Susan Hood Trophy Race 2021

Pre Race

Nice triangle on Lake Ontario, a buddy race with Lake Ontario Offshore Racing and steady wind conditions for the whole race. Only problem with this one for me was the start time - 00:00 UTC - which meant an all nighter.

With these wind conditions there was no tacking and no gybeing and it was a matter of trying to negotiate the small wind shifts and pressure differences during each leg. So I thought.

Race

Easy start reaching for the first mark, no significant opportunities to gain or lose time. I reached the mark very, very close to leading boats. Tight turn for the second leg. And... hold and behold! Mirek makes a perfect turn and gains a small but clear lead on me, rafa and rumskib.

The second leg was upwind and where some gains could be made. I sailed this wider than most and I think I gained some time on Mirek and the other boats. On the mark, again Mirek makes a perfect turn increasing its lead leaving no chance of recovering until the line. My bad turns placed me behind rafa in third place with rumskib close behind. In this last leg,rafa was kind enough to hand me the second place by finishing in the middle of the line (I think he was sleeping and on DCs). I would never pass him otherwise.

Mirek's perfect turns gained him over 10 seconds on each of the mark. He finished with an advantage of 18 seconds. This was a turning race! And I have to practice... a lot!

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