

SCF Far East Tallships Regatta 2018

Not expecting much success, but having completed the four previous Tall Ships races in 2018, I decided to enter Go4iT for the initial Far East race to complete the Series and mindful of my times in that part of the world.

After the 47 hour delayed start due to Typhoon Jebi threatening Taiwan and the Japanese mainland with the possibility of it moving further west, the postponement of the real Tall Ships race made total sense as did SOL's attempt to join them in their restart. That restart did not work for the real fleet, which were postponed again, so we started at our rescheduled time.

My initial 24 hours were not very successful and I found myself separated from the main fleet leaders but of course you will never overtake them if you follow them.

Trusting in qtVIm and with the wind veering significantly west on the second day I headed towards the wind shift and started to make my way up the fleet a bit. Some yachts failed to round the Donghae mark correctly and so a few more places were salvaged.

The leg to Yamato Bank was a soldier's course (straight line) but a large patch of blue goo lay ahead and had to be negotiated to reach Vladivostock. I was still in the teens and I suspect that my separation from the leaders enabled qtVIm to find a faster way for Go4iT through the blue goo by staying east of the leaders. In such light air and with significant wind changes I often use TWA and I reduce the interval between routing changes (see top right hand corner of Route Logbook in qtVIm). I suspect those two tactics helped Go4iT negotiate the light airs. I awoke to my surprise in 2nd place and then it was just a question of covering those behind me so I did not lose what I had gained.

Delighted with my result and just maybe more use will be made of the Clipper 240 in races to come.

Richard Hardcastle

Go4iT