

Cape2Rio 2021 by Mullionman

First of all. What a great start to 2021 to have such a well organised race. Congratulations and thank you to RCYC in allowing Sailonline to partake in your race. I hope this becomes an annual event and look forward to being able to compete along with the real racers in 2023. Also thanks to Jongilanga for liaising so well and Mark Mills for designing such a cracking boat.

As for my part, it was both luck and experience that helped. I read many years ago that Sir Robin Knox Johnston said that of all areas at sea to avoid, the St Helena High was near top of his list. It is large, unpredictable and near permanent. So let's go over the top and avoid it seemed the logical strategy. For many days before the start the QT router was agreeing, but then with one day to go it kept suggesting a more Southerly route. My initial thought was "That is for suckers"! At the start though I decided to maybe take a slightly more westerly route than getting North. I think that was my first positive move. After a few days with QT still suggesting South I changed my mind about going over the top. Now it was how to get South West, through the light winds and gain a North Westerly track to Rio. There was a possible window on a 2230 weather change and I noticed my friend and rival Bonknhoot take it. But something told me it was too early and I decided to keep heading North West. Sure enough a couple of days later Bonk was trying to gain momentum back and I felt happy with my decision.

And then came the opportunity. Once again it was on a 2230 weather change only this time I went for it. By then Skovser, Rafa and Aner59 were in a strong position and I did wonder if I was making the right move. But, as many have said before, make a plan and stick to it; constantly changing rarely pays off. Once through the narrow band of light winds, it was just a matter of following Henrys and Cippalippa with an eye on Jugz close astern. What a battle it was ahead of me. There was no way I could get past them unless they were to make a big mistake or a new weather pattern emerged. Neither happened. So in summary, I am happy about my start to the 2021 Ocean Championship Series and now have to hope that I can maintain the luck.

Dave (Mullionman)