



Press Release

## Final day of racing at Phuket King's Cup Regatta 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary: racers able to run in light winds

*2-9 December 2017, Beyond Resort Kata, Phuket*



*Team THA72, Tom & Kevin Whitcraft // Photo by Guy Nowell*

**Phuket, 9 December, 2017** – Racing was late starting today due to conditions dropping off on the last day of competition. Fortunately many classes had only one race left to run due to busy triple-header days earlier in the week. This was fortunate as today was *really* light - but enough air to bring proceedings to a close, at least for the racers; one race ran on the Racing Course, while the cruisers were not able to sail today.

Tom & Kevin Whitcraft's THA72 team was declared winners in the IRC0 class, even though Windsikher took the bullet today. The Thai team's early regatta indomitability ensured they were safe despite their rivals' late surge. Australian team *Alive* skippered by Duncan Hine and Phil Turner were second fastest on the day, this being the final race (no. 12). Kevin's team was third this afternoon, but had already done enough to be declared 2017 Champions and successful defenders of the title.

"We're happy with our performance given the light conditions. A bit weak today of course but we decided to just keep going. We were covering Team Hollywood and Windsikher was out to starboard to close the gap. We could have been more aggressive at the start and have things we can improve on. No complaints



though, this is only our second Phuket King's Regatta title and we've tried so hard for so many years before. Jaray is a great helm and has had a good career. We have a crew of 15 and nine of us are Thai nationals. We are now on a roll! We're delighted that there is great continuity in the cup and things are going forward. We can look forward to another 30 years and make things bigger and better next year".

In IRC1, Japanese team Karusu took the win today ahead of Estonian entry *Loco* to conclude the 12th race on the final day. Yasuo Nanamori's team suffered this week from a disqualification and two DNS (Did Not Start), leaving Otonomos Mandrake to take Regatta glory. Nick Burns and Fred Kinmonth were able to complete another King's Cup Mandrake victory having been regatta regulars for many years.

Race Director Simon James said, "We've had a very successful regatta. We completed a full schedule for the racing boats. The bareboats and cruisers finished more races than ever, and it's been very close. Conditions allowed us to give them a range of courses to suit their designs. Excellent entries from China and Russia this year, and great to see competitors coming back every year, with many sailors who have been at the regatta since the start. Larger boats take up past competitors into their crews, so we see a lot of the same people, even among the charters who keep coming back too. Great to see such fast-growing support from East Asia also".

Peter Dyer and Kata Rocks (Madam Butterfly) topped a great week of racing with another win today in IRC2, claiming Regatta honors in the process. A further win for Thai entry Pine Pacific in Premier Class, and enough to seal victory for the week based on a final day win to put them ahead of Netherlands team King's Racers skippered by Gijs van Liebergen. Japanese team *Mil Grace* skippered by Natsuki Motoyoshi took the Firefly 850 win today, but the week belonged to John Newnham (Twin Sharks) and rival Hans Rahmann (Voodoo), both long experienced King's Cup racers. Newnham placed second today, putting regatta victory beyond the German team with Twin Sharks victorious.

In other results, Andy Pape and Multihull Solutions H30 were declared regatta winners in the one-make Pulse 600 class, sailors in which were probably relieved to have seen the strong winds of this week die down some. The Pulse racers were running the large keelboat course, and at times had to contend with gusts of 25 knots on Tuesday and Wednesday. The boat remains a great option for developing sailors looking to progress out of dinghies.

British team *Thor* (Henry Kaye/ Fergus Wilmer) claimed the Multihull Racing class, with a definite schism between them and a chasing pack headed up by Asia Catamarans Java, which finished second overall. In the Cruising Multihulls, Mojo Multihull Solutions skippered by Aussie Rick Fielding was named winner of the big cats. Second was the familiar Da Vinci catamaran, this time serving as Chinese entry under skipper Zhang Yong Dong.

Bareboat Charter this year consisted of a fleet of 14 ships, nine of which had Russian crews. Igor Ginzburg skippering *Phailin* capped off a good week which never saw them finish outside the top three in a competitive grouping. Modern Classics played host to a nicely close field too (and some great photo opportunities for supporters), brought to a close at the end of the regatta with Java Yachting's *Mas Allegre*, a 50-year old design chartered by Chinese team Mermaid. Russian Urii Firsov claimed the Cruising class on a boat called *Uminoko*, having already won five races this week.

All results are subject to final classification. [Up-to-date results can be viewed here.](#)

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta today presented 10 Optimist sailing dinghies to Songkhla Sailboat Training Center to support the skills development of youth sailors. The initiative was created by the Phuket King's



Cup Organizing Committee under the Presidency of Mr. Kevin Whitcraft. The Optimist is an ideal introductory sailing vessel for children due to its size and easy handling. Children as young as 7-8 years old can sail Optimists and develop their skills through to the age of 15 years old. It is hoped they will then go on to progress to larger sports sailing boats like the Pulse 600, before joining the crews of full size keelboats and multihulls.

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is organized by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club in conjunction with the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand, the Royal Thai Navy and the Province of Phuket.

For more information, please visit [www.kingscup.com](http://www.kingscup.com)

High resolution images for media are available upon log-in.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/phuketkingscupregatta>

# # #

#### **ABOUT PHUKET KING'S CUP REGATTA**

For three decades, Phuket King's Cup Regatta has been the pinnacle of international regattas in Asia, initially dedicated to HM the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej for his passion and support for the sport of sailing and in honor of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is organized by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, in conjunction with the Royal Thai Navy, Yacht Racing Association of Thailand, and the Province of Phuket. The most prestigious regatta in Asia includes Phuket Dinghy Series, International Dinghy Classes, Keelboats and Multihulls amongst its competitive classes.

Sponsors of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta include Principal Host Sponsor Kata Group, The Government Lottery Office (GLO) and Haad Thip PCL.

For more information, please visit [www.kingscup.com](http://www.kingscup.com).

High resolution images for media are available upon log-in.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/phuketkingscupregatta>

**For further information, please contact Vivaldi Public Relations, Tel: +66 (0) 2 612 2253 Ext.103,**

**Fax: +66 (0) 2612 2254; Website: [www.vivaldipr.com](http://www.vivaldipr.com)**

Veerawan Saejao

PR Manager

Mobile: 085-000-1476

Email: [veerawan.s@vivaldipr.com](mailto:veerawan.s@vivaldipr.com)

Pattaranit Imampai

Deputy Managing Director

Mobile: 089-893-4819

Email: [Pattaranit.i@vivaldipr.com](mailto:Pattaranit.i@vivaldipr.com)