



2014/09

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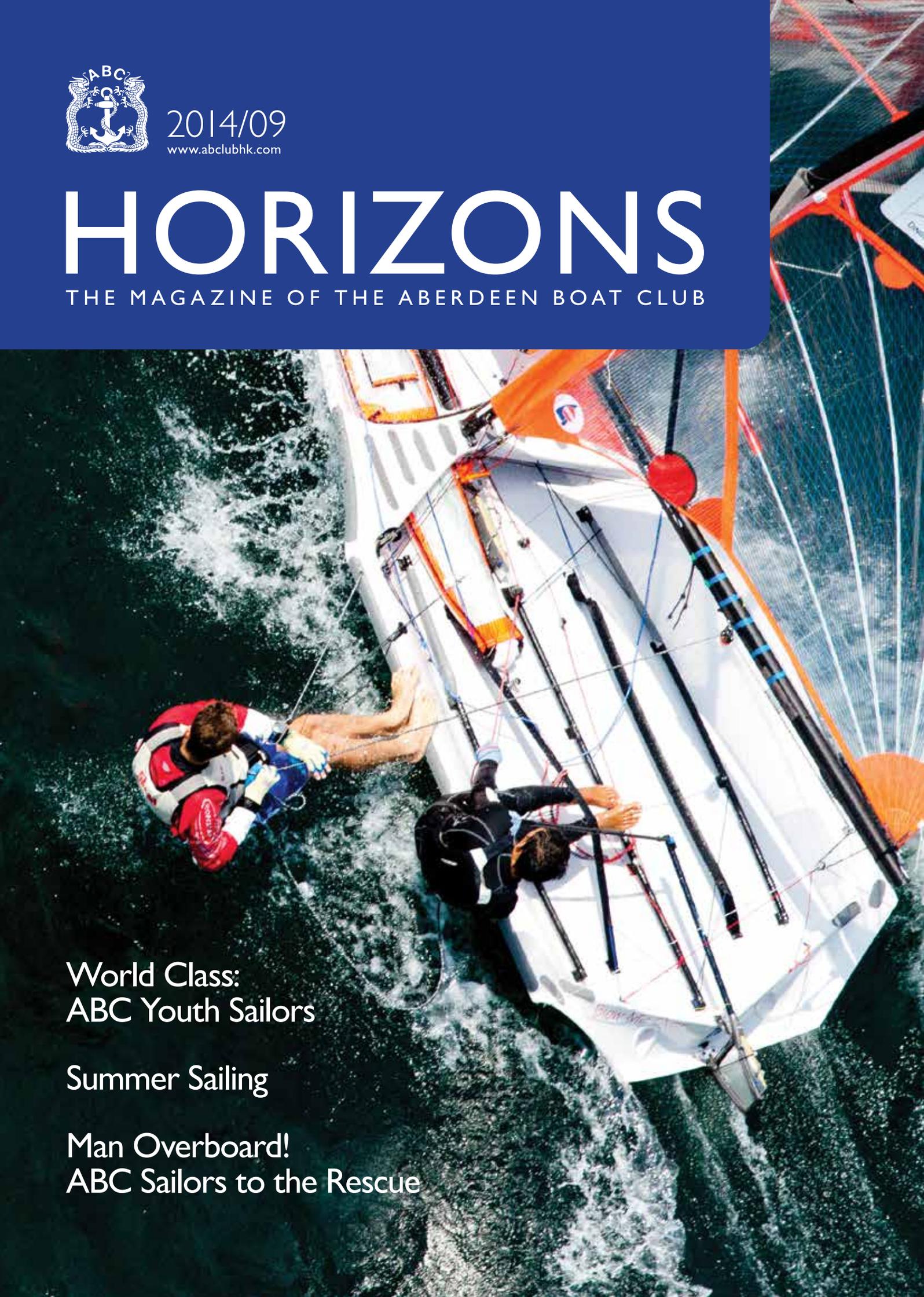
HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB

World Class:
ABC Youth Sailors

Summer Sailing

Man Overboard!
ABC Sailors to the Rescue



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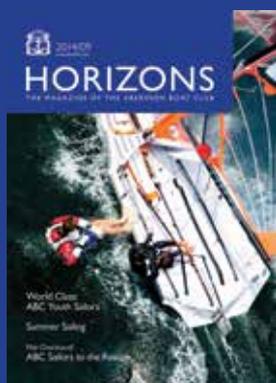
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SPECIAL: The 2014-2015 ABC Sailing Calendar

Cover photo by Luka Bartulovic:

ABC High Performance sailors Yann Thierry D'Argenlieu (helm) and Nathan Bradley (crew) en route to 19th place at the 29er World Championships, Lake Ontario, Canada, July 2014

Horizons welcomes ABC member contributions of articles and photos.
Please contact the editor at ann.white@ppp.com.hk



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Emergency Contact

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Commodore's Letter

It has been a great summer, so far with no typhoons! The fair south-west winds added to a very well-attended cruiser Summer Series. The new Division B fleet (shorter course) held its own and will strengthen over coming series. The dinghy Summer Series had conditions like the "curate's egg," finishing well. All will be capped by 2013-14's last event, the Dinghy-Cruiser Challenge on 14 September in Deepwater Bay/Repulse Bay.

In August, our youth squad sailors performed superbly: with one team representing the Hong Kong Sailing Federation in 29ers at the International Sailing Federation Worlds in Portugal, and then two teams in the 29er World

Championships held in Canada. Well done ABC sailors and coach Rory Godman.

Our Opening Regatta on 20-21 September again will run over three race areas: southeast Lamma, west of Po Toi, and Stanley Bay. Entrants include Sailability, some of whose sailors will form the Hong Kong team in October's Asian Para Games in South Korea. Via the Bart's Bash Foundation the regatta will honour the memory of Bart Simpson, tragically lost in May 2013 during America's Cup training.

We've agreed the joint ABC-RHKYC Dinghy Series 2014-2015. Racing is split into two groups, "Open Dinghies and Optimists" and "Double-handed and Moth." This recognises the greater speed



of skiffs and foils and will lead to closer racing in each group. More in this issue.

Best wishes to all at the start of a new sailing season in the best time of year for all boating.

John Berry
Commodore

Flag Officer's Report

It's that time of year when ABC sailors look forward to the change of monsoon and the start of the autumn season. It's not to say that the summer season has not been active; far from it, even if what keeps the staff so busy may not have been apparent.

The summer opened with a look back at the 2013-2014 sailing year at the well-attended prize-giving on 24 May. A host of prizes were well-spread between classes with much celebration amongst several multiple-winning tables.

Then it was on to a well-supported "intro" cruiser race for the Summer ("Restaurant") Series. We intend to build this event into the series itself next year so as to provide for seven races with two discards, giving more boats the opportunity to compete for the series.

The 2014 Opening Regatta is a little later than usual (20-21 September), in hopes the North-easterly will have begun to blow. The RO again will be Greg Sinclair, who will give a race management seminar (certificated) on Thursday evening 18 September. We have a shortage of capable ROs so we ask for volunteers to attend the seminar and raise their hands for spells on the race committee boat and with race administration.

Then, it's our main racing event, the Waglan Series. Dates are in the annual calendar in this issue of *Horizons*.

Again we call for volunteers to participate in the Coastal Watch campaign. ABC has been granted the beach on Beaufort Island to clean up and cherish. We plan two visits a year; the first by junk on 28 September. For details, see this issue's article or contact leader Wayne Robinson.

Race management and beach clean-up volunteers, please register with Selina Mak at gmpa@abclubhk.com

Our dinghy sailors were busy this summer. Over 300 participated at Middle Island on various dinghy courses and activities, and our High Performance 29er sailors were in Europe and Canada competing at the ISAF Youth Worlds, World Championships and other events. (Full reports and photos in this issue.) Dinghy sailors look forward to the Opening Regatta in September and the HKSF International Regatta in October, and a busy programme of activities during the October school holidays.

Behind the scenes our staff have been busy having new engines installed on both our support boats; this after limping along for many years with band-aid repairs and



much downtime. Thank you, Treasurer; the investment will be repaid in much lower repair and maintenance costs and reliable support for our marine activities. We are looking to purchase a new committee/ferry boat after the resale market yielded nothing suitable. We are in the final design stages and are likely to commit in early September. If all goes to plan the newly trained batch of ROs will be able to start the 2015 Summer Series on board. More on this as developments evolve, or see the undersigned in the bar!

Wishing all our sailors brisk breezes and champagne sailing this autumn.

Chris Pooley
Rear Commodore – Sailing

OPENING

Sponsored by
Sunseeker

for the 11th year

20-21 September 2014

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Support to



Regatta

For sailing instructions contact

the Sailing Secretary on 2552 8182 or email sailingsecretary@abclubhk.com or visit www.abclubhk.com

General Manager's Letter

Marine and moorings

Over the summer, *Invicta*, the trusty old ABC race and ferry boat, was totally refurbished and fitted with a brand-new engine. Now our Cheoy Lee has been sent to Hongkong United Dockyards for the same rejuvenating treatment, to be back with us just before the Opening Regatta. The refurbishing will halt – for at least the next 10 years – recurrent and costly repairs to our ferries.

After many years of unsuccessful searches for a proper committee, racing and alternative ferry boat, the Club has taken a new direction by commissioning a Cheoy Lee hull and building it to our needs. The drawings are done, and a few more details on engine power and seat layout need to be fine-tuned, but we hope that within eight or nine months we can present our new Club boat. It will need a name, so please pass any suggestions on to me and I will share your ideas with the Sailing and Marine Committee.

The mooring situation has changed little with only two movements over the last few months. Please be aware that we do a weekly check on the boat moorings. As per the mooring contract, we advise against inviting a friend to take on your space during boat repairs or other absences, as this could result in mooring contract non-renewal. Also, recall that Club policy forbids new live-aboard boats or live-aboard transfers. Last month I came across a few such issues; as said, cases for mooring contract termination.

Sailing and cruising

Our 2014 Opening Regatta this year will be held on 20 and 21 September. For the 11th year the ABC Opening Regatta is

“The new Club boat will need a name, so please share your suggestions with me.”

generously sponsored by Sunseeker and Gordon Hui. The entire sailing community is truly grateful for the sponsorship contribution of \$110,000 toward its preparation, running and memorabilia.

Even more so this year, as the ABC joins a worldwide fundraiser to celebrate the memory of Olympic medallist Andrew “Bart” Simpson who died last year in San Francisco while preparing for the America’s Cup. Bart’s Bash, as it is called, aims to set the Guinness World Record for the largest regatta in the world. Over 500 clubs around the world have joined the effort, and again thanks to Sunseeker’s support for the Opening Regatta, the ABC will be part of the Bart’s Bash world-record attempt.

Race management volunteers

The ABC is always looking for volunteers to help on boats during the regatta, in mark-setting, timekeeping, and boat-spotting. Please contact me if you wish to help.

The Club has organized a race management seminar to be conducted on 18 September by renowned race officer Greg Sinclair, captain of the Royal Geelong Yacht Club, one of our reciprocal clubs in Australia. The 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm seminar will be held in the Harbour room at a nominal price of \$150 to include refreshments during a midway break. Please book in advance.

Junk trip 12 September

The club has reserved the junk for a social cruise on Friday, 12 September. The junk will leave the ABC pontoon at 6 pm for a cocktail cruise as the sun sets around south Lamma near Turtle Bay. Dinner is at one of the best Chinese seafood restaurants on Lamma. The cruise will be capped with coffee aboard before we arrive back at the Club @ 11 pm.

The \$470 per-person price includes the cruise, one cocktail and the seafood dinner with the rest on a consumption basis, and sunset for free. Please book quickly as each member may bring only two guests.



“Training courses for our staff will improve their various skill sets.”

Summer series growing

When you read this, the 2014 summer series will have ended and our focus will be on the Opening Regatta. As I write the last summer race has yet to be held; therefore you may find the series’ final results in the next issue of *Horizons*. However, let me note the growing numbers of boats that have taken part in the summer series: we have never seen so many racers joining these “restaurant races” as in the last three consecutive years. From 2008 to 2011, total entries were about 18 yachts, averaging eight racers per race. In 2012, numbers started to rise to 31 entries, averaging 13 yachts per race. In 2013 we had 35 entries and an average 16 yachts per race, and finally – so far in 2014 – we have 33 entries but an average 23 participating yachts per race.

This relative tripling of numbers has triggered the desire of our Sailing committee to increase the number of races for next year and make a bit more of the great summer race down south.

Beach cleaning 28 September

In this issue please see an article from Wayne Robinson, ABC beach-cleaning team leader, as the Club carries out our commitment to clean and monitor

pollution at one Hong Kong beach. Volunteers are needed; Wayne's good article explains all details.

“
**The Club has
committed to clean
and monitor pollution
at the beach on
Beaufort Island.**”

Website and e-statements

By the time you read this, the new website should have been launched on 1 September and you will have received your first e-statement. The website features improvements in terms of a new

design, the new ability to book events online, a new photo gallery interface, and searchability for key words. In future, you will be able to access your statement through the website. Comments on the website are welcome. Please do confirm with Cobo your preferred email address to receive your e-statement as the paper version will end within three months.

Over summer, the staff changing room and canteen were refurbished, following a visit from the House committee, which decided renovation was more than needed. Staff now have a totally new and well-equipped facility.

Training

Under an overarching ABC training and retraining programme, this summer many ABC staff have had training at the Vocational Training Council and other

venues. I am pleased to inform you that over the next five months the ABC, together with training professionals from the Commercial Development and Training Institute, have made numerous training courses available for our staff.

Beginning this fall, CDTI will conduct four training courses for our staff in varying departments to improve their different skill sets. F&B will receive training in spoken English, managers will receive leadership skills training, office staff will receive a writing course on email, and kitchen staff will receive a workplace-safety course.

Welcome back, all!

Philippe de Manny

General Manager



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New Staff

Please give a warm welcome to the following employees who have joined the ABC since April 2014:



Chan Kwok Fai
Coxswain
1 April 2014



Leung Kam Ho
House Cleaner
5 May 2014



Cheng Sui Kuen
House Cleaner
12 May 2014



Alan Miguel Bulaong De Leon
Junior Waiter
3 June 2014



Regienne Mae Bajala
Receptionist
1 July 2014



Cheng Tai Mui
House Cleaner
2 July 2014



Mohamed Saad Abdellatif Khattab
Waiter
26 July 2014



Chan Ka Leung
Junior Sous Chef
1 August 2014



Lau Kam Sau
Kitchen Amah
4 August 2014



Junk Sunset Cruise, Friday, 12 September



- 6 pm departure from the ABC to cruise around Ha Mei Wan and Shum Wan Turtle Bay
- Sunset cocktails (sangria, Planter's Punch and Margaritas), wines, beers and soft drinks will be served on the junk, to be charged on consumption basis
- Approximately 8 pm seafood dinner on Lamma Island
- 10 pm cruise back to ABC (arrival @ 11 pm) with nightcap coffee on the junk, to be charged on consumption basis
- \$470 per person including trip and seafood dinner (maximum two guests for each account)
- Maximum 40 people



To reserve for your family and friends, please call ABC Reception at 2552 8182.



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水警南分區總部

香港仔深灣道 28 號



HONG KONG POLICE FORCE

Marine Police South Division
No. 28 Shum Wan Road
Aberdeen
Hong Kong

Mr. Philippe de Manny,
General Manager,
Aberdeen Boat Club
20 Shum Wan Road,
Aberdeen,
Hong Kong

18th June 2014

Dear *Philippe*,

Thank You Letter – Temporary Parking Space

I refer to our recent correspondence with you regarding a 'Request for Assistance – Temporary Parking Space', dated 30th May 2014.

The further construction work within the compound of Marine South Divisional Headquarters has now been completed. Thanks to your kind assistance, the emergency access to and from our Base was well maintained, thus allowing us to continue providing a prompt and professional service to the public.

In this regard, I would like to highlight the specific involvement of Mr. Steven NG, the House Manager, and Mr. W.K. LAU, the Marine Manager. Please accept our sincere gratitude yet again.

Yours sincerely,

(C. S. Walton)
for Divisional Commander
Marine South Division
Hong Kong Police Force

c.c. file

Davy Murrell, 1943-2014



Sadly we record the passing of a staunch ABC sailor, Davy Murrell, in July, from a tropical disease contracted in the Philippines. Davy worked for Hong Kong Telephone and then PCCW, and, *inter alia*, maintained the transmission dishes we see over Bluff Head.

As well as being a sturdy hash athlete, Davy joined the ABC in May 1993. He was a popular sailor at ABC, sailing regularly on *Gipsy* in the 1980s and 1990s, occasionally on *Tamarisk* (including in the victorious 1996 Shan Wei race), and subsequently on *Kam Loong* in ABC races and on *The Judge* in Philippines events.

Davy retired on 2003 and returned to his native north England, with frequent trips back to Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Condolences to Norma and Davy's family.



September F&B Events and Promotions

French Food Promotion

throughout September in the Galley and Four Peaks

Featured wine for September from Bordeaux, France

Chateau Tour d'Auron Blanc 2011

Chateau Tour d'Auron 2010 Bordeaux Supérieur

By the glass, \$55, by the bottle \$260

Featured beer from Japan

Kirin Ichiban, \$33 per bottle

Featured cocktails

Passion Margarita \$55 (non-alcoholic \$38)

Blue Hawaii \$45 (non-alcoholic \$38)

September Events

Malaysian and Thai Buffet

Saturday, 6 September, 6:30-9 pm, the Patio

Adults \$208, children (3-12 years of age) \$108

To reserve for your family and friends, call the Galley at 2554-9494

Mid-Autumn Buffet

Monday, 8 September, 6:30-9 pm, the Patio

Adults \$248 (including a glass of wine)

children (3-12 years of age) \$158 (including a soft drink)

To reserve for your family and friends, call the Galley at 2554-9494

Middle East Night with free wine tasting

Saturday, 13 September, 6:30-9 pm, Middle Island

Adults \$238, children (3-12 years of age) \$138

To reserve for your family and friends, call the F&B office at 2555-6216 or email fnb@abclubhk.com

Minimum F&B Buffet

Friday, 26 September, 6:30-9 pm, the Patio

Adults \$250 (including a glass of wine)

children (3-12 years of age) \$150 (including a soft drink)

To reserve for your family and friends, call the Galley at 2554-9494

National Day Buffet

Wednesday, 1 October, 12 noon-3 pm, the Four Peaks

Adults \$250 (including a glass of wine)

children (3-12 years of age) \$150 (including a soft drink)

To reserve for your family and friends, call the Four Peaks at 2553-3422





Home Wine Delivery September 2014

	\$/Bottle	Quantity	Amount
Sparkling Wine			
Bouvet Ladubay Brut NV, Loire, France Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay. Clean and crisp on the palate, delicate roundness of body and subtle, aromatic perfume characteristic of the Chenin Blanc wine.	\$170		
White Wines			
Corte Sant'Alda Soave V. di Mezzane 2012, Veneto, Italy Garganega, Trebbiano di Soave and Chardonnay. Aroma of lemon with honey and white flowers notes. Dry and vivid acidity.	\$165		
Hay Shed Hill Pitchfork Sauvignon Blanc 2012, Margaret River, Australia Intense grassy aromas with tropical fruit notes that leap out of the glass. Good level of crisp acidity, bright and refreshing.	\$160		
Paracombe Pinot Gris 2012, Adelaide Hills, Australia Aromas of pear and rose petal with fresh flavours of nectarine, nashi pear and crème caramel with flinty mineral notes on the finish with excellent natural acidity.	\$210		
Joel Gott Monterrey Chardonnay 2012, Monterrey County, USA Aromas of melon, papaya, and red apple. Complex with notes of spicy vanilla and honeysuckle. Clean and bright acidity, long finish.	\$200		
Damilano Moscato D'Asti DOCG 2013, Piedmont, Italy White Moscato. Aromatic with scents of peach, sage, lemon, honey and apricot.	\$165		
Red Wines			
Georges Michel Golden Mile Pinot Noir 2010, Marlborough, New Zealand Aromas of ripe red berry, hint of chocolate. Elegant, encompassed by velvety smooth tannins.	\$225		
Enguera Distinto 2011, Valencia, Spain Tempranillo and Syrah. Aromas of wild berries to flowers. Good structure and concentrated, very persistent and mature tannins.	\$135		
Corte Sant'Alda Valpolicella Ca Fiui 2012, Veneto, Italy Corvina, Corvina Grossa and Rondinella Molinara. Fresh with cherry, raspberry and mineral notes. Pleasant in mouth, smooth, with tastes of ripe cherry and plum.	\$165		
Hollick Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2012, Coonawarra, Australia Aromas of brambles, blueberry and vanilla, with layers of dark berry-fruit flavours. Chalky tannins layered with mulberry, olive and dark plum.	\$255		
Paringa Estate Peninsula Shiraz 2010, Mornington Peninsula, Australia Aromas of spicy blackberry fruit with ample black fruits and black pepper flavours. Medium-bodied fine tannins.	\$245		
	Total		

**Free Wine Tasting on Middle Island,
13 September, 6:30-8:30 pm**

All of the wines in the September selection will be available for free tasting at the 13 September Middle East Night at Middle Island.

Remember to place your wine order together with your catering needs.

** Minimum order of 12 bottles. Mixed cases available.*

Member Name: _____ Membership Number: _____

Tel (Office): _____ Tel (Home): _____

Delivery Address: _____

Delivery Date: _____ Member Signature: _____

Total amount will be charged to Member's account. Orders accepted by mail, fax or in person. Contact the Food & Beverage Department at 25556216 or Fax: 28732945
Free delivery for order of 12 bottles or above, please allow 3 working days for delivery.
All wines are subject to availability.





What you need to know: The ABC Opening Regatta and Bart's Bash

By Kevin Lewis

This year, the ABC has registered to be a part of the global "Bart's Bash" initiative, which also takes place on the second day of our 2014 Opening Regatta, Sunday, 21 September.

Entrants to the ABC regatta may also sign up to join Bart's Bash as well by competing in our event, one of currently 570 events organised worldwide to support Bart's Bash.

Bart's Bash is a global race

Our club is already registered on the Bart's Bash website (www.bartsbash.co.uk/club/aberdeen-boat-club), and you may register to race on the day. The Bart's Bash on-line sign-up is in addition to the formal entry for the ABC Opening Regatta, and is optional – sailors are not required to take part.

However, if you do sign up for Bart's Bash, you will be part of a global race! Bart's Bash organisers will collect information on entries, results, boats, courses and conditions from each club to be used with the "Bart Number" handicap system to provide overall – and worldwide – results.

Ultimately this is a fun event and not precise science, but the aim is to give competitors a result set against every other sailor. Hence, sailors taking part via our regatta will be racing against Ben Ainslie in a Finn, Iain Percy in a Star, Paul Goodison in a Moth, Jimmy Spithill in a Melges E-Scow and Loïck Peyron in his Trimaran!

Bart's Bash is a world record attempt

Organisers hope that Bart's Bash will be the largest-ever sailing event held at multiple venues. Bart's Bash has been registered as a Guinness World Record attempt for a global regatta so the ABC and all other clubs taking part will follow obligations such

as start times, minimum race length, independent witnesses and number of competitors. If successful, everyone who enters will qualify as a world-record holder.

Bart's Bash is a charity event

Bart's Bash is raising money to support the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation, set up in 2013 to honour the life and legacy of Andrew "Bart" Simpson, MBE, Olympic gold and silver medallist and America's Cup sailor. The Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation focuses on young people between the ages of five and 24 and gives them opportunities to grow, achieve and to inspire the pursuit of excellence through sailing. Specifically, the Foundation centre at Weymouth and Portland offers subsidised sailing for young people; an ambassador programme to take the world's top sailors into schools and youth groups; and the formulation of an international sailing development programme, again focusing on young sailors. Those taking part have the option to help raise funds to support the Foundation's work.

What you need to do

You need only enter to be a part of the event, a potential world-record holder and get a result in a global regatta! The normal ABC Opening Regatta entry form must be completed and submitted as usual, on or before Wednesday 17 September. To be a part of the Bart's Bash initiative you also need to register at www.bartsbash.co.uk. Read through their information to check out some of the other clubs taking part. Here in Hong Kong, the ABC are joined by the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Discovery Bay Yacht Club, Lantau Boat Club and the Hong Kong Schools Sailing Association, all of which will run Bart's Bash events. H

BART'S BASH!



21ST SEPTEMBER 2014

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BARTSBASH.CO.UK YOUTUBE.COM/BARTSBASH

'BRING ON THE 21ST SEPTEMBER' - **JIMMY SPITHILL**

'THE BIGGEST RACE OF ALL TIME' - **SIR BEN AINSLIE**

'A GREAT RACE BETWEEN CLUBS WITH A LOT OF GREAT SAILORS' - **ROBERT SCHEIDT**

'A TRULY FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE MAN' - **PAUL CAYARD**

'★★★★★' - **LOÏCK PEYRON**

Enter the 2014 ABC Sunseeker Opening Regatta and sign up to be a part of Bart's Bash.
Details on www.abclubhk.com

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @BARTSBASH FIND US ON FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/BARTSBASH

Hebe Haven to Host 24-Hour 2014 Charity Dinghy Race

By Diana Bruce, photos by Kevin Lewis



Over the 1-2 November weekend, Hebe Haven Yacht Club will hold its annual 24-hour dinghy race for charity. The ABC has been closely involved with this event from the very start, and definitely will enter teams again this year.

In the 24-hour race, each boat is raced by a team of sailors on a roster over the 24 hours (from 2 pm Saturday to 2 pm on Sunday). The boats sail a course set in the harbour off Hebe Haven Yacht Club, which is continuously patrolled by safety boats. Team members and supporters can cheer on their team from the dockside where we have a terrific view of the whole race. In fact, it's a great family weekend and many of our members return year after year.

The race this year will support five very worthwhile charities, including the Children's Cancer Foundation, Enlighten

and Sailability Hong Kong (who will sail again this year). Last year's race raised a massive \$650,000, which the organisers hope to beat this year.

The ABC generously sponsors the entry fee for sailors, and there are no extra charges, but sailors are expected to seek sponsors or raise money for the charities as part of their commitment to the event.

The ABC plans to enter three teams that each will sail one of the following boats: a Wayfarer, a Laser 2000, and an RS Feva.

We therefore invite anyone with a Level 1/2 Certificate to sign up for this very worthwhile event, which is also a lot of fun. The Laser 2000 team is an adult-only team and the RS Feva is for our junior sailors. (Participation on the Wayfarer team is by invitation only – it is looking to keep first place again this year!!)



Junior sailors must be accompanied by a responsible adult whilst at Hebe Haven.

As ever, ABC members have signing rights at Hebe Haven, and there will be lots going on there over the race weekend in the way of games, stalls, and entertainment (including our own Kevin Lewis as the DJ and MC!) and plenty to eat and drink.

Junk needed for ABC team

In the past, we have been very grateful to the Club and members for the loan of a junk as a team base over the weekend. If any member has a junk they would be willing to let us use, we'd be very pleased and grateful. It makes an enormous difference to the comfort and spirits of the sailors.

So, put the dates of 1-2 November in your diaries and let Diana Bruce (jollyfin@netvigator.com) or Kevin Lewis (DinghySailing@abclubhk.com) know if you are interested in signing up, or would like to know a bit more about the Hebe Haven 24-hour charity dinghy race. 🏠





2014 Summer Series Race 5

Sunday, 10 August

Words and photos by Philippe de Manny

Rona

The ABC 2014 Summer Series 5 was forecast to have a 10-knot southwest wind and a two-metre tide, but as usual, very different conditions were found at the usual start area of our races in Deepwater Bay. What did hold true was the strong ebbing tide. The primary intent of the course choice, keeping in line with the series' tradition to visit every part of the southern Hong Kong seafood restaurant scene, was to go to Cheung Chau. Sadly the wind and tide precluded this route, and the only remaining option 30 minutes before the starting sequences was a shorter course to Po Toi's friendly neighborhood and well-appreciated restaurant.

The Race Officer aborted the first start at the last minute as the wind dropped so much that even his cigarette smoke rose straight up, copying the much bigger fume emitted by the Lamma power station chimneys. The race was delayed by 45 minutes but the starting area was repositioned and the race swiftly restarted after a hint came of patches of wind closer to Middle Island. As the fleet reached the windward mark, the wind indeed suddenly picked up, and a proper race finally could be seen between the fast racers *Red Eye*, *Intrigue* and *Andiamo*.

The first Division A boat to complete the 8.5 nautical-mile course to Po Toi was *Redeye*, but having one of the whole fleet's lowest handicaps, it finished fifth in HKPN and third in IRC. *Calamansi* continues to dominate the series in both

IRC and HKPN overall, but the last summer series race will determine – between *Calamansi*, *May 13th*, *Wonderwall*, *Intrigue* and *Andiamo* – which will win the HKPN and who between *Calamansi* (again), *Andiamo* and *Redeye* will get the IRC.

As for the Division B races, *Aquarius* and Josephine Cheng look in good position to get the cup this year but you never know; anything can happen on the last day. To be noted, our late-joiner this year, *Rona*, the beautiful Stowe & Son 78' who joined our Classic Yacht Rally in 2103, brought some welcome elegance to the Sunday restaurant series. H



Jailbreaker

Summer Series Race 5

10 August 2014, Course 33 (Provisional results)

IRC Race Results				
Place	Yacht	IRC	Elapsed Time	Corrected Time
1	<i>Andiamo</i>	1.033	1:27:52	1:30:46
2	<i>FG3</i>	0.957	1:36:14	1:32:06
3	<i>Redeye</i>	1.157	1:22:51	1:35:51

HKPN Race Results DIVISION A				
Place	Yacht	HKPN Number	Elapsed Time	Corrected Time
1	<i>May 13th</i> (Lonny Chen)	1032	1:38:31	1:35:28
2	<i>Andiamo</i>	920	1:27:52	1:35:30
3	<i>FG3</i>	1000	1:36:14	1:36:14

HKPN Race Results DIVISION B				
Place	Yacht	HKPN Number	Elapsed Time	Corrected Time
1	<i>Thea</i>	1077	1:33:35	1:26:54
2	<i>Aquarius</i>	1138	1:52:21	1:38:44
3	<i>Zephyr</i>	1070	2:08:15	1:59:52

J/80 Race Results			
Place	Yacht	IRC	Elapsed Time
1	<i>FG3</i> (Stephen Davis)	1.033	1:36:14
2	<i>May 13th</i> (Lonny Chen)	0.957	1:38:31
3	<i>Jailbreaker</i> (William Kong)	1.157	1:41:41

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Macau International Dinghy Regatta 2014

21 and 22 June

Words and photos by Kevin Lewis

The fifth running of the annual Macau International Dinghy Regatta took place this year over the weekend of 21 and 22 June, with the 2014 race seeing the biggest-ever team from the ABC take part.

Some 20 ABC youth and three adult ABC sailors competed across six dinghy classes. Together with associated family members and relatives, there were around 40 Club members at this year's regatta. We occupied 20 out of the 53 rooms booked at the event hotel.

As usual, the ABC supported our friends at the Associação de Vela de Macau (AVM). Preparation started several weeks before the event, with the ABC sending five Feva and six Pico dinghies, and an ABC safety boat, down to Hebe Haven Yacht Club. There they were loaded into containers and shipped to Macau on the Tuesday prior to the event weekend.

It's a huge task as the shipper does not pack the containers, so ABC and Hebe Haven staff worked together to pack two containers, with a third container being packed and shipped from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club in Causeway Bay. The other clubs sent Picos and Fevas too, as well as Optimists and Lasers. Unpacking in Macau and setting up some 52 boats was another huge task, but by Friday night all was ready and sailors were arriving at the Westin, now named the Grand Coloane Beach Resort.

During the regatta's first few years, sailing took place off the beach at the northeast end, near the hotel and next to the Miramar Restaurant. More recently the organisers have managed to establish themselves as part of the AVM, the "official" government-backed sailing centre at the southern end of Coloane's Hac Sa Beach.





A Feva is loaded into a container for the trip to Macau



On the beach, ready to launch

This large sailing centre was formerly little-used, but partly due to the recent enthusiasm of a small band of keen volunteers, small-boat sailing is now well and truly on the agenda in Macau, with some credit due, it must be said, to the annual International Dinghy Regatta. This has helped spike interest, not only with the general public, but also with those involved in sports administration in Macau; so the future definitely looks bright!

This year, the first day of the regatta dawned with very light winds, and dull and grey skies, but luckily we avoided the overnight threat of thunderstorms. As the weekend progressed, things steadily improved, with the breeze increasing and even some sunshine on the Sunday.

Of all the ABC sailors, special mention must be made of Malo Kennish, who was competing in one of his first big regattas as the only ABC representative in the Optimist class. He opened the regatta with a third and fourth place, and managed to finish seventh overall; a great achievement out of 17 boats. Ralph Summers finished third in the Laser radial division, again one of his best-ever results, and other ABC sailors all managed good mid-fleet positions. The third place (out of three boats) in the adult Laser Stratos class certainly does not reflect the close racing and fantastic effort from the three ABC adult sailors, Stephanie Dechelette, Tomas Huml and Celine Verdez, all successful and enthusiastic products of the ABC adult sailing programme.



Thomas Hulm helping the ABC Stratos (adult team)



Ryan, Madeleine, Scarlett, Ralph, Brendan and Rahel



A special weekend away

Dinghy racing at the Macau regatta is only a small part of the great attraction of this annual regatta. It's a real family-orientated event, and the superb hotel facilities and off-the-beach sailing, together with the Saturday night barbecue hosted at the Miramar, all add together to make it a special weekend away. Being able to meet sailors, friends and families from the other clubs is a huge plus too.

A final big word of thanks goes to Ian Skeggs and the Geelong Group, whose sponsorship once again eased the financial burden to ABC: in fact I am happy to report that this year, for the first time ever, the ABC broke even on the event, with sponsorship, shipping and team fees covering all our costs! Roll on Macau 2015! 



Harriette Edmonds and Scarlett Lorin



Brendan Johnston



Dinghies prepared and ready



ABC Macau Regatta Team



ABC Achieves Hat Trick in Tough Tournament with RHKYC and HHYC

Words and photos by Nick Bodnar-Horvath

On 23 June, a three-cornered snooker challenge took place between the Aberdeen Boat Club, Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and Hebe Haven Yacht Club. The previous two fixtures had gone the way of ABC and it was noticeable from the calibre of players selected by RHKYC and Hebe Haven that they anticipated a much stiffer test than in previous encounters.

Both RHKYC and Hebe Haven drew on the talent of regulars at the Hong Kong Club (who were, of course, members of those respective clubs as well). ABC was led by our new snooker captain Dave Hilling.

The first round of matches comprised 12 singles matches. After nine matches had been played all the teams were level, with three wins apiece. However, the last three singles of the evening saw a swing in favour of ABC.

The best match of the singles was between Tong Yun Fat of ABC and Steve So of Hebe Haven, which was finally

decided on the black ball. We broke for dinner with ABC leading six wins to the three wins of RHKYC and Hebe Haven.

After dinner, combat resumed with the doubles matches. The final match between RHKYC and ABC could not be played as the time was already 10 minutes before midnight! The double matches were drawn between RHKYC and ABC at 2.5 wins each, with Hebe Haven achieving one doubles win.

ABC claims third tourney

Overall, ABC were declared the winners with 8.5 wins against the RHKYC's 5.5 and Hebe Haven's four wins. The ABC's Tong Yun Fat and Barry Hill were unbeaten on the night.

Whilst of course the results were recorded as wins or losses, many of the games were very close and could have gone either way. Standards generally were much higher than in previous matches.

Our next tournament is scheduled for October or November.



ABC High-Performance Squad: *29er Sailors Shine* in World Competitions

By Yann D'Argenlieu, Nathan Bradley, Matthew Wright and Russell Aylsworth, photos by Neuza Aires Pereira (ISAF), Luka Bartulovic and Mike Wright



Nathan and Yann at the ISAF Youth Worlds in Portugal Photo by Neuza Aires Pereira | Isaf Youth Worlds

This summer, four sailors from the ABC High-Performance squad once again travelled to compete in four major global events; this year, in Europe and Canada.

Travelling overseas is essential once sailors reach the highest level; they get to compete in large fleets and against some of the best sailors in the world.

In fact, now we can say confidently that ABC youth sailors are already world-class; Yann D'Argenlieu and Nathan Bradley finished 19th in the 29er World Championships, the top annual event for the class, and 13th in the 29er Youth Worlds.

Read on for the story of the summer campaign in the words of the sailors themselves.

EuroCup, Weymouth, U.K., 5 – 6 July

By Yann D'Argenlieu

For Nathan and me, Portland, in southern England's Weymouth, was the first of our three summer destinations that included four regattas. The EuroCup event was hosted at the Olympic sailing centre, which meant that all of the facilities were in perfect shape. This included the RYA guesthouse (a 15-minute walk to the sailing centre) where we spent our nights.

Our goal for this event was to put our head back in the game and into sailing after a hard-working school year. The event also served as a pre-ISAF and pre-Worlds training event, in which we were able to race alongside 40 other boats;

something we do not get back home in Hong Kong. Moreover, Weymouth is known for its strong winds (something we also do not get very often in Hong Kong), as we quickly found out once we launched our boat.

Portland was truly a skiff sailor's paradise: even with its 25 knots of wind, the water inside the harbour continued to remain flat. This meant that virtually no waves would be able to slow the 29er down. Therefore, we practiced strong wind sailing alongside the South African team and the two best British boats. Trying to keep up with them was a great challenge, considering that we had chartered a 29er that was over 10-years old.

Anyway, once our brand-new sails arrived for racing, we were almost able to compete with the best GBR sailors; the Irish, on the other hand, were just too far ahead. I learnt that on a double-handed skiff like the 29er, communication between team members is key. There are some things that the helm can see and do, but that the crew can't (and vice-versa). It is the job of us both to talk to each other and to process the information we have both gathered with the use of simple questions (such as: Why are we here? Why are we going there? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?). This allows us to form a plan and a strategy to put us to the top of the fleet.

Once we were off the water and out of the sailing centre, Coach Rory Godman would drive us home for a quick shower and a short rest. We would then drive to Weymouth for dinner. It was a pleasant surprise when we met up for dinner with John Wood, a well-known instructor and coach at the ABC! I definitely enjoyed the company while we all dug into our fish and chips.

Weymouth definitely played an important role in our build-up to the Youth Worlds and 29er World Championships. I want to thank Rory for spending his summer working and coaching, driving on the water and on the road; taking care of us, but also making this whole trip a memorable and pleasant one.

ISAF Youth Worlds, Portugal, 12 – 19 July

By Nathan Bradley

The ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships were first held in Sweden in 1971 and have taken place every year since. It is a key ISAF event to help promote top-level youth sailing, and is billed by many as the under 18's equivalent of the Olympic Games.

To qualify, sailors from each country need to achieve significant local and overseas success, and then be selected by their national authority (in our case the HKSF) to represent their country. Only one team (one boat) is allowed per country. It was an amazing – and very special – experience for both Yann and me to be representing Hong Kong!

The 2014 ISAF Youth Worlds were held in Tavira, Portugal, following our warm-up event in the U.K. The weather in Portugal was consistently hot and the wind averaged between 6-12 knots for racing. The first two days proved very exciting with our overall position starting at first and slipping to third. We later fell down to a respectable 13th overall, a result with which we were still very pleased. We came away knowing that we are capable of much better!

The starting times in Portugal were different every day but the routine was the same: we woke up, went for a 20-minute run to the yacht club to see what conditions were like on the water, then we ate breakfast, had a quick briefing and went out for the day's racing. After racing Coach Rory Godman debriefed us before we ate dinner and went to sleep; a simple schedule to avoid getting tired.

This was my second time at the ISAF Youth Worlds, representing the ABC and Hong Kong, following my participation sailing with Cosmas Grelon back in 2012 when we finished 18th. Both Yann and I will be working very hard in the next 12 months to qualify again and hopefully further improve our result.



North American Championships, Ontario, Canada, 20 – 24 July

By Matthew Wright

Russell Aylsworth and I joined teammates Yann D'Argenlieu and Nathan Bradley in Kingston, Canada, for the 29er North American Championships as a warm-up regatta for the World Championships that would take place a few days later at the same venue. Yann and Nathan had already competed in the UK and Portugal, but with chartered dinghies as Coach Rory Godman had worked out that it was cheaper for ABC to send two of our own 29ers and an ABC coach boat all the way to Canada (sharing costs with the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club who also sent equipment for their sailors). So we arrived confident that our own boats were ready and in good condition.

On 19 July, Russell and I flew over to Toronto directly from Hong Kong on a 16-hour flight, coping with a 12-hour time zone difference. From there we met up with Coach Rory and teammates Yann and Nathan, and drove down to Kingston. Kingston is a popular tourist area in Canada and was the host of the 1976 Olympics' sailing in Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. The North American Championships were also held in the harbour on Lake Ontario, approximately a 2.5-hour drive from Toronto. On arrival, we rigged up and went for a quick warm-up sail to get used to the conditions, then polished boats to be ready for the first day of racing!

The day greeted us with light winds of seven-10 knots that did not particularly suit the bigger crews. The regatta consisted of 70 boats split into two fleets of 35 each with each of our two boats in different fleets. With the larger crews stacking up outside the top 10s, Yann and Nathan took advantage of this and finished with a 6th, a 4th and a 10th. A less-impressive start to the regatta came from Russell and me, who finished 29th, 26th and another 29th.

Day 2 was more or less the same conditions once racing was underway; we were once again split up with different competition. Russell and I knew that good starts on the front row were crucial for a great result and so our starts were better, which indeed significantly improved our results. Yann and Nathan



ABC 29er Squad - L to R – Yann, Coach Rory, Nathan, Russell and Matthew



Matthew and Russell at the 29er World Championships Photo by Luka Bartulovic

also improved with a 7th and two 5ths from winning the pin on a number of occasions.

Day 3 had a lot more in store for us 29ers once the wind rapidly swung from southwest to north with a 10-knot increase in wind speed – these were conditions that sailors around the globe had come to compete in. The fleet was split into Gold and Silver with our more-experienced crew qualifying for Gold, with Russell and myself, less experienced and certainly much younger, qualifying for Silver. The Gold fleet included the 25 top boats in the world, with everyone else “dumped” in Silver. Yann and Nathan



took the best chance in the first race by finishing 7th, but dropped into the top 20s for the next three races. Russell and I took advantage of the 20-knot breeze with our boat speed by finishing 20th, then with significant improvement, 18th and a 15th.

The final day wasn't much of an adventure with the breeze dying down back to 10 knots. With the wind shifting and a big range in the lulls and gusts, the Gold fleet completed only one race that day. Yann and Nathan breezed through their race with a 3rd and a final position of 7th overall. This regatta positioned us well for the Worlds with a 7th for Yann and Nathan and a 44th for Russell and me. We both learnt a lot at this warm-up regatta about sailing in big fleets and looked forward to the Worlds a couple of days later.

29er World Championships, Ontario, Canada, 27 July – 2 August

By Russell Aylsworth

After the 29er North American Championships, Matt and I felt confident about the World Championships. Since Matthew and I did the North American regatta we had already adjusted to the lake conditions. This took us a while because the lake is fresh water so we had less buoyancy and our bow would dig into the water and fill up our boat easier.

We arrived at the boat park for measurement day, but as we were preparing our boat we were asked to be guinea pigs for measuring. The team was very relieved because this meant we did not have to wait for the long line the next day as in every year of the Worlds. Once they measured and weighed our boat, we rigged up and went for a quick sail to check our boats were prepared. The wind condition was light and shifty. But we were ready for it.

So first we would have the qualifiers which lasted for three days; they determined which class we would be in for the rest of the regatta. They have three classes: Gold (best), Silver (second fleet)

and Bronze (third fleet). Rory Godman, our coach, said that we have to fight for every place because it makes a huge difference. Matt and I kept that thought close for the rest of the qualifiers. On our first race Matt and I did not have the best start, but we slowly started to move up the fleet. As we rounded the top mark we capsized, and when we got back up our gennaker was tangled, so we could not go downwind easily. We then rounded the bottom mark and our main halyard snapped so the rest of our day was wasted. Our second and third days were not the best since the wind was light and shifty, but we tried hard! The effort paid off, and in our final race we really wanted to end on a positive note and we did – finishing first in our fleet! A great way to end the regatta ... to see the whole fleet following us was a fantastic feeling!

Meanwhile, Nathan and Yann had qualified for the Gold fleet, guaranteeing them at least a top-25 result. As they raced, their results kept improving, from a 24th to a 4th in race 5 and an 8th in race 6.

Nathan and Yann eventually finished 19th overall (out of 101 boats) and as 15th youth team! An incredible result, 19th in the world – and they were sailing against the adults too!

All four of us would like to give a special thanks to our sponsors (Peroni, Borrelli Walsh and ETA Logistics) whose assistance made the whole trip possible. The ABC covered the costs for Coach Rory and for the charter boats, transportation and shipping. Without such support it would have been even more expensive than it already was for our parents!

Finally, thanks are due to Coach Rory, whose determination, organisation, commitment and absolute dedication throughout the whole trip and to the whole team were amazing. We wouldn't be here without his vision – so a big thanks go to him for everything! We all are looking forward to continuing our sailing through the ABC and our thanks go to the members for their support too! ✨

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Summer Sailing at Middle Island

Words and photos by Kevin Lewis

Here we present a glimpse of the fun and activity that took place over the summer at ABC Middle Island. We successfully ran over 40 courses from late June through until the end of August, with over 300 students taking part.

As usual it was our Optimist Junior Sailing Programme that was most popular, with nearly all courses full and with waiting lists. We also ran two Watersports Weeks, one in July and one in August, and these also were fully subscribed. In addition, there were HKSF Beginner courses and more advanced Level 3, Gennaker, Racing and High Performance courses.

A big thanks to all the instructors and assistants; it's a huge organisational challenge to set up and run such a programme! We used all our safety boats (and hired extra), used all our Optimists and Pico dinghies, had to hire in an extra ferry, and found instructors from all over Hong Kong and overseas!

Remember to sign up now for the October school holiday programme (page 26). As a reminder, all courses now have application deadlines and we recommend that parents apply at least three-four weeks in advance to secure places. H







ABC October 2014 Youth Sailing Programme

Application Deadline Friday 10 October

For most schools, the October holiday is only one week and therefore places are very limited. The ABC recommends you apply at least three weeks prior to the course start date to ensure a place. Note spaces can only be reserved on receipt of a completed application form and deposit payment; we cannot reserve course slots by email or telephone. Further details are available at www.abclubhk.com and also from Angela at SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com. Due to last-minute applications, we now issue application deadlines for all courses. **Please note that if we have space we will still accept late applications, subject to a 30% late application additional fee.**

Date	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	HKS (Member)	HKS (Non-member)
Mon 20 – Fri 24 Oct (AM)	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 12	864	1,300
Mon 20 – Fri 24 Oct (PM)	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 12, hold Optimist Stage 1	864	1,300
Mon 20 – Fri 24 Oct (PM)	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 12, hold Optimist Stage 2	864	1,300
Mon 20 – Fri 24 Oct (PM)	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Intro.	Age 7 – 12, hold Optimist Stage 3	864	1,300
Mon 20 – Fri 24 Oct		Beginners HKSF Level 1 & 2	Age 11 – 18	2,600	3,900
Mon 20 – Fri 24 Oct		Improver HKSF Level 3	Age 11 – 18, hold HKSF L2 for at least one year	2,600	3,900
Mon 20 – Weds 22 Oct		RS Feva Intro. Course	Age 11 – 18, hold HKSF L2	1,560	2,340
Thurs 23 – Sat 25 Oct		Laser 1 Introduction Course	Age 12 – Adult, hold HKSF L2 or similar experience	1,560 (youth) 1,824 (adult)	2,340 (youth) 2,736 (adult)
Sat 25 – Sun 26 Oct		RS Feva Gennaker Course	Age 11 – 18, hold RS Feva Intro	1,040	1,560

Late October French International Youth Sailing Programme

French International and some other schools have slightly longer holidays, and the ABC is therefore happy to offer an extended programme to cater for those students. Full details and application forms are available on our website, www.abclubhk.com, for further enquiries please contact SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com. **Late applications will be subject to a 30% late application additional fee.**

Date	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	HKS (Member)	HKS (Non-member)
Sat 25 – Weds 29 Oct (AM)	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 12	864	1,300
Sat 25 – Weds 29 Oct (PM)	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 12, hold Optimist Stage 1	864	1,300
Sat 25 – Weds 29 Oct (PM)	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 12, hold Optimist Stage 2	864	1,300
Sat 25 – Weds 29 Oct (PM)	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Course	Age 7 – 12, hold Optimist Stage 3	864	1,300
Sat 25 – Weds 29 Oct		Beginners HKSF Level 1 & 2	Age 11 – 18	2,600	3,900
Sat 25 – Weds 29 Oct		Improver HKSF Level 3	Age 11 – 18, hold HKSF L2 for at least one year	2,600	3,900
Sat 25 – Weds 29 Oct		RS Feva Intro Course	Age 11 – 18, hold HKSF L2	1,560	2,340
Mon 27 – Weds 29 Oct		Laser 1 Introduction Course	Age 12 – Adult, hold HKSF L2 or similar experience	1,560 (youth) 1,824 (adult)	2,340 (youth) 2,736 (adult)

Note course timings:

AM course: 9 am – 12:30 pm (meet at 8:45 am at main club)

PM course: 1:30 pm – 5 pm (1 pm ferry from main club)

Whole-day course: 9 am – 4:30 pm (meet at 8.45 at main club)



Sailing Diary: What's on across Hong Kong!

The autumn months are the busiest of the year with so many regattas, races and other activities, we all need more weekends to fit everything in! This issue of *Horizons* includes the 2014 – 2015 ABC sailing calendar, but here we outline some of the important autumn and winter dates for your diary.

Cruiser and Keelboat events:

ABC Opening Regatta: 20 & 21 September
COA Macau Race: 1 & 2 October
ABC Waglan 1: Sunday, 5 October
RHKYC China Coast Regatta: 10 – 12 October
ABC Ladies Helm Race: Sunday, 19 October
ABC Waglan 2: Sunday, 2 November
ABC Fiesta Day: Sunday, 9 November
RHKYC Around The Island Race: Sunday, 16 November

Dinghy Races and Regattas:

Autumn ODO Series Club Races 1 & 2 (Laser/Optimist/Open):
Saturday, 13 September
ABC Opening Regatta: 20 & 21 September
Autumn DHM Series Club Races 1 & 2 (29er/Double-handed /
Moth): Saturday, 27 September
HKSF International Regatta: 2, 4 & 5 October
Autumn ODO Series Club Races 3 & 4 (Laser/Optimist/Open):
Saturday, 11 October
Autumn DHM Series Club Races 3 & 4 (29er/Double-handed /

Moth): Saturday, 25 October
HHYC 24 Hour Charity Dinghy Race: 1 & 2 November

Adult Beginner Dinghy Courses:

Sept 9, 13, 14, 27, 28
Oct 2, 4, 5, 11, 12
Nov 8, 9, 15, 22, 23
Dec 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

Other Adult Dinghy Courses and activities:

Laser 2000 Introduction Course: 2, 4 & 5 October
Fiesta Day Dinghy Sailing Trip: Sunday, 9 November
Dinghy Sailing Trip: Sunday, 14 December
Adult Improver HKSF Level 3 Course: January 2015: 4, 10, 11,
17, 18

J/80 Keelboat Courses and activities:

Competent Crew Course: 18, 19, 25 October
Gennaker Day: Saturday, 29 November
Sailing Trip: Saturday, 13 December

Joint ABC-RHKYC Dinghy Series 2014-15

The arrangements for the Joint ABC-RHKYC Dinghy Series 2014-15 have been finalised and are reflected in the annual sailing calendar included in this issue of *Horizons*. The two clubs again will alternate on the joint series race management, and share sailing instructions and courses. Again there will be Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer series.

Racing has been split into two groups, "Open Dinghies and Optimists" and "Double-handed and Moth." In the calendar these are identified in the race day name by "ODO" and "DHM" respectively.

These groups will be defined in the Notice of Race. The former group will cover most boats that ABC sailors currently race,

while the latter will comprise high-performance 29ers and the International Moths – the latter is a development rule class which now race in foils.

This will improve the competition for these high performance classes, while making the Open Dinghies and Optimists most uniform, and hopefully attract more sailors. The Summer Series, which is ABC-run (although RHKYC and others are welcome), supports all classes of dinghies.

A further change is the bringing forward of starts of the Winter, Spring and Summer races, held on Sundays, to 1:30 pm, to enjoy the stronger winds of the middle of the day, while the Autumn Series remains on Saturdays starting at 2.30 pm.





Summer Series 2014: Race 4

Man Overboard!

By Elaine Morgan and Stephen Davies
Photos by Elaine Morgan

Summer series races are fun, colourful affairs.

Summer series 4 on July 27 was no exception. We had 22 boats on the hot, sunny start line. Black squalls on the horizon. And a couple of dozen kites of all shades popping as we rounded Castle Rock at the end of the first leg. Then there was battling with strong tides across the Lamma Channel. The arrival of a whistling squall. Wheeee! – for those who held onto their kites and kept the boat upright. Byeeee! – for those who didn't.

Next, searching frantically through the sheeting rain for the ABC buoy off Yuen Kok. Bouncing around in pesky stinkpot wash. Dodging ships appearing out of the murk from all directions. Inching

towards the finish line against a screaming tide in a lull. But, finally, time for a beer.

That was the racing. But we don't usually get multiple man-overboards too. After Summer 4 we did – though it had nothing to do with racing ... or sailing yachts.

It was later. Prime going-home time. Stinkpots whizzing by at high speed from all points of the compass. *Javelin*, with skipper Lewis Cerne, makes her way back from Middle Island with *FG3* crew aboard. Sunset, a beautiful pearly pastel evening after a lazy tea-time recovering from the day's exertions (Middle Island's brown, fizzy tea is great!).

We pass a fisherman on a kayak, complete with bucket. Out in the channel is a runabout with two red umbrellas hoisted ... jiggling for squid.

Astern, a dragon boat is being very eccentrically paddled in from the Round Island direction. Its crew is dressed a bit oddly for dragon boat practice ...

"Those dragon boaters ... looks like they're having a hard time in all the chop ... all over the place ..."

"The helm'll have to keep her straight with that whopping wake rolling up ..."

"They need a bailer ..."

"Did you see that chap just jump out ...!"

"They're sinking ..."

"They've sunk!"

Dragon boaters, 22 in all, some in party dresses, one with a dog, others clutching large bags of empty beer cans, all bobbing about surrounded by floating eskies, flip-flops, paddles ...

The law of the sea. Lewis turns us back. It may look funny ... until someone drowns.

Javelin heaves to close by. We throw fenders as extra buoyancy. We wave at many other passing boats heading home. Most zonk by. Typical!

Two stop to help. An ABC member with a blue McGregor 26. A power boat.

And the fisherman on the kayak standing by. Carmen Cerne on the phone to the marine police ...

“**Dragon boaters, 22 in all, some in party dresses, one with a dog, others clutching large bags of empty beer cans, all bobbing about surrounded by floating eskies, flip-flops, paddles ...**”

We're hauling swimmers inboard. Dog and its pink-clad lady owner come first. The dog was the only living creature wearing a lifejacket! Thank heaven everyone can swim. Thank heaven it's still daylight. Nine more people follow. *FG3* crew and stronger dragon boaters do the heavy lifting. Even a *J/80*'s low freeboard is too much for most to get themselves aboard.

Not long after, the marine police arrive, blue light flashing. We wave frantically, pointing at the awash dragon boat, a classic hazard to navigation. Aboard, all are safe. Eleven aboard *Javelin*. More on the McGregor, which

has a handy swim ladder. One of *Javelin*'s suddenly dives back into the sea, yelling "There's my bag!" He scrambles onto the powerboat, plus bag. Watertight bags are almost a fashion item as we can see from the debris in the cockpit ... along with many paddles.

With nine bedraggled survivors in a gaggle in the cockpit and *Javelin* sitting lower and lower in the water, we head slowly towards the typhoon shelter. "Yes," we shout at the marine police, "all 22 accounted for."

Lewis slows *Javelin* and takes a wake on the bow as a stinkpot roars by close-to, oblivious of what's going on. What is it with stinkpotters and unseamanship?

We slide alongside the pontoon where three policemen are waiting. Before the first statements are taken there's the Aberdeen Fire Services Department fireboat alongside, siren hooting, red light flashing and chaps dressed ready for another major disaster. Ready for anything. Splendid in helmets and harnesses, and then the police are joined by divers, all trained and dressed for action.

Dial 999 and you get the full McCoy plus. All credit to the emergency services.

Finally it's all over. Hugs and thank yous exchanged. "You saved our lives ..." "Bye-bye ..." "Thank you ..."

An epic day in a memorable series, courtesy of the ABC. 





Sunday, 28 September at Beaufort Island:

ABC Joins Coastal Watch for Beach Clean-up

By Wayne Robinson, ABC Team Leader, Hong Kong Coastal Watch

Hong Kong has a huge problem of marine pollution; any of us need only to look out on any stretch of water to see the ugly flotsam of Hong Kong's discarded litter and waste. The nature of some of the waste can be amusing – I have seen a floating settee, a fridge, and even a discarded TV! Once I had to navigate my boat through a large patch of about 50, old-style computer monitors!

But of course marine pollution is not funny; it is unhealthy, an eyesore, and extremely harmful to marine animals and birds. Some of you may remember the disastrous plastic pellet spill of 2012. Fortunately, that incident caught the attention of very many concerned Hong Kong residents who turned out in droves to help with the clean-up.

It was indeed astounding how many ordinary people did get involved in cleaning up the beaches. One man on Cheung Chau even brought down to the beach a vacuum cleaner and seemingly miles of electric cable to help remove the offending plastic.

Coastal Watch formed

Building on this public concern and goodwill, Hong Kong Coastal Watch has been established to help tackle Hong Kong's massive marine pollution problem and clean up beaches territory-wide.

Coastal Watch is a coastal clean-up programme and large-scale ecological survey led by World Wildlife Fund in a campaign coordinated with a number of concerned green groups and marine-related organizations. It aims to develop a long-term solution to the marine litter problem and enhance and mobilize public awareness of our marine environment.

Coastal Watch has identified 27 key target sites in a variety of coastal and marine habitats across Hong Kong, including mangroves, mudflats, sandy shores, rocky shores, coral communities and coastal water areas.

Each site is matched to a team that will conduct ecological, marine litter and micro-debris surveys and perform clean-up activities. All information collected will be shared



Beaufort Island, the ABC's appointed beach for Coastal Watch

talk at the ABC by HK Cleanup, which is already cleaning local beaches. HK Cleanup volunteers will inform us about methods to be adopted during our own clean-up operation. Please check the ABC website for the talk date and details.

A scientific edge

Led by the WWF, the combined forces of the two-year Coastal Watch project include a variety of interested parties, from the casual beach user to scientific researchers as well as Hong Kong government bodies and green groups. Coastal Watch's stated aims are to not just clean beaches and coastal areas but to do so with methodical strategies, as well as to collect and collate important scientific information that will help the government's inter-departmental working group address marine litter. Organisers hope the Coastal Watch project helps the government develop and carry out meaningful and long-term strategies to protect our marine environment.

The basic aims of the clean-up are to:

1. Remove marine litter from a number of sites in Hong Kong's various coastal environments,
2. Survey marine litter to determine its composition and contribute to efforts to trace its sources,
3. Fill in gaps in existing ecological information by constructing species checklists,
4. Engage local fishing communities in locating and removing marine litter in Hong Kong waters, and
5. Train "citizen scientist" volunteers who will assist and promote the project.

The Coastal Watch project's strategic partners are wide and varied, including EcoMarine, EcoVision's Hong Kong Cleanup, Green Council, Living Lamma, Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong, and Plastic-Free Seas. The project is also supported by Eco-Education and Resources Centre, Lamma Corner and Ocean Park Corporation.

For more information, see the following extract from the WWF website: <http://coastalwatch.hk/home-en/>

with the authorities, which will help the government identify the point of sources of marine litter and develop a long-term marine conservation policy. Each team will have a scientific officer who will guide team volunteers. Site project activities will span two years with one team visit in the dry season and one in the rainy season, with other visits possible on an as-needed basis.

Fun for all: a shore thing

I am very pleased to report that the ABC General Committee has chosen to support Coastal Watch as an organizational member, giving ABC members the worthy opportunity to help clean up Hong Kong's priceless beaches and coastlines; after all, we all use the seas around Hong Kong, and as such take more than a passing interest.

We have agreed to take the clearing of a 200-metre stretch of sandy shore interspersed with boulders at Beaufort Island. (Nearby on Po Toi, the South China Dive Club has already begun preparing for its assignment, cleaning the sea bed beneath the beach.)

The ABC is now calling for member-volunteers to help clean up and monitor

the shore site at Beaufort Island. Although marine litter is serious, we plan a fun day – Sunday, 28 September – for ABC members to get together.

ABC volunteers will board an ABC junk at the Main Clubhouse to make an early-ish start for Beaufort. Other club boats may join in, and boat owners are very welcome to join.

Please check the ABC website and emails for developing details, but depending on group consensus, clean-up will be followed by either an on-board curry or dinner back at the Club or even an early dinner at Po Toi.

Volunteers welcome

If you would like to volunteer for this very worthwhile event and reserve space(s) on the boat, please either email me, ABC team leader Wayne Robinson, at robinson@hku.hk, or ABC General Manager Philippe de Manny at gmsec@abclubhk.com

Confirmation of the date for the ABC visit to Beaufort Island plus details and further information on the day's activities will be provided on the ABC website closer to the date.

In advance of our visit to Beaufort Island, the ABC has arranged an evening



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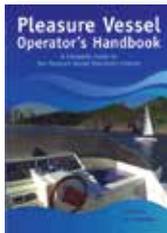
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