

A race lasting around two days, but starting at 3:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m. local time)! Not for me! Especially since there is a buoy to round after a series of tacking manoeuvres along the coast. It seems like an impossible task under DC.

I calculate the route anyway and see that the buoy should be rounded around 6:00 am local time.

That makes it feasible.

All that remains is to allow enough margin to ensure the tacking manoeuvres are safe.

I wake up at 5:45 a.m. At 5:47 a.m., I adjust my boat's course, round the buoy and start sailing according to the route I planned the day before.

The first surprise is that I'm in a pretty good position. One of the only boats ahead of me is CriticalHippo.

The first part of the race is into a headwind, forcing us to head south-east until we reach a calm area a little over halfway through the race.

Once past the tack, we are on port tack and heading due south towards the finish line in Devonport.

I found a photo that sums up this race...



In fact, Hippo and I never left each other's side, losing and regaining 0.01 nm from each other in turn.

As a result, after nearly 48 hours of racing, we finished just 19 seconds apart!

Rafa, who also performed well, finished just one minute behind.

A quick word from my friends on Discord, the network where we discuss races, technique and strategy : Panpyc and Peps are close behind.

In the end, with Hippo, four of us finished in the top five! We're very proud of ourselves!

(My Discord profile, if anyone else wants to join our little group to discuss technical matters or just mess around a bit : kastor9948).

Well done to all these valiant and equally friendly competitors with whom I share this victory.