MISTLI'S BIRTHDAY BBQ 2026

Outlook

A birthday party with a BBQ at the finish in Trosa… how could one miss this one? 60nm in the Swedish archipelago in our venerable Scampi 26, Peter Norlin's old lady, with 83 boats on the line. Start at 14:00 UTC meant a finish at dawn. Another all nighter on the sofa!

The outlook was a beat almost all the way, with a SW breeze of 18 knots at the start, dying and veering through the night. Not the most exciting conditions, but racing we must.

Race

First leg from Revengegrundet to Mysingeholm was a long beat down the coast. Some favourites went East, while sassy63, cdhinman and me chose the West side, and the West route proved to be the better one. I rounded Mysingeholm just behind sassy63.

Second leg to Öja, close hauled in a breeze going lighter and veering West. And this one went well… a few miles before Öja I was leading both sassy63 and KaSToR! So I thought.

Then I approached Öja on the leeward line, sailing low, and ended up close hauled and short of the mark. A few hitches later I rounded Öja behind sassy63, who came in higher and went straight round.

The last leg became upwind again after the wind went Northwest, in very light winds. Going north up the east side of Öja's island I recovered almost everything and was right on sassy63's heels. But from there my sailing was simply less precise than the leaders', with a couple of unnecessary hitches while sassy63 and KaSToR sailed straight through. The time of the night didn't help… and the race was gone. When the wind finally went North all was left was a reach to the south end of the line.

sassy63 won it with KaSToR only 43 seconds behind and I was third, 3 minutes and 26 seconds after the winner. Lesson learned: in light winds and in the middle of the night, keep it simple! And I have to practice… a lot!

Congratulations to sassy63 and KaSToR, and happy birthday Mistli!

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