

PIC Coastal Classic 2020 – Report

Auckland, Spring, virtually no COVID-19... wish I was there IRL for this race. Anyway, SOL is the next best option and this one was a must for me.

The outlook of the race was beating into the light winds from the start until Cape Brett which are not the usual conditions, so they say. And these are not ideal or the best for our nice 60ft trimaran, but racing we must.

The race.

Similar start for most favourites - tacking until North head, starboard beat up Hauraki Gulf, port tack to reach the pressure ridge to bring us out of the Gulf. First mistake for me - beaching before reaching North Head on one of the tacks.

Once offshore of Takatu Peninsula, one had to negotiate a long beat up to Hen and Chickens Islands before tacking offshore to set the final beat to Cape Brett. On this section, some chose to leave Hen Island to starboard while others, like me and WRmirekd decided to leave it to port. The last option was proven to be the better option. However, second mistake for me - forgot a DC before the last tack to approach Hen and Chickens Islands, making me double tack an extra time.

In spite of the small mistakes, I reached Cape Brett in second position having WRmirekd with a reasonable lead and rafa trailing behind. This race was to be decided on the light downwind conditions till the line in Russel.

First part was a leg northwest up Bay of Islands to set up the first gybe onshore. WRmired chose to gybe first heading for the channel between Waewaetorea and Urupukapuka Islands (difficult island names these are...), while I chose to go a little further and gybe to the channel between Okahu and Waewaetorea.

When we approached the south shore of Te Rawhiti Inlet, it was clear that mine was the better option and I managed to pass Tapeka point with a small but manageable lead from WRmirekd.

All was left were 2 gybes. One to go along the the shore of Waihihi Bay and the last one to the south point of the line. And there I made my major mistake by gybing too early to the Waihihi bay... I was left then with 2 options, gybe to the line before hitting shore on Russel or double gybe to and keep my plan to end on the south of the line in spite of the performance loss. I chose the latter but... I forgot a DC! And gybed on extra time loosing a lot of performance and loosing the regatta to WRmirekd. One has to say that he was flawless on this last part.

Congratulations to WRmirekd again for winning this close one

Nuno (nacrr)