

SUEZ TO PORT SAID 2025

This race had a few qualities that lined up for me:

- 1) lots of zig-zags into the wind requiring (for me) a lot of patience and almost constant adjusting and re-typing of DC times, etc.
- 2) 20 hours at the helm with very little chance to sleep or get distracted.
- 3) No open ocean navigation. I get lost at sea very easily, hehe

I woke up with a bad head cold, so I was already thinking of canceling my outside activities. If I could stay awake, I'd have a shot at a Top 10 finish, even if only by attrition.

The first narrow segment went very well, no bbq's - and I found myself near the front of the pack, led by CollegFund. I tried to keep TWA's 0.5 degrees inside the Max, to buy myself some time in case of unanticipated WX variations.

Arriving at Great Bitter Lake without any BBQ's, I was near the top. CF had me by a small margin and several of the other Top SOLers had apparently experienced some bumps but they were still in the hunt. Planning my DC's at the Lake I originally thought to continue doing rapid zig-zags but I had time to learn by programming various DC's that one turn was faster. Mirek, rafa and CF all went a bit higher with their TWA's, so they gained on me during that brief period of relatively open water. I entered the second narrow passage in 2nd place after KasTor parked his boat for the night.

The WX curved into a nice angle allowing me to sleep for an hour or two. Waking up groggy (still with head cold) I had one tiny mishap with +/- TWA, but I recovered pretty quickly. Even though it had become a straight shot at TWA=41 up the final narrow passage, Mirek and rafa were somehow gaining on me. I managed to hang on for 1st place!

Very honorable mention to CollegeFund, who had a BBQ around the same time I did. He had been making all the right moves, leading throughout the race on an unfamiliar course.

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