

## **Tall Ships Asia – Leg 2**

Having been tasked by Rainbow Chaser to create two new races, following the decision of Tall Ships International not to host a real or a virtual regatta further north in Asia, I chose the South China Sea and created these races from Ho Chi Minh city in Vietnam to the Riau Islands and then after a week's recovery on a tropical island to continue the sail to Singapore, an old sailing ground for me.

Having had two sails in my youth on Theodora and Equinox (approximate 80' ex. Bristol pilot boats run by the Ocean Youth Club in the English Channel) I have some idea how cumbersome these Class B Tall Ships can be. Combined with light airs as we left the Riau islands a soft hand on the helm would be needed.

Using qtVlm for Leg 2 I set low Performance Loss % numbers and a swift return to speed whilst setting the course change at 3-minute intervals rather than the default 5 minutes. I then trusted qt to find me the optimum route to manage these changing winds south of the islands. A start course was set to begin 5 minutes before the scheduled start, to avoid any performance loss at the gun, and then qt prescribed a fairly fast course initially to the NW towards the header, then a tack to the SE with some faster sailing as the final tack appeared in the next header to aim for the eastern end of the Straits of Singapore.

I had faith in qt initially aiming for the middle of the finishing line and only later looking to identify the favoured end of the line which in this case was near the northern end of the line.

Once I had completed my tacking and was in steady winds, I set COG courses rather than TWA as I think that it minimises any perceived change in course and thus, albeit minimal, any risk of a performance loss.

It seemed that I was hardly alone on my course but just possibly my initial soft hands on the helm as we left the islands gave me an advantage that I was able to defend into the finish.

**Richard / Go4iT**