

GTS43 Update at the Kings Cup Thailand

By Jason Rowed

Steve Manning's New GTS 43 Walawala 2 has literally just been unwrapped before making the 500nm trip from Singapore to Phuket. With a blend of 9 different Nationalities fulfilling the Corinthian based crew Walawala 2 had her first race here in Thailand, not a bad place to go yachting one could say.



Day 1 was 2 windward leeward races in approx 8-12 knots, the breeze generally is stronger early and fades towards midday in the heat of the day. Results for the first day were a 3rd and 7th so not a bad start as we find our feet.

Day 2 and we were sent of a 27nm passage race, breeze was into approx 12-14 knots at the start. With short beat that felt like 12 rounds with Mundine we managed to just get ahead of the 40's at the top mark (1/2 mile beat and missing the shift not a good start). With some clean air we let the boat do its thing and by the next corner we were alongside the Ker 40 and GP 42's.

Upwind we were finding the GTS 43 is very quick. At the end of the beat the breeze had faded back down to 6-8 knots so the run home was looking like it was going to test us. Good news is we actually found VMG running in this wind range very rewarding as we took time out of all our competitors and ended up winning the race on IRC.

Day 3, breeze was into 16-18 knots with 3 windward leeward races scheduled. First start was good and we headed up the beat fast and high to lead at the first mark. Good way

to start the day I thought. (The boat felt really good).

With a few little improvement needed as we round corners we lost a little time but ended the race with a 2nd on IRC behind the team from Japan (I here they have a few Olympic sailors on board and they are racing very well).

Race 2 for the day went the same really, extremely fast upwind and also very good downwind, searching for the right angle and mode which we must have found as we found out we won the race on IRC.





Awesome for the team as very tough fleet. Bad news is we ended up with a 20% penalty for an infringement so we slipped to 3rd.

Race 3 the last for the day and the pressure is down a little, of the line ok but not great and heading upwind with great pace. For some reason we didn't manage our risk level and before we knew it we were out of the left with our main competitors all on the right in the shift. Very tough race working back up to salvage a mid fleet 6th place. Not great but better than a 10th.

Lay day today with racing back on Friday and Saturday.

So with a list of great results spread over different wind strengths and courses we are very happy with the boats performance overall. We will find by minimizing our mistakes the results will become more consistent but I think for a team that only meet each other at this regatta we are doing very well.

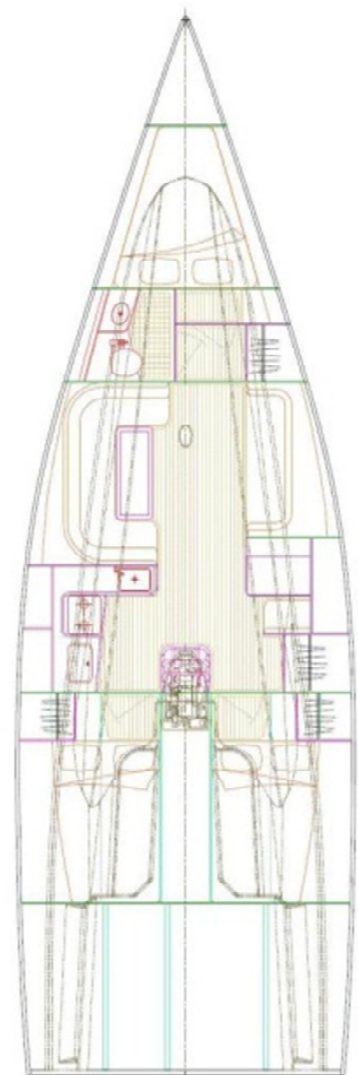
Bye for now from Phuket Thailand.

Jason Rowed

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GTS43 interior layout

