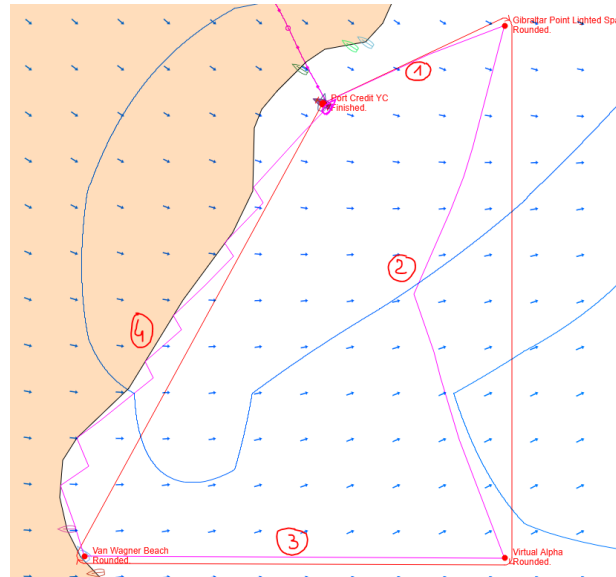


We are offered a closed course of approximately 75 nautical miles on Lake Ontario, to be sailed aboard a Sun Fast 3300.

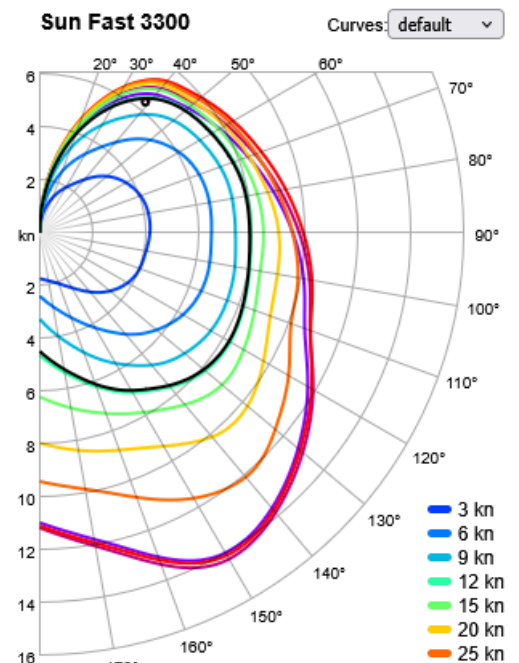
Course 1 is planned as a port-tack course on a steady course, and Course 3 is a starboard-tack course on a steady course as well.

In between, Course 2 is a downwind leg to be sailed close to the wind with a gybe halfway through.

And finally, a upwind leg along the coast, under strict BVMG sailing.



As for the wind conditions on the boat, there's not much to say about them; they're very consistent with the winds we're expecting.



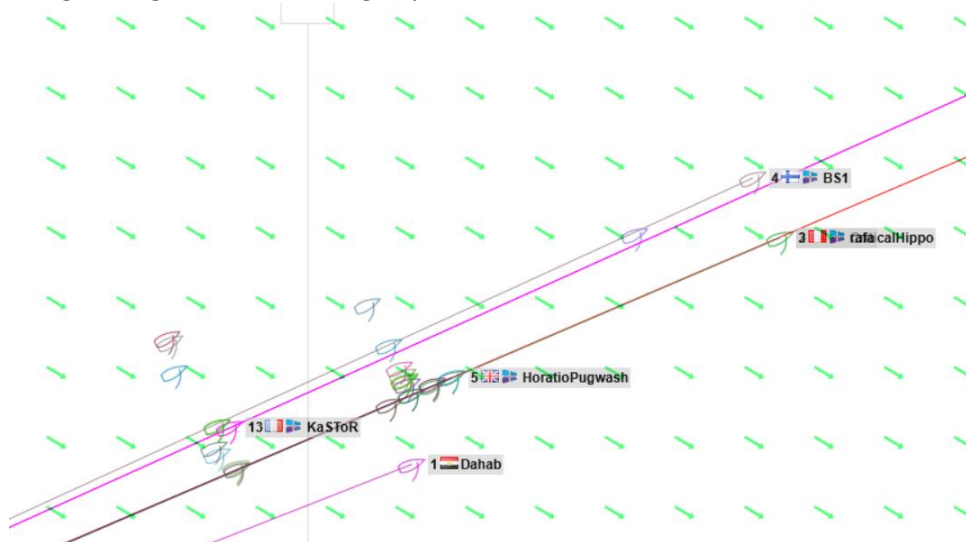
The first challenge for me was the start time: 11.45 pm! That's 1.45 am local time.

What's more, if I'm to stand a chance of doing well, I'll need to be spot on when rounding the buoys. This sort of course will be decided by a matter of seconds!

So I've decided to stay awake until I've rounded Gibraltar Point Lighted Spar.

It was a disastrous start for me, as after just a short distance I found myself at the back of the field, some twenty seconds behind the leaders.

But there was nothing to be gained from taking any risks on this first section.



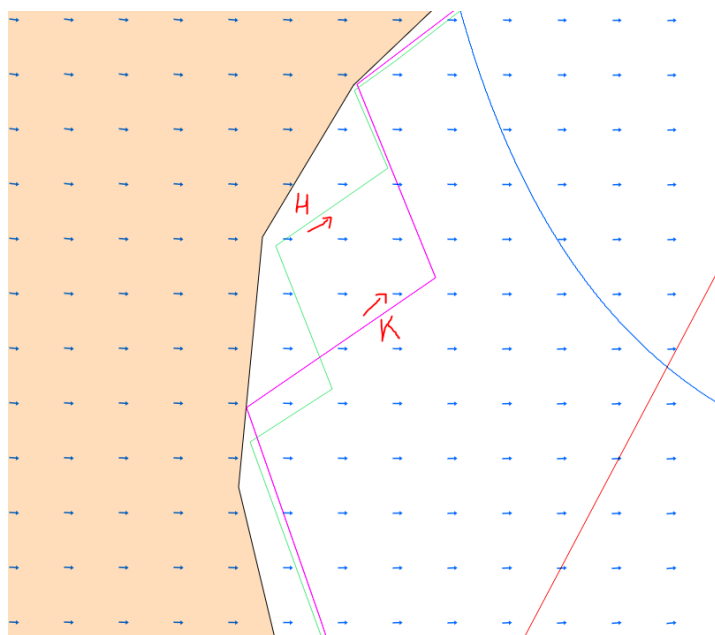
I round the mark as best I can, just like Hippo and Rafa, and move back up into the top 10. It's time to switch to sleep mode and get some rest.

I wake up just before passing the Virtual Alpha mark, which also marks the change in the GRIB. Once again, I manage to handle the gybe well and find myself in second place behind Hippo. I still have between 10 and 20 seconds to make up.

Last chance, on section 4 of the course, with the succession of upwind legs.

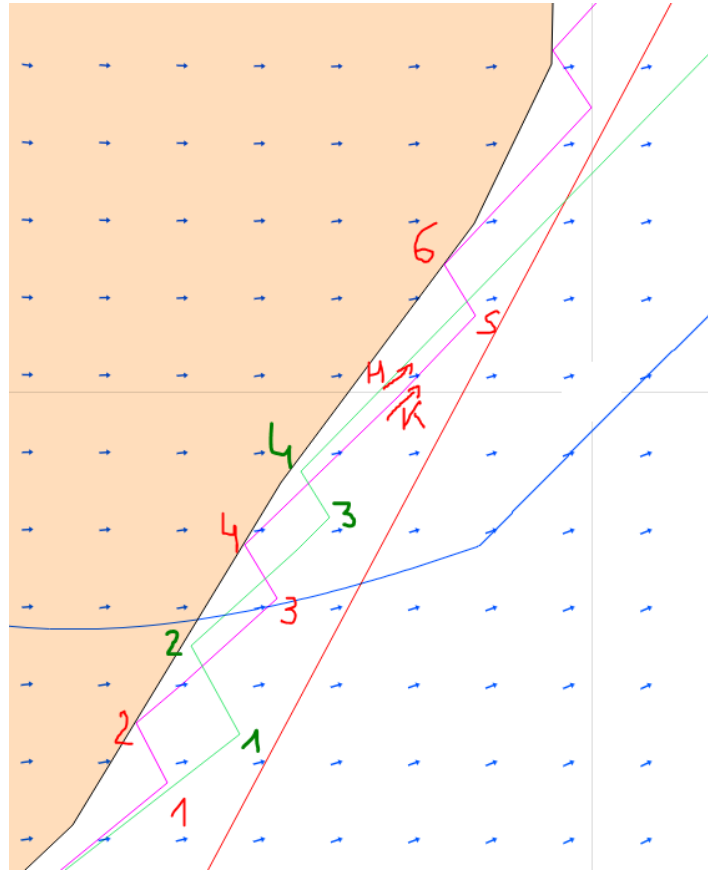
First opportunity: I round the mark as best I can and find myself on a slightly shorter course! There go a few seconds... but it won't be enough.

As a first real option, Hippo has chosen to create two edges where I had only planned to create one. It seems that by the end, the gap had widened slightly, by a few more seconds.



I therefore decided to add more tacks to follow the coastline as closely as possible.

In this section, I make six tacks while Hippo only makes four, and I position myself further west on the way out.

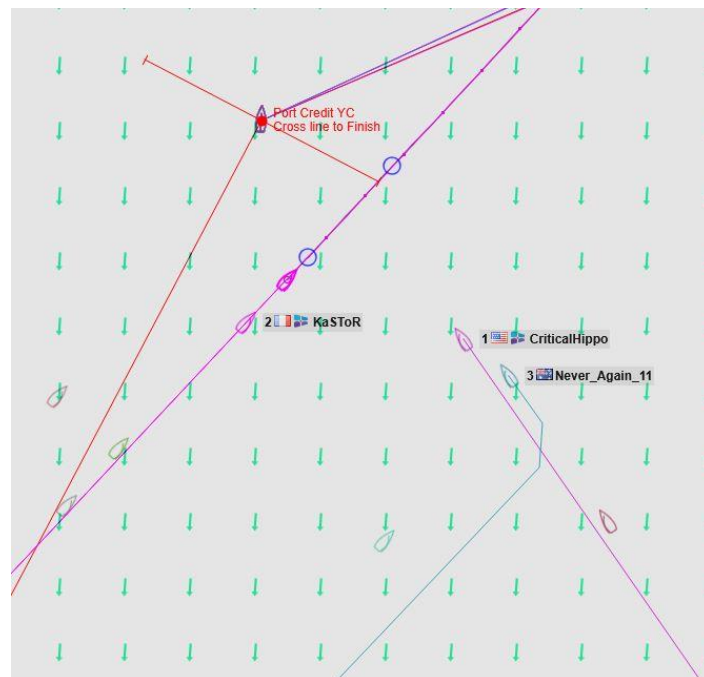


As a result, I catch up with him. At that point, it's impossible to tell who's in the lead.

I stick to my plan and make an extra tack to approach the finish from the south, whilst Hippo continues and approaches the line from the east.









Will the gain in angle allow me to make up for what I lose in wind strength – which is rarely the case ?

Will the simpler approach to the finish line allow me to gain the few seconds needed to cross the line in the lead ?  
Suspense !



At this moment in the race, it looks as though my bet has paid off.

And indeed, the final results confirm this, with bigger gaps than I had expected!

Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	DBL	Finish Time (UTC)
1	 KaSToR	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:28:47
2	 CriticalHippo	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:29:06
3	Never_Again_11	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:29:36
4	 rafa	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:31:24
5	 Satori	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:31:45
6	 CollegeFund	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:32:40
7	 rthinman	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:33:10
8	QMaxx	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:33:43
9	 brellis	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:36:00
10	 HoratioPugwash	Sun Fast 3300	0	0	2026-05-30 08:36:11

Hats off to Never-Again, who, having been held up slightly before the final push, certainly found even better ways to close the gap.

Well done, of course, to Jonathan.

And thank you all – another thrilling race.