

Virtual Cape2Rio 2021 by Henrys

Hi All

What a win, What a win. I am on cloud nine. The last 24 hrs, It was about 24hrs back when I started to realise I could make a good finish. That started a stress trip for me. The next was the realisation that we have 88 "Newbies" watching. Ok so I have to perform. I made a list of all the "good Solers to watch. As it went on there were more Guys watching. I am not "A person which enjoys winning" so much. At one point I wanted to set Qt's route and forget about it, Until Jawz spoke to me, He just came out with "win"enthusiasm. He encouraged me the rest of the way.

Continuously pushing. For which I am grateful. I ended up in a battle for 1st with "Cippalippa" this battle stayed until the finish line. But the last 12 hrs I hung in there waiting for the usual Solers to take it away, not to happen, Too many had been in the washing machine. This morning I'd had it. I slept and woke up to Cippa's change. From then on I was fixed to the PC. man was I stressed. Two hours before the end I was shaking. Then I sat on Him. I decided to do so. So that I was always with him. I think Qt had a better ending prediction, but just in case I matched his moves. The last hour I even missed a dialysis exchange.

It is traditional to pick up the strong winds north, so, I started out of CT to get to them soon. Then I rode them and watched the weather. While I was looking at the weather predictor the weather started changing 6 days ahead. I Qt'd a route and Qt said move south now. I checked the weather for the finishing to RIO and it was blue,so I told my wife what ever happens, happens. I did not trust the northern route. At that point my feeling was "a race is a race, enjoy it".

I enjoyed the Polar " C2R74" for its 40 deg tacking angle, which I never got to use. My route was mainly running with wind. It's a smooth polar "if the wind is 20 knots you get 20knts. Through the range except for low speeds which I like because you get more than the wind speed. "I hate it if I get stuck in low winds. It's not just slow but swirling too. I have a short rule"If you run with wind at 20 knots multiply by 0.7 to get actual speed" and tacking is normally 0.55 of your speed. Which the C2R74 more. This race did not expose any issues. However the last 6 hours of the race we were able to ride the wind and use the polar to get the best angles out, it was great. Were we not where we were then we would have needed to fight for better use of the Polar. I could see the result. Some polars have blips in the performance, where you need to do polar jumps. if you are not watching then you penalise your speed. Some races the polars are "just not right for the race,for the conditions", and not enjoyable. IRL you get to know your polars performance points, like 2nd nature. You read the winds. You get to hear all the noises and feel the boat. The last 4 hours were complete attention as I was matching Cippa's changes. It was intense concentration. 10 days now, NO mistakes.

The best part about this win is winning in front of 88 "newbie" Saliors to the club. To show it can be done and is enjoyable to race "on-line" there is a large contingent of

IRL sailors as well, "who can teach me a thing or plenty" who joined in. I thank them for sharing this experience with us, I hope they stay to enrich our ranks and continue to support SOL. We appreciate their recognition of our club. I feel proud to win this race in the presence of so many great esteemed Sailors and Solers. I feel humbled and honoured to sail next to them.

I will still be a member next year and the following, if it is so wished.

I want to thank George(Jawz) My brother, for introducing me to SOL, and for his continuous support.

I also thank Joanne and the team for their unselfish efforts in bringing about all the races .

From Henry Snoek