

Magical Mediterranean – Benghazi to Korcula – Short Race Report

I entered and started this race as usual with my expectation of a result in the teens but soon I found myself in the top ten and so I started to concentrate and it was needed as these winds in the Med were very fickle in direction and strength.

I learnt my sailing in trapeze/spinnaker dinghies in the gravel pits of the Midlands in UK, hundreds of miles from the sea. These pits were areas excavated for gravel and then allowed to fill with water, so not as large as reservoirs but with flat water, no tides and shifty light wind. Our occasional excursions to Open meetings on the coast with tides, waves and stronger winds required a crash course in modifying our boat and sail handling.

It may also be that I am an old school sailor who appreciates monohulls with solid keels just like the Swan 50 and the Tall Ships.

I used qtVlm throughout the race but tweaked my performance loss and steps in qt every six hours to reflect the forecast wind. I seemed to benefit in the light airs and despite at times being separated from my chasers I kept the faith and emerged towards the lead.

The Med has given SOL very many interesting races, thanks to Race Committee, and on this occasion the podium managed to leave the Italian fleet behind on their home waters.

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