.

In any case, it's put me at the top of the rankings for a few days.

But we're in Brittany and the fine, stable weather only lasted a week. The wind picked up on Sunday 18th, forcing me to make another attempt to defend my place.

I leave late in the evening, passed Saint Anne at an indecent hour before going to bed, and got up very early to manage the rounding of Jersey. It was at the cost of these efforts that I managed to avoid being relegated too far down the rankings with a 4th place. I was beaten by Kipper, Patrick and Brellis, unless it was rumskib. Some people may have taken advantage of my start a little too early, but when some people who started before you, and others who started after you, are ahead of you in the rankings, it's because you weren't very good during the 11hrs 15mins that the course lasted...

And unfortunately, there's no more chance of improving this ranking due to the lack of a weather window before Saturday 24th...

But we're in Brittany....

Here's a wind that looks favourable, but it's for Saturday 24th. And the closer the date gets,

the more it seems that the wind will pick up during the day.

The problem then becomes one of setting off as late as possible, but early enough to complete the course before the fateful hour of 11pm.

The router gives me a journey time of 10:59. As I'm not very good at counting, I round it up to 11.

23 - 11 = 12, so I need to leave before noon.

And as I'm a "poule mouillée" (wet chicken?), I decide to give myself a 3-minute margin in case the intermediate grib is unfavourable, and set my departure time at 11:57.

I see that rafa and Forbanducollet have left too early. CriticalHippo starts 3"30 before me.... That's all well and good.

Aie! rumskib leaves 1" after me. And even more dangerous if he manages to finish, kipper leaves at 12:02.

The skippers who set off after that, 12h30 past, don't stand a chance to finish.

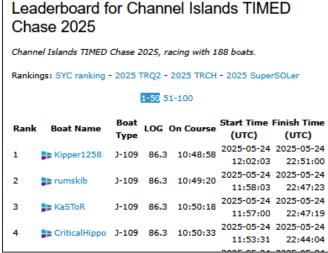
That's exactly how it could have gone, 1 Kipper, 2 rumskib, 3 yours truly and 4 Critical Hippo...

Well no! A clumsy mistake has pushed my boat onto a rock jutting out over the island of Jersey. Unless it was a floating rock (for my self-esteem, that's better!)...

In short, I lost the BBQ minute, and now I'm physically caught by rumskid, overtaken, ridiculed....

The end of the race was exciting because I made it a point of honour to cross the line in front, but one minute behind him;)

And so the final classification was:





Damn, what if I'd had the idea of leaving 12 minutes 40 later... for another time perhaps... Congratulations to my competitors, they were better and smarter than me. And special thanks to rumskib, who, on second thoughts, perhaps took pity on me. KaSToR – Mai 2025