




5 golden rules of tactics
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First: Sail Fast!

- Baking a cake
- Boatspeed
 - Equipment
 - Settings
 - Technique
- CLEAR WIND



Second: Sail the fastest course!

- Every day brings different priorities
- Pick the ones that will make a difference
 - Wind Effects
 - Water
 - Course



Sort the priorities: pre start

- Wind
 - Strength
 - Convergence, divergence
 - 3 types of shift
- Water
 - Tide/current
 - Waves
- Course
 - Line bias
 - Beat Bias

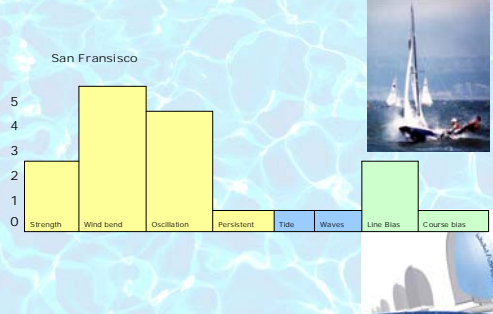



What if there is a conflict?


- Sort the priorities
- Never to soon to begin
- How reliable is the information?
- Every day is a training day!

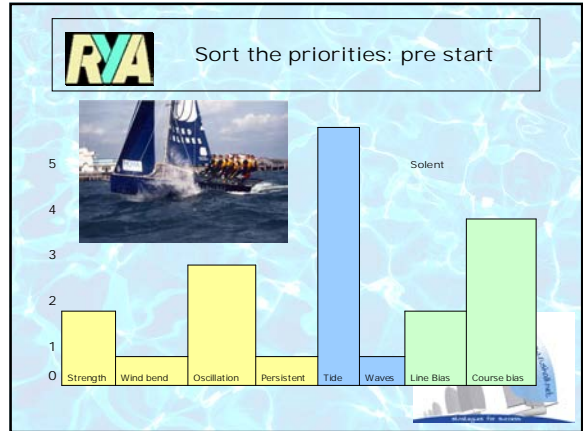
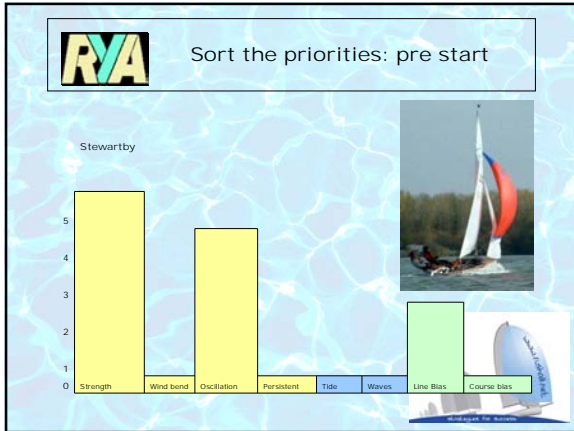



Sort the priorities: pre start



Factor	Priority Level
Strength	2.5
Wind bend	5.5
Oscillation	4.5
Persistent	0.5
Tide	0.5
Waves	0.5
Line Bias	2.5
Course bias	1.5





What are we looking for and how do we find it?

- Before we get there
- Pre start
- During the race

RYA Third: Sail the fleet!

- Matching risk to confidence
- Leverage: when to +, how to -
- Banking the gain
- When to follow, when to split
- The first shift
- Lanes
- Laylines
- Skewed beats
- Priorities change with position on the course
- Positioning when the natural assets aren't clear?

RYA Changing priorities

- Boat on boat
- Stay inside the shift line
- Sail the fleet: lead back in
- Make the gain: increase leverage, sail the fastest course
- Get in phase
- Clear wind
- Start according to the strategy
- Decide priorities

RYA Fourth: Beat the individuals

- The strategy drives the tactics
- The starting rainbow
- When boats cross: tack, dip, or call
- "Attacking opportunities, defensive obligations" (PB)
- Mark approaches and roundings
- How to learn?
- Background reading
- Get out and experiment!



..And finally:

Develop and trust your instincts

- Keep a log book
- Define the roles in boat:
- Observation
- Decision making
- Long term
- Short term



Mark's 5 rules: in order

- Sail fast and in clear wind
- Sail to a strategy based on the days priorities
- Sail the fleet, matching risk to confidence
- Use boat on boat tactics:
 - To make short term gains
 - To defend
 - To follow the strategy
- Develop and trust your instincts



Background reading

- Mark's articles in Yachts and Yachting
- North U. Performance Racing tactics
- Tom Linksey. Race Winning Strategies
- David Houghton: Wind Strategy (Fernhurst)
- David Arnold: Tides and Currents (Fernhurst)
- Tactics: by Mark Rushall

