



2015/07-08

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HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB

Aberdeen Racing Academy Sailors
on the Joys of Sailing

Middle Island's Coming New Look

Dragon Boating and Diving
at the ABC



GO ZEN ZEN WE BO BO



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12-13 September 2015

Regatta

Organised by



For sailing instructions contact the Sailing Secretary on 2552 8182 or email sailingsecretary@abclubhk.com or visit www.abclubhk.com

HORIZONS ISSUE 2015/07-08

Published by:
PPP Company Ltd
Unit 713, Level 7, Core E,
Cyberport 3, 100 Cyberport Road,
Cyberport, Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2201 9719

Copyright:
Aberdeen Boat Club

Printed by:
Toppan Printing Co., (H.K.) Ltd.
in Hong Kong

ISSN: 2222-9582

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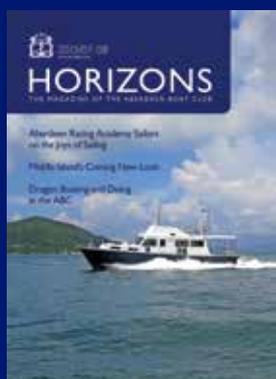
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Cover photo by Kevin Lewis: Introducing the ABC's new committee boat

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



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Commodore's Letter

Before the arrival of the new committee boat/ferry boat, members were invited to submit ideas for its name as well as for the two present ferries, prosaically called by their manufacturers' names of Invicta and Cheoy Lee. Many ideas were put forward for a vote by the General Committee, with Stephen Hilton's "wind series" (Shun Fung (順風), meaning "bon voyage," Sing Fung (乘風), meaning "ride on the wind," and Mei Fung (微風), meaning "breeze") edging out versions of a series on the islands that grace our cruise and race areas. The craft will be named after a traditional ceremony on 28 June.

Members on the moorings list know the long wait for a place in our allocated areas of the typhoon shelter and Middle Island despite our active efforts at applying for more space.

Whilst more names are on the list than places, we have had some success with list movement. Maintaining these lists requires constant time, and accordingly, to defray these ongoing administrative costs, the General Committee has decided to impose from 1 July a fee to those on, or joining, the mooring waiting list.

In this *Horizons* we mention the Aberdeen Racing Academy, our new term for the high-performance sailors coached by Rory Godman and team, covering racing Optimists, 29ers, Fevas and the Optimist training team. Kevin Lewis and his team manage sail and keelboat training, supervised sailing and schools training. We wish our Academy team good winds and strong results in their European regatta tour commencing late June.

Further to Nick Bodnar-Horvath's report below on changes to the Club's



Articles, I note that a resolution to pass these changes will be put to an Extraordinary General Meeting to be called in the near future.

Enjoy your summer boating and time around the Club.

John Berry
Commodore



Flag Officer's Report

On 3 March 2014, Hong Kong adopted a new Companies Ordinance, whose purpose was to revise the regulations affecting all limited companies, including companies limited by guarantee. The Club is a company limited by guarantee; a company that has no share capital but a guarantee by each member to pay a maximum sum of \$100 in the event of liquidation. Very few sections are aimed directly at companies limited by guarantee, however most of the provisions of the Ordinance apply to all forms of companies. Whilst the draftsman intended to focus more on abuses by publicly listed companies and other companies with a share capital, the new Companies Ordinance has made significant changes to Club governance. This in turn has necessitated making amendments to our Articles of Association, which will be proposed at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held in the near future.

The main changes affect the way we hold our meetings. Until the new Ordinance was passed, clubs were free to exclude proxy voting from their

regulations. With the new Ordinance, every member is entitled to appoint a proxy who may or may not be a member of the Club. We are permitted to restrict the appointment of proxies and we will propose resolutions to limit proxies to members of the Club or their spouses. Moreover, apart from the Chairman, members will not be able to hold more than two proxies, to prevent block voting.

As to the form of proxy, the Club will prepare a form of general proxy and a form of specific proxy under which the member giving the proxy may state whether the proxy may vote as he pleases or specifically for or against particular resolutions.

Whilst we are revising our Articles, we will use this opportunity to change the voting procedures to elect the General Committee. New provisions will require half of the General Committee to resign each year, thus ensuring equal numbers for election each year. Under the existing provisions, the numbers seeking election have become out of kilter such that we will usually get 12 seeking election in one



year and six another. Flag officer positions will be elected the same way as in most other clubs; the General Committee members will be elected first and after the election, the new General Committee will retire to choose the flag officers from amongst their number, from those who have served at least one year in office on General Committee.

The foregoing proposed changes to our Articles have been approved by the Home Affairs Bureau, acting through its Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office.

Nick Bodnar-Horvath
Honorary General Secretary



Update on Middle Island

By Philippe de Manny

After more than a year of preparation and meetings with the Home Affairs Bureau, our project has finally received favourable support. A few more details need to be fine-tuned, but we have achieved an enormous milestone in Middle Island's development.

After more than a 10-year process to obtain more electricity on Middle Island, all lights are now green to start work, hopefully after summer.

Whilst I must point out that much work is to be done to satisfy all other Government departments on details, and much more support and approval remain needed, now we can be much more certain that the project will go ahead.

Lastly, in light of our future large development we are now moving forward to take first steps in beautifying Middle Island, once details are finalised and government approval is received. Let me confirm that no efforts or materials will be wasted: all that is done now will be a part of the final building.

The images here give a look at the future ABC Clubhouse at Middle Island.*



*Artist's impression and subject to modification and change in specification, design and materials.



General Manager's Letter

In this combined July and August issue of *Horizons*, we bring many things to your attention: Club rules, staff news, our eco-friendly actions, updates to Middle Island, the gym and pool, and special F&B promotions.

Rules and enforcement

We begin with less-happy reports of rules abuses on pontoon usage and Club access. From now on, we will close the gate that leads to the pontoon all day, every weekend, to stop non-members from using the pontoon as a public pier.

We will continue to strongly block repeats of these recent incidents:

- 1) Non-members trying to board a chartered boat (we will direct them to the nearest public pier)
- 2) Non-members getting on a members' boat that has been chartered or members renting their boat to non-members but not being on the boat themselves. (Nothing wrong in that; but please use the public piers as the ABC is not a business platform.)
- 3) Non-members asserting they are members without being able to produce a membership card, or giving fake numbers to my staff. (This is calling for trespassing charges.)
- 4) Members giving their membership card or their smart pontoon card to non-members, telling them to show it if asked. (These cards will be confiscated and members will be brought to the ABC disciplinary committee.)

Whilst this may sound like the work of the police, please realise that the pontoon and the Club are for members and guests only. Members' guests or friends may not use any part of the Club without the presence of the members – this is no way to subvert our legendary Club welcome and affability.

Also, please remember that Government regulations require members to sign in guests at Reception. After a good start, we have again fallen behind on the rule.

Staff news

More happily, Martin Yu has returned to the Galley coffee shop. It is our great pleasure to welcome him and any other returning staff.

On 1 July, Alex Johnston will join our Marine and Sailing team as marine service manager, readying to take up the role of Ah Kee, who retires in October. Alex will manage all aspects of this very busy area of the Club, from race and cruising management, to dinghy development and marine facility management.

“
The pontoon and the Club are for members and guests only. Members' guests or friends may not use any part of the Club without the presence of the members – this is no way to subvert our legendary Club welcome and affability.”

On another point, Zacki has not left us, as some members have asked; she is on a long sick leave after breaking a bone. Expect her back soon.

Karina, in accounts payable, also has been on a long sick leave.

Recently 11 staff completed email-writing training, 10 kitchen staff completed a workplace safety and hygiene course, nine waiters passed the course for English speaking for F&B, and eight junior managers passed the CDT Institute's course on leadership skills. Congratulations all. We will post photos



on the website of the awards ceremony and party.

Two staff members are studying for higher examinations: Henry for an advanced diploma in F&B management and Accounts' Kathy for further CPA training. The four year-old staff assistance programme, starting to really hit its groove, supports all this training with our staff improving themselves through education whilst working.

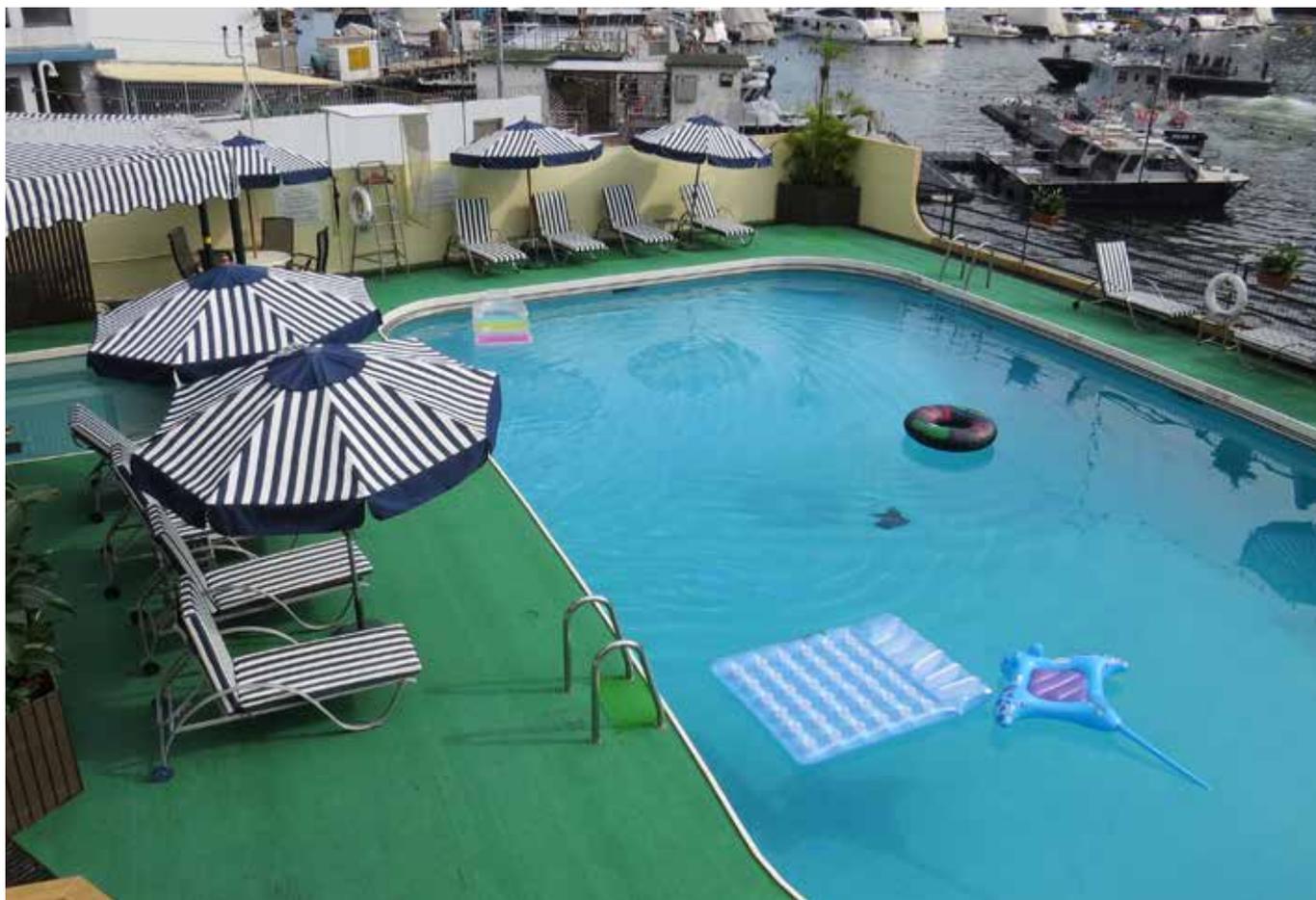
ABC eco-efforts

Mosquito complaints have tailed off with the planting of rosemary, basil, peppermint and carnivore plants on Middle Island, proving that expensive machines and polluting chemicals are no match for natural remedies. I shall continue to look for more mosquito-repellant plants.

During May, use of biofuel in all our vessels led to a reduction of 60kg net CO₂ emissions; translating to the planting of seven trees. The hydrogen-hybrid system on Cheoy Lee installed some two months ago shows we are saving about 10 percent in fuel consumption, and CO₂ emission has been cut to practically zero.

Around the Club

You will have noticed that the new gym is extremely well-used now. One more piece of equipment soon will be purchased: a "grinder" to help develop upper body strength and stamina.



The pool's new Mediterranean look is ready just in time for summer. Splash hours have already started and F&B has a special drinks promotion for mum and dad whilst the kids fool around on inflatables.

The pool opens daily at 8 am and 9 am on weekends and closes at 6 pm on weekdays. The gym opens daily at 6 am and closes at 10 pm.

The Waglan Bar renovation is on hold whilst various Government departments review our Club Certificate of Compliance. Bear with us: as I write, we do not know when consent to start work will be granted. For news over the long summer, check our e-letters, as they will be the best information platform.

Have a good summer break, and do come by to try our summer cooler promotions.

Philippe de Manny
General Manager





ABC Junk for Hire

Available weekdays for Parties, Day Trips and Water Sports

Pick-up at ABC, Central pier, Causeway Bay or TST public pier.

The ABC can provide food and beverages including a range of hot and cold dishes, desserts and drinks. ABC chef and waiters available. Email fnb@abclubhk.com

Speedboats, banana boats and waterskis arranged via ABC's Marine Service at 9276 2932.

Night-time: 6 pm – 11 pm

Daytime: 9 am – 5 pm

\$3,300 Monday – Friday

\$3,900 Public holidays

Maximum passengers: 43

For details, please contact ABC membership services manager Cobo Liu at 2553 3032 or mbs@abclubhk.com



Welcome New Members

DECEMBER

Serge Pun

FEBRUARY

Cecilia Fung
David Fung
Brian Fung
Sammy Lee
Li Kwong Yu
Daniel Patzold
Tamara Stoye
Eric Noyel
Sacha Raffaud
Li Cheuk Him Kim
Hughes Bertet
Benjamin Lee
Freya Darnton
Mark Sellier
Li Jie Feng
Tommy Cheung
Peter Cheung
Edwin Cheung
Dason Cheung
Philip Cheung

MARCH

Dr Chan Chi Wing
Frank Kasala

APRIL

Dominic Dias-Sizer
Jamie Jar
Brent York
Lila Liu
Chang Kwai Yeung, Eric
Kong Siu Bun, Ben
Chau Kai Kin

MAY

Chow Sin Kwong
Jason Chang
Benjamin Chow
Wendy Wong
Nicholas Yeung



Summer Coolers



Salads

Green Papaya Salad	\$58
Gado Gado Salad	\$58
Green Mango Salad	\$58
Tuna Niçoise	\$58

Crazy Chilli

Tom Yam Kung	\$62
Thai Red Curry with Pork	\$82
Lamb Vindaloo	\$110
Chicken Mysore Masala	\$80

Soups

Gazpacho	\$46
Chilled Almond Soup	\$46

Desserts

Summer Pudding	\$48
Kulfi	\$48

Sorbet

Pineapple Sorbet	\$60
Coconut Sorbet	\$60
Lemon Sorbet	\$48
Watermelon Sorbet	\$48

Pool Specials

Frozen Margarita	\$65
Gin or Vodka Smoothie	\$65
Flavoured Smoothie	\$45
Cointreau Ice Lolly	\$45

Buy one, get one free (from 5-7 pm)

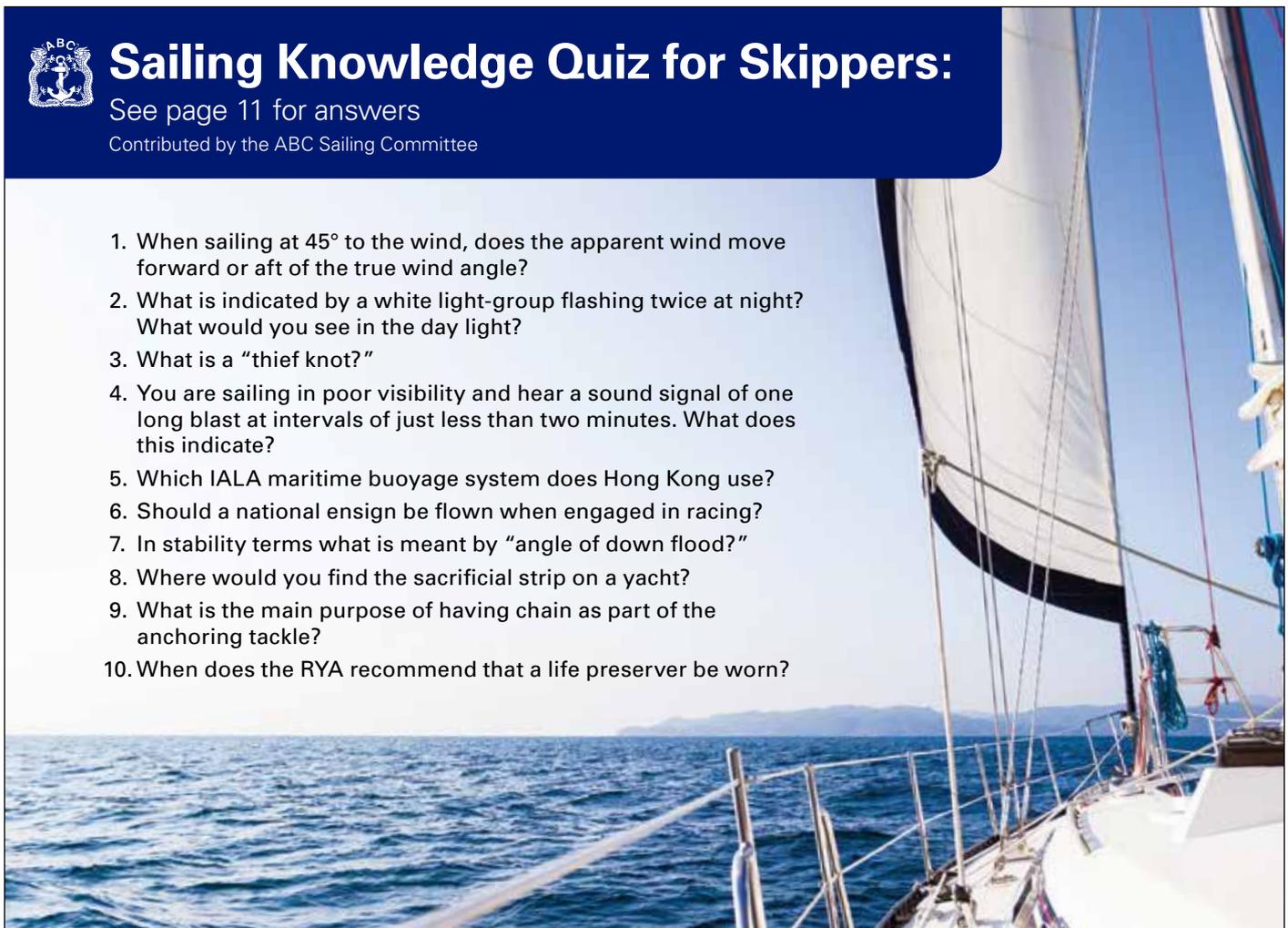


Sailing Knowledge Quiz for Skippers:

See page 11 for answers

Contributed by the ABC Sailing Committee

1. When sailing at 45° to the wind, does the apparent wind move forward or aft of the true wind angle?
2. What is indicated by a white light-group flashing twice at night? What would you see in the day light?
3. What is a "thief knot?"
4. You are sailing in poor visibility and hear a sound signal of one long blast at intervals of just less than two minutes. What does this indicate?
5. Which IALA maritime buoyage system does Hong Kong use?
6. Should a national ensign be flown when engaged in racing?
7. In stability terms what is meant by "angle of down flood?"
8. Where would you find the sacrificial strip on a yacht?
9. What is the main purpose of having chain as part of the anchoring tackle?
10. When does the RYA recommend that a life preserver be worn?





July and August F&B Promotions

Throughout these hottest of summer months the Club will offer "Summer Coolers" in the Galley and a French bistro menu in the Four Peaks restaurant.

Featured wine for July from France

Chateau Timberlay Blanc AOC Bordeaux Superieur 2013
Chateau Timberlay Rouge AOC Bordeaux Superieur 2013
By the glass \$52, by the bottle \$250

Featured wine for August from western Australia

Willow Bridge Estate Dragonfly Shiraz 2013
Willow Bridge Estate Dragonfly Chardonnay 2014
By the glass \$49, by the bottle \$240

Featured beer for July from the U.K.

Fuller's (Organic) Honey Dew Pale Ale \$33

Featured beer for August from New Zealand

Harrington's Rogue Hop Pilsner \$35

Featured cocktails for July and August

Citrus Honey Martini \$60

Snow Leopard vodka, citrus honey mix, fresh lemon

Passion Fruit Mango Julius \$50, non-alcoholic \$40

Fresh mango purée, passion fruit mix, skimmed milk, vanilla ice cream, Snow Leopard vodka, vanilla liqueur

Green Apple Moscow Mule \$50, non-alcoholic \$40

Snow Leopard vodka, green apple purée, spicy ginger beer

July and August Events

Norwegian Salmon Evening

The Patio, Saturday, 11 July
Salmon served in 12 ways, with an array of salad and desserts.
6:30-9:30 pm
Adults \$245 with free-flow of white wine or \$205 without wine; concessionary price for members over age 65, \$205 with wine or \$195 without wine.
Children (aged 3-12) \$125 including soft drinks
To reserve for your family and friends, call the Galley at 2554 9494

French Sausage Night and free wine tasting

The Patio, Friday, 31 July
With your choice of vegetables, salads and desserts
6:30-9:30 pm
Adults \$230; concessionary price for members over age 65, \$190
Children (aged 3-12) \$119
To reserve for your family and friends, call the Galley at 2554 9494

Seafood BBQ

The Patio, Saturday, 8 August
Your choice of assorted seafood, salads and dessert with unlimited Sonderberg beer
6:30 pm onwards
Adults \$279 including beers or \$239 without; concessionary price for members over 65, \$239 including beers, or \$209 without
Children (aged 3-12) \$189 (including a soft drink)
To reserve for your family and friends, call the Gallery at 2554 9494

Mediterranean Lamb-on-a-Spit evening with free wine tasting

The Patio, Friday, 21 August
6:30-9:30 pm
With your choice of vegetables and salads including couscous, Greek salad, garden salad, and a variety of desserts
Adults \$230; concessionary price for members over 65, \$190
Children (3-12 year of age) \$130
To reserve for your family and friends, call the Galley at 2554 9494

Margaret River Region Wine Dinner with winemaker Peter Nicholas

The Four Peaks, Friday, 28 August
A four-course dinner with exclusive wines
7 pm onwards
A four-course dinner with a variety of exclusive wines
Adults \$399, concessionary price for members over 65, \$359
To reserve for your family and friends, call the Four Peaks at 2553 3422



Home Wine Delivery July 2015

	\$/Bottle	Quantity	Amount
SPARKLING			
Sylvain Gaudron La Symphonie Vouvray Sparkling 2012 Fine bubbles, light foam with floral notes (acacia), brioche and white truffle. Excellent as an apéritif and throughout meals.	\$195		
WHITE			
Château d'Anglès Classique White 2009 A pale yellow colour with golden glints. An elegant bouquet of spring flowers and fresh spices such as anise or fennel. A smooth mouth reveals a rich and long complexity of white fruits balanced by a mineral freshness.	\$140		
Domaine Chanson Mâcon Villages 2013 Pale gold in colour. Floral fragrances mixed with refreshing aromas of citrus fruit and fresh honey. Well-balanced. Good acidity and well-integrated minerality. Refreshing aftertaste.	\$180		
Domaine Sylvain Gaudron Vouvray Les Pierres Rousses Chenin Blanc Demi Sec 2012 Made entirely from Chenin Blanc grown in the region's famed clay and limestone soils, this version is fresh and elegant, with delicious quince and apple aromas and flavours. An ideal partner for spicy Moroccan tagines and southeast Asian curries.	\$150		
ROSE			
Château d'Esclans Whispering Angel Rosé 2014 A soft pink colour. A lively crisp nose shows strawberry and peach fruit, with just a hint of supple creaminess. The palate is soft and round with strawberries, lavender and minerals with a dry and clean finish.	\$240		
RED			
Alain Jaume Les Gelinottes Ventoux 2013 An intense, purple-tinged garnet colour. The nose's aromatic range goes from fresh berries to black fruit (blackcurrant, blackberry). The palate is full-flavoured, with very soft tannins.	\$125		
Château d'Anglès Classique Red 2011 A deep-red colour with black highlights. Its aroma evokes ripe red and black fruits such as blackcurrant and also pepper and liquorice. A smooth, fruity and balanced wine, structured by delicate and silky tannins.	\$140		
Château Le Bocage 2010 An attractive deep ruby-red colour. The nose is finely fruity, floral, spicy and mineral with fine tannins and a fresh finish. The wine is soft, velvety, and very well-balanced. Full of fruits, blackcurrant and cherry, it has a long aftertaste.	\$140		
	Total		

**Free Wine Tasting at the Galley and Patio,
Friday, 31 July, 6:30-8:30 pm at the French Sausage Evening.**

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

***Minimum order – 12 bottles and mixed cases are allowed.**

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 post, fax or in person. Contact the Food & Beverage Department on 2555 6216 or Fax: 2873 2945
Free delivery for orders of 12 bottles or above. Please allow three working days for delivery. All wines are subject to availability.





Home Wine Delivery August 2015

	\$/Bottle	Quantity	Amount
Kissing Bridge Cuvée Brut, southeastern Australia, NV Produced using the traditional sparkling wine varieties of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, the Kissing Bridge Sparkling Cuvée shows good fruit weight and is well-balanced. The nose offers a hint of complexity from the Pinot Noir and yeast lees. Lively, fresh citrus fruit characters dance on the palate, complemented by a refreshing crisp, dry finish.	\$110		
Shearwater Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2013 Medium-bodied with flavours of gooseberry and stone fruit, mineral notes and a long clean citrus finish. With white flesh nectarine and white currants and herbal notes including lemongrass.	\$150		
Mansion House Bay Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2013 Straw-green in colour displaying gooseberry, redcurrant and lemon aromas. The palate is medium to full-bodied with vibrant acidity and crisp fruit flavours. The finish is zesty and long.	\$168		
Whitehaven Pinot Gris, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2013 A full-flavoured wine, with a rich mouth-filling texture, lingering acidity and an off-dry finish. Pear flavours and some ripe stone fruit dominate the fresh and weighty palate.	\$195		
Whitehaven Riesling, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2014 A medium-bodied wine, with vibrant citrus and floral flavours. The finish has a lingering clean acid finish. In good balance, this is a wine ready to be enjoyed.	\$195		
Astrolabe Province Pinot Noir, Marlborough, 2013 With savoury ripe dark and red cherry and brambly fruits with a hint of smoky oak. A full-bodied wine with a round mouthfill of plum. The oak integrates nicely with the fruit and combines well with the silky and linear tannin structure.	\$268		
Mansion House Bay Pinot Noir, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2012 Features lifted spiced plum and cherry flavours with complex leather, cedar and cigar box notes. Round and mouth-filling red fruit. Silky texture with supply tannins.	\$220		
Shearwater Pinot Noir, Marlborough, New Zealand, 2013 Red cherries, berries, and some spicy, earthy notes. Medium-bodied dry wine, with an elegant silky structure, velvety tannins and a rich fruit finish.	\$200		
Fairhall Downs Single Vinyard Pinot Noir, Marlborough, 2008 Hand-harvested, with a three-week maceration followed by ageing for 11 months in high quality French barriques. Dark fruit characters with savoury notes and a sense of the forest floor from the wild ferment. Rich palate with great texture and ripe tannins.	\$275		
	Total		

Free Wine Tasting at the Galley and Patio, Friday, 21 August, at the Mediterranean Lamb-on-a-Spit evening.

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

*Minimum order – 12 bottles and mixed cases are allowed.

Member Name: _____ Membership Number: _____

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

Delivery Address: _____

Delivery Date: _____ Member Signature: _____

Total amount will be charged to Member's account. Order accepted by mail, fax or in person. Contact 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





Answers: Sailing Knowledge Quiz

See page 7 for questions

1. Forward
2. An isolated danger mark. Black and red-hooped pole or buoy (Dennis the Menace) with two black spheres as top marks.
3. A reef knot tied the wrong way (right over left – left over right) by British sailors on their kit bag when going ashore so they knew if another sailor had been in their bag on return to the ship.
4. A power-driven vessel making way
5. IALA System A – Red to Port – Green to Starboard
Note: The United States and Philippines for instance use IALA System B; hence the saying “Red right returning.”
6. “The ensign should be removed at the preparatory signal and indicates that the yacht is amenable to the racing rules – The ensign would be flown again after crossing the finish line or retiring.
Note: Although it may be customary and an act of courtesy for other yachts not engaged in racing to keep clear of a racing boat it should be noted that a boat engaged in racing has no privileges under Collision Regulations.
7. That angle of heel beyond which the vessel will begin to take on water.
8. It is the coloured strip on the foot and leech of a roller-furling genoa which when furled provides UV protection for the sail.
9. To provide a catenary effect ensuring the anchor is pulled into the seabed when load is applied rather than it moving upwards, which would dislodge the anchor.
10. a. When the person sailing feels they want/need to wear one.
b. When the skipper tells the crew to wear them.
c. In fog.
d. At night.
e. When going to/from shore in a tender.

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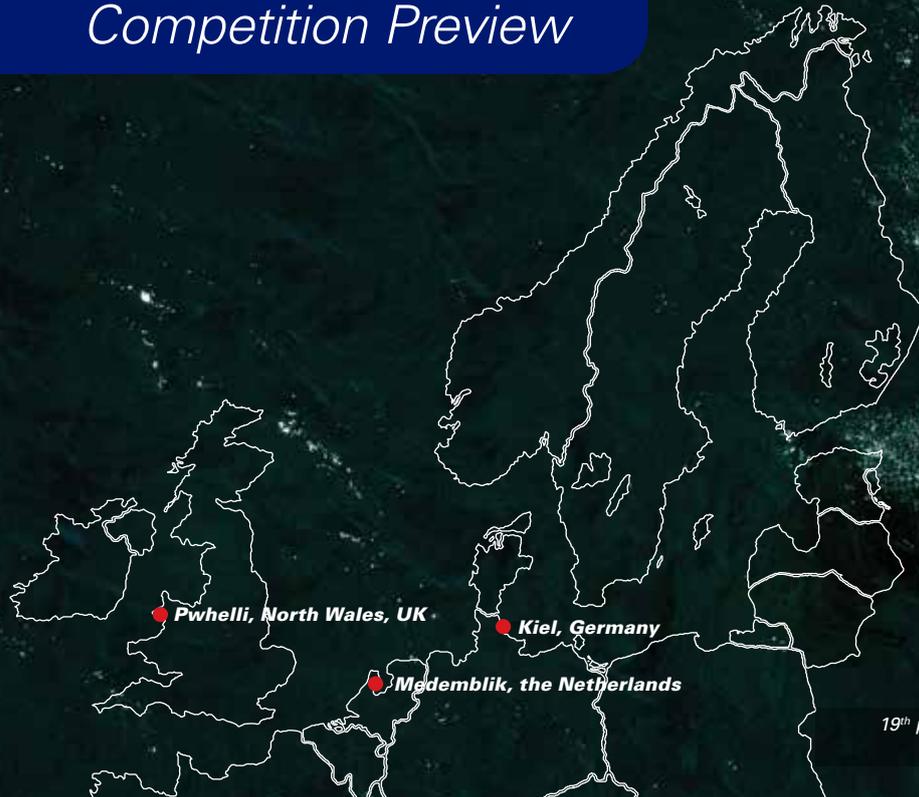
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Competition Preview



19th place for Yann Thierry D'Argenlieu and Nathan Bradley at the 2014 29er World Championships (photo by Luca Bartulovic)

International Championships for the Aberdeen Racing Academy

By Tim Edmonds

And they're off! By the time you read this, our intrepid youth sailors will have started their European summer tour, which will take place in Germany, the Netherlands and the U.K.

For some this will be a first taste of overseas competition, whilst others are old hands, having competed overseas for a number of years.

So, a few figures to give an idea of what's involved: 13 sailors from four nations aged from nine to 18, between them possessing over 50 years of sailing experience, will be competing in five regattas in three countries over a period of seven weeks racing two classes of boats – Optimists and 29ers.

Racing kicks off in Kiel in northern Germany from 26-28 June, with two ABC Racing Academy 29er crews taking part in the 133rd annual Kieler Woche, a gathering that proclaims itself to be "the greatest sailing event in the world." This year, Kieler Woche boasts 5,000 sailors from 50 countries sailing 2,000 yachts, dinghies and surfboards in almost 40 events with 400 planned regatta starts over 11 race courses. Wow!

After a short break, and a drive 500 km to the west, the core team will regroup in the Netherlands to take part in the 29er European Championships 17-21 July at the Royal Yacht Club Hollandia in Medemblik.

All Meet in Wales

From there the core team heads south through Belgium and France before heading across the Channel on a 900 km trip to Pwelli on the picturesque Llŷn Peninsula in north Wales, the U.K., where the entire ABC contingent will meet for the first time to compete in three regattas.

This final part of the trip kicks off with our five Optimist sailors taking part in the Volvo Gill British National and Open Championships between 25-31 July. This promises to be a fantastic regatta with over 370 boats racing in three fleets of varying experience, with the Club represented in all three.

While the Optimists are competing hard for honours in their races, the 29er sailors will be familiarising themselves



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

with local conditions ahead of the Zhik 29er UK National/Open Championships and Eurocup between 1-6 August.

This should be excellent preparation for arguably the pinnacle of youth high-performance sailing worldwide, the Zhik 29er World Championships, to be held 8-14 August. I hope, like me, you'll be rooting for Yann D'Argenlieu and Nathan Bradley to improve on their 19th place finish in last year's 29er Worlds, and willing all of our sailors onto to fantastic results whichever fleet they compete in.

A big vote of thanks is due to everyone involved in organising what is a major logistics exercise, not least to Coach Rory Godman who will be supported in Wales by John Wood in his final outing with the Club (for now at least!). Thanks too to the Club and the team sponsors, Borelli Walsh and ETA, for supporting our participation in what promises to be a very exciting summer of sailing.

You can follow the team's progress throughout the tour on our Aberdeen Racing Academy Facebook page; hopefully we'll have some great pics for you to "like." We'll be reporting back again in *Horizons* after the summer with a full account of our adventures and hopefully some great results to share with you. H



Matthew Wright and Russell Aylsworth at the 2014 29er World Champs (photo by Luca Bartulovic)



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Date	Event	Location	Sailors	Entries (at writing)
20-28 June	Kieler Woche	Kiel, northern Germany	Yann D'Argenlieu/Nathan Bradley Molly Highfield/Russell Aylsworth	86 boats 14 nations
17-21 July	29er European Championships	Medemblik, The Netherlands	Yann D'Argenlieu/Nathan Bradley Matthew Wright/Russell Aylsworth	111 boats 18 nations
25-31 July	Optimist British National/Open Championships	Pwhelli, north Wales, U.K.	Anatole Martin Malo Kennish Dylan Richards Pénélope Martin Bertille Voets	373 boats across three fleets: Open/Junior/ Transition Fleet 20 nations
1-6 August	29er U.K. National/Open Championships and Eurocup	Pwhelli, north Wales, UK	Yann D'Argenlieu/Nathan Bradley Matthew Wright/Russell Aylsworth	86 boats 14 nations
8-14 August	29er World Championships	Pwhelli, north Wales, UK	Harriette Edmonds/Freya Darnton Molly Highfield/Juliette Martin	100 boats 20 nations

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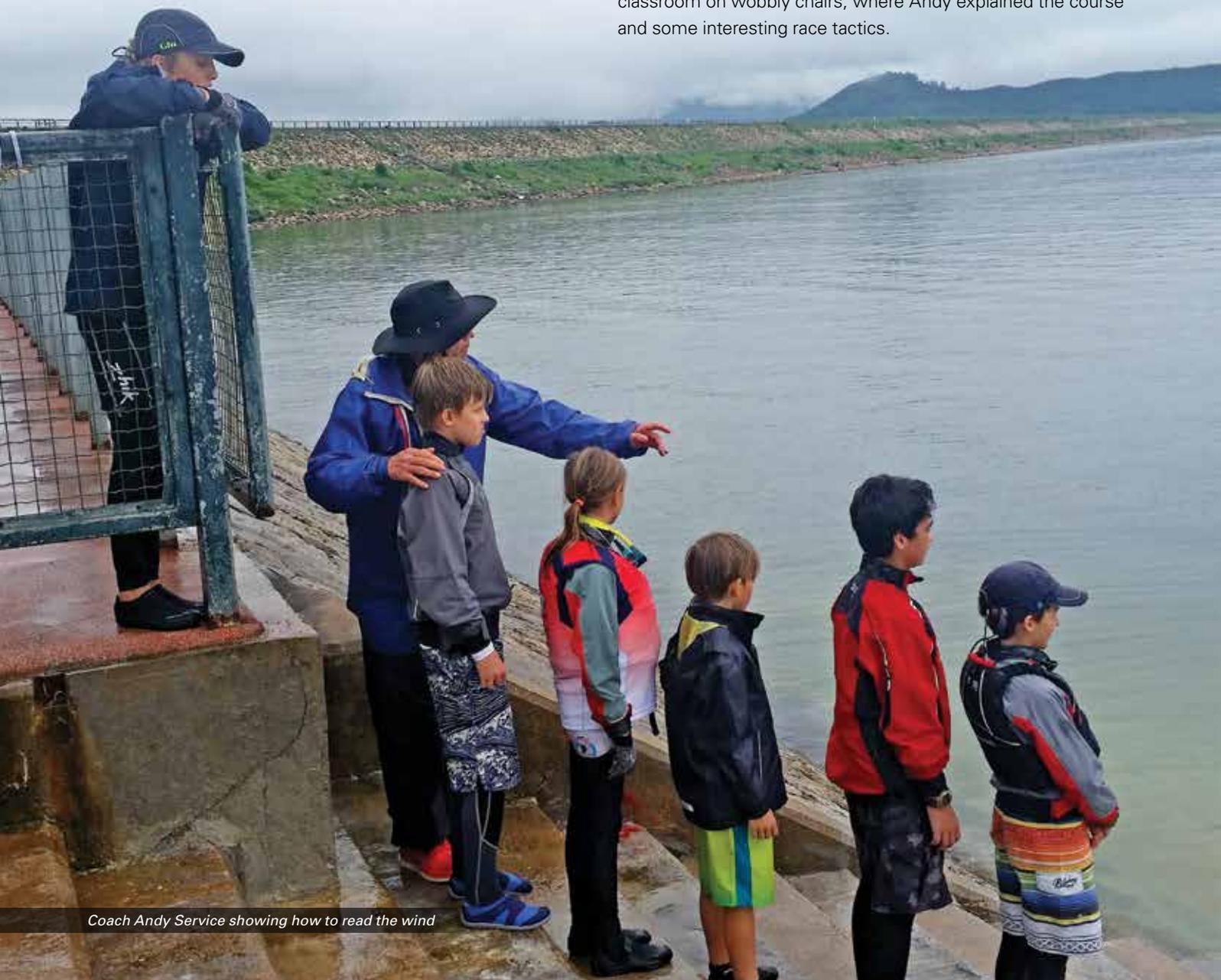
Aberdeen Racing Academy Optimist Sailors at the **Tai Mei Tuk Regatta**

Words and photos by Agnès Caër-Piras

The Tai Mei Tuk Regatta, the second ranking race of the year for the Optimists, gets its name from the centre of the Hong Kong School Sailing Association. Near Tai Po, its facilities are quite small compared to those of private clubs and honestly are in need of a little scrubbing ... though it was a good experience for our Aberdeen Racing Academy sailors to realise that they are super-privileged sailing from the ABC Middle Island base.

On Saturday, 23 May, we all gathered there and met Coach Andy Service, also known to friends as Andy Scurvy, under a heavy rain, and our sailors dutifully started rigging their boats. Unfortunately, the Optimists only saw rainwater that day; wind was elusive and thunderstorm warnings incessant.

As we had a small team of six sailors (Malo Kennish, Freddie Last, Pénélope Martin, Anatole Martin, Antoine Piras, and Dylan Richards), we managed to take shelter in the classroom on wobbly chairs, where Andy explained the course and some interesting race tactics.



Coach Andy Service showing how to read the wind



Andy Service checking the wind



Supportive parents Flo Kennish and Cecile Martin

The weather cleared for a moment and after a few more explanations from Andy on how to read the wind looking out at the Tolo Harbour, we decided on an early lunch on the pontoon, in case the race would finally start.

A couple more hours waiting in the wet and we were all quite happy and relieved to go back home at 2 pm after official race cancellation, under a fierce thunderstorm and red rain warning!

Back to Tai Mei Tuk on the Sunday morning, all were quite hopeful the sky would clear and the wind would pick up.

Not sure how the day would turn out, nevertheless our team started turning the boats around in order to rig them and discovered a terrible invasion of ants, which seemed to have chosen Anatole's boat as their new house.

Team spirit is very strong within the ABC squad. Parents and sailors worked together very hard at drowning the ants, bashing them on the head, smashing them with the bailers and throwing their eggs overboard ... finally and definitively getting rid of the infestation. Yuk!

Finally, racing

It took a while but when the last thunderstorm signal was finally removed, all boats started launching at 10:30 am, with the first race starting a little before 12 pm.

For this regatta to be qualifying, we needed to do three races, and we were all hoping we would be able to get them in this last day.

Rain was pouring regularly and there was only a light breeze, but the conditions were otherwise good and our sailors proved to be very focussed in their search for the best wind.

The first race was difficult for most boats and only about a third of the 65-strong fleet officially finished it; the others were all DNF.

The second race was much better with good results for our sailors, which motivated everyone for the last race ... that was good for some and unfortunately not so positive for the others.

All deeply relieved that they had done three races and all this waiting in the rain had not been for nothing, we finally made our way back to the sailing centre and got all the boats in, just in time before being engulfed by a huge storm with strong thunder and lightning that struck about 50 metres from us! Quite a frightening experience ...

Fortunately, ABC logistics were flawless (thank you to John and Rory for the organisation) and de-rigging was fast and efficient.

Another hour waiting for the results and they were overall quite good for the ABC: Malo finished 6th overall and 2nd in the "below 12" category, Anatole was 7th overall and Antoine 2nd in the "below 10" category.

All in all, it was a long weekend for the ABC team and supporting parents, and everyone was happy to be back in a dry and comfortable place for an early sleep on Sunday night!

Follow the Aberdeen Racing Academy team online at www.facebook.com/aberdeenracingacademy 

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The ABC team getting ready for the race

The Aberdeen Racing Academy at the Hebe Haven Dinghy Regatta

By Malo Kennish and Adam Pheasant, photos by Agnès Caër-Piras, Damon Kennish and Chad Pheasant

The Regatta Report, by Malo Kennish

After a hasty breakfast on 30 May, Pénélope Martin, Anatole Martin and I headed to Hebe Haven, which from Middle Island, is an hour-long drive! All the Aberdeen Racing Academy team got there at about the same time, 8:45 am.

We started by rigging our boats. It was already very hot! When the rigging was done, we headed to the briefing, which was quite complicated because they messed up the starting time ... the new start time was to be 12:30 pm, so we expected a long wait!

We launched our boats and began heading to the race course, with Coach Andy Service leading and at the same time towing a few boats.

Day 1 racing

All ABC sailors did very well. In the first race, Anatole Martin got a 7th place, Freddie Last 21st, Andrea Chawla 31st, Augustin Clot an amazing 11th, Dylan Richards a great 14th, Pénélope Martin 37th and Antoine Piras 40th. I came 4th, and was very happy, considering that my start was not great.



Malo Kennish (by Damon Kennish)



Race boat plus Optimists (by Agnès Caër-Piras)



Coach Andy Service (by Agnès Caër-Piras)

All the races were cut short because of the inconsistent wind but as the day went on, the wind strengthened until 3:30 pm, when it died down to five knots.

We all came back pleased with our day and also exhausted. Not everyone wanted to come back the next day but I guess there was no choice.

Day 2 racing

The next day, the start time was 11:30 am and the conditions were not as good. The wind only got up to about 10 knots and completely died in the last race. By then, we were happy to finish. I had to leave before the prize-giving ceremony.

All in all, the entire Hebe Haven dinghy regatta went well. Freddie finished 3rd in the under-12s and I finished second.

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Adam Pheasant (by Chad Pheasant)



Freddie Last (by Agnès Caër-Piras)

How I Learned to Love Racing, by Adam Pheasant

It all started in 2012, when my mum signed me up for the ABC Optimist sailing course.

I didn't even know what an Optimist was, but after an introduction to the boat, it immediately felt comfortable. I was 11 at the time, so I was a bit big for the boat. If I sat on one side, in light winds, the boat would tip quite far to one side.

Doing the first Optimist course was frustrating at times but nevertheless I loved it. About six months later, I did the second course, which was just as much fun and just as frustrating. Still the boat was tipping over and the boom never stayed put. But I think that may have been because I was always in the no-go zone.

I remember passing the bigger boys and girls rigging up larger boats such as Fevas, Laser 2000s and Laser 1s. I always remember looking up to them, feeling a bit jealous, and thinking how much I wanted to sail those boats. Fast.

From the beginning, one of the things that I loved about sailing was going fast; the speed and the thrill. The best bit of sailing would have to be the feeling when you get everything right and smooth. The feeling is just fantastic.

In October 2013, I did my HKSF level 1 and 2 courses for five days. I loved it so much that straight after it ended I asked my mum when I could do the next level.

During Easter 2015, I did my Feva course. My instructor Andy Service gave us a load of tips on rigging and derigging, to make life easier for us. Andy said that I should try to join the race team, so I emailed the ABC's John Wood and asked if I could join the team.

To decide, John had me come one day for a trial, sailing with Sacha Raffaud, who was already on the ABC Feva team. As the day began, in the RIB, John taught me how to use the tell-tails, which show you the wind direction and also the best way to the mark. On the way back to Middle Island, when John started telling me what days of the week the team trains, I realised he was telling me I made the team.

I started training just after Easter this year, and was hoping

to do well enough to be part of a regatta. On 30 and 31 May, I got my chance: I was chosen to be a part of the ABC Aberdeen Racing Academy Feva team.

Racing at Hebe Haven

Before we started, I knew I would be sailing a Laser 2000 with Ralph Summers, who is much more experienced than me, so I felt more comfortable with him as my partner. Even so, I was still nervous.

In our first race, we had a few problems, because I thought that my feet were in the toe straps, but they were not and I fell out of the boat. I also lost my hat in the process.

However, we started to improve after that start and I really started to enjoy the sailing. I loved every minute of it because we went so fast. I loved the feeling of speed, hiking out whilst holding the Gennaker.

Despite the fun, the regatta was extremely hard work. It was the hardest thing I had done in a while and by far the most fun thing I had done in a long time. It is difficult to describe the feeling as you are racing across the waves. I felt a real sense of freedom!

Once every one of the three races a day over the weekend was over, I felt thrilled and relieved at the same time.

Day 1

On the first day, the wind got stronger until around 3 pm, when it slowly started to weaken. It was a hot day but at some points it was cloudy. In my first race, I realised that starts were key. I watched what the more experienced sailors were doing and I listened to Ralph.

I learned that before you go round the mark and hoist the gennaker you have to pre-hoist, which is when you put the gennaker up a little so that everything is smooth. Ralph taught me a trick to put the jib in the cleat: you can use your foot so that you don't have to reach over.

Day 2

On the second day the wind was shiftier. The weather was sunnier than the day before but it didn't feel as hot.

On the second day, one of the ropes needed to hoist the gennaker broke, so we couldn't hoist. This gave other boats an advantage but luckily none of the Lasers overtook us.

This time, I learned that if you can't hoist the gennaker you can do a technique called goose-winging, when you put the jib on the opposite side of the boat from the main sail. After the race and before the next one, John helped us fix it.

At the end of the regatta, of all the Lasers, Ralph and I came second, second and second on Day 1, and first, second and second on Day 2, which made me pretty happy, because this was my first time ever racing.

By the time you read this I will have raced in my second regatta, the 58th Annual Samsung HKSF Regatta. I'd like to get a medal. I look forward to sailing in other regattas.

Follow the Aberdeen Racing Academy team online at www.facebook.com/aberdeenracingacademy



Course Preview

New this Summer: J/80 Racing



In cooperation with Hong Kong's J/80 Class Association, this summer the ABC will offer one-day introductions to racing in our Club J/80s.

On each of the selected four days, an experienced J/80 instructor will guide students through the basics of racing and how to make the boat go fast. Our sailors will join together with other boats from the RHKYC and the Class Association to take part in informal races off Repulse Bay.

Numbers are strictly limited for each session (three students plus instructor each day).

Application forms are available as usual on our website. Participants need to have already completed at least an ABC Competent Crew Course or have equivalent experience.

Four dates are available, all Saturdays:
18 July, 25 July, 15 August, 29 August

Aberdeen Racing Academy Optimist Sailors at the HKSF Regatta 2015

By Scarlett Lorin, photos by Tiffana Richards



ABC 29ers Matthew Wright and Russell Aylsworth (L), Harriette Edmonds and Freya Darnton

On 13 June, the ABC Aberdeen Racing Academy sailors made their way down to Hebe Haven Yacht Club for the HKSF Samsung 58th Festival of Sport Open Dinghy Regatta. With the breeze predicted at 12 knots, the sailors rigged their boats, and sails gently floated in the morning sun.

The Aberdeen Racing Academy sailors entered in three fleets: four 29ers, 12 Optimists and five boats in the Open II of two RS Fevas and three 2000s.

With temperatures reaching up to 34°C and the breeze at as little as 10 knots, the heat weighed down on us as we finished preparing our boats and got changed. We launched at 10:30 am and soon set sail towards the course. The plan was to complete three races on the first day and two on the second day in order to get one discard in the end.

As we arrived at the course area, we quickly figured out which side was favoured, making us plan our starts. The races were initially supposed to commence at 12 pm but were delayed after the first 29er start as the wind was unpredictable. There were several cancellations of starts due to wind shifts, pushing the first Open Division II start to 1:20 pm.

Three races in

Even though there was a delay in race starts, this didn't stop the sailors from completing three races on the first day, as planned.

The second race was the most successful for the ABC's 2000 team with Ralph Summers and Josie Males finishing 8th and George Burkett and Julian Chawla in 11th place, followed closely by Hugues Bertet and me in 14th place.



On the start line, ABC sailors Andrea Chawla (501), Dylan Richards (506) and Freddie Last (502)



Malo Kennish, 5th place, Optimist overall result



The leading pack, with Anatole Martin third sail from left

On the second day, the wind picked up, making it difficult for Hugues and me to keep the 2000 flat whilst going upwind. In order to fix the issue, John swapped Hugues and Adam Pheasant, giving me a heavier crew. At the end of the regatta, the 29ers and 2000s sailed back to Middle Island whilst the Fevas remained at Hebe Haven to be packed up later for Macau.

ABC Optimist, RS Feva and 29er results

The results for the Optimists were spread out throughout the entire fleet, with Anatole Martin and Malo Kennish making it in the top 10, and Taylor Young, Freddie Last, Andrea Chawla, Augustin Clot and Dylan Richards finishing the races in the top half.

Ralph and Josie finished in 11th place, followed closely by George and Julian in 13th place with only four points' difference, and Adam and I finished in 21st place.

In the RS Feva division, Lewis Clark and Robert Lacy finished first, making them 16th overall in the Open Dinghy Division. In 22nd place were Eamonn Lacy and Hugues Bertet.

For the 29ers, Yann D'Argenlieu and Nathan Bradley came 1st overall. Matthew Wright and Russell Aylsworth were 3rd, followed

by Harriette Edmonds and Freya Darnton in 4th. In 5th place were Molly Highfield and Juliette Martin.

Thank you, ABC coaches

Overall, while the regatta weekend may not have been a great success for some, it was clearly a great experience. Thanks go to ABC coaches Rory Godman, John Wood and Andy Service for making this happen and for helping us keep hydrated and energised.

On behalf of all the ABC Aberdeen Racing Academy teams, I'd like to say a special thank you to John Wood for everything he's done for us. We'll miss you and we wish you all the best in America. Hopefully we'll see you around someday.

Follow the Aberdeen Racing Academy team online at www.facebook.com/aberdeenracingacademy



Antoine Piras, centre



Rob Lacy (L) and Lewis Clarke, winners of the Slow Handicap division of the May 2015 Hebe Haven Regatta, with John Wood



Farewell to **John Wood**

By Rob Lacy

There are so many things I could say about John Wood, but most importantly, I would like to say thank you.

John was my sailing coach here at the ABC and he is definitely one I will never forget.

I would like to thank John for all the pointers he has given me and all the challenges he has helped me face.

John has helped me with so many things. At times he may be loud, but I will never forget to sit forward in the boat again. He was never late for training despite the fact that he lives far away in Sai Kung.

John makes sure that everyone is prepared for regattas with last-minute tips and advice. He even goes around and checks on everybody's well-being.

We all wish John good luck in America. If he continues to teach sailing, I hope that they appreciate him there, as much as we have here at the ABC.

Thank you, John, and goodbye from "the muppets." H

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Summer Youth Sailing Programme July 2015

The ABC Summer Sailing Programme offers a wide variety of courses and activities for sailors aged seven to 18. Full details are available at www.abclubhk.com and also from Angela at SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com. We also are running some Adult learn-to-sail courses at the same time as the Junior sailing – so parents can take part too! This month, the adult courses start on Monday, 20 July, with morning and afternoon options.

Please note the application deadlines – it is *vital* to apply before this date to be sure of a space on our most popular courses.

	Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	\$ Cost (Member/ Non-member)
July (weeks 1& 2)	Mon 6 – Fri 10 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim with water confidence	864 / 1,300
	Mon 6 – Fri 10 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	864 / 1,300
	Mon 6 – Fri 10 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 2	864 / 1,300
	Mon 6 – Fri 10 July		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18, can swim with water confidence	2,600 / 3,900
	Weds 8 – Fri 10 July		3 day Pico / Feva Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Mon 6 – Fri 10 July		Watersports Week	Age 8 – 18, holds Optimist 2 or 3, or HKSF L2	2,600 / 3,900
	Weds 8 – Thurs 9 July		Windsurf Basic & Intermediate	Age 8 – 18, can swim with water confidence	1,040 / 1,560

Application Deadline Friday, 3 July

	Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	\$ Cost (Member/ Non-member)
July (weeks 3& 4)	Mon 13 – Fri 17 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim with water confidence	864 / 1,300
	Mon 13 – Fri 17 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	864 / 1,300
	Mon 13 – Fri 17 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 2	864 / 1,300
	Mon 13 – Fri 17 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Introduction	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 3	864 / 1,300
	Mon 13 – Fri 17 July		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18, can swim with water confidence	2,600 / 3,900
	Weds 15 – Fri 17 July		3 day Pico / Feva Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Mon 13 – Weds 15 July		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 12 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Thurs 16 – Fri 17 July		RS Feva Gennaker Introduction	Age 12 – 18, passed RS Feva Intro	1,040 / 1,560
	Mon 20 – Fri 24 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim with water confidence	864 / 1,300
	Mon 20 – Fri 24 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	864 / 1,300
	Mon 20 – Fri 24 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 2	864 / 1,300
	Mon 20 – Fri 24 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Supervised Practice	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 3	864 / 1,300
	Mon 20 – Fri 24 July AM		ADULT HKSF Level 1 Course	Adult, can swim with water confidence	1,520 / 2,280
	Mon 20 – Fri 24 July PM		ADULT HKSF Level 1 Course	Adult, can swim with water confidence	1,520 / 2,280
	Mon 20 – Fri 24 July		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18, can swim with water confidence	2,600 / 3,900
	Weds 22 – Fri 24 July		3 day Pico / Feva Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Tues 21 – Thurs 23 July		Laser 1 Introduction Course	Age 11 – Adult, passed HKSF Level 2	1,560 / 2,340



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Summer Youth Sailing Programme August 2015

Application Deadline Friday, 24 July

Our Summer Sailing Programme for sailors aged seven to 18 years old continues until the end of August. Full details are available at www.abclubhk.com and also from Angela at SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com. We also will run an Adult learn-to-sail course at the same time as the Junior sailing – so parents can take part too! The Adult course starts Monday, 3 August. Please note the application deadlines – it is *vital* to apply before this date to be sure of a space on our most popular courses.

	Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	\$ Cost (Member/ Non-member)
August (weeks 1& 2)	Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim with water confidence	864 / 1,300
	Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	864 / 1,300
	Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 2	864 / 1,300
	Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 4	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 3	864 / 1,300
	Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug AM		ADULT HKSF Level 1 Course NEW	Adult, can swim with water confidence	1,520 / 2,280
	Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug PM		ADULT HKSF Level 1 Course NEW	Adult, can swim with water confidence	1,520 / 2,280
	Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18, can swim with water confidence	2,600 / 3,900
	Mon 3 – Wed 5 Aug		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 12 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Mon 3 – Fri 7 Aug		Watersports Week	Age 8 – 18, holds Optimist 2 or 3, or HKSF L2	2,600 / 3,900
	Thurs 6 – Fri 7 Aug		Windsurf Basic & Intermediate	Age 8 – 18, can swim with water confidence	1,040 / 1,560
	Mon 10 – Fri 14 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim with water confidence	864 / 1,300
	Mon 10 – Fri 14 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	864 / 1,300
	Mon 10 – Fri 14 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 2	864 / 1,300
	Mon 10 – Fri 14 Aug		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18, can swim with water confidence	2,600 / 3,900
	Mon 10 – Fri 14 Aug		HKSF Level 3 Improver Course	Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L2 with 1 year's sailing experience since	2,600 / 3,900
	Mon 10 – Wed 12 Aug		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 12 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Fri 14 Aug AM		Wakeboard Morning NEW	Age 12 – Adult, can swim with water confidence	608 / 912
	Fri 14 Aug PM		Wakeboard Afternoon NEW	Age 12 – Adult, can swim with water confidence	608 / 912

Application Deadline Friday, 7 August

	Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	\$ Cost (Member/ Non-member)
August (weeks 3 & 4)	Mon 17 – Fri 21 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11 can swim with water confidence	864 / 1,300
	Mon 17 – Fri 21 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11 Passed Optimist Stage 1	864 / 1,300
	Mon 17 – Fri 21 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11 Passed Optimist Stage 2	864 / 1,300
	Mon 17 – Fri 21 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Intro	Age 7 – 11 Passed Optimist Stage 3	864 / 1,300
	Mon 17 – Fri 21 Aug		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18 can swim with water confidence	2,600 / 3,900
	Wed 19 – Fri 21 Aug		3 day Pico / Feva Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18 Passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Mon 17 – Wed 19 Aug		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 12 – 18 Passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Thurs 20 – Fri 21 Aug		RS Feva Gennaker Introduction	Age 12 – 18 Passed RS Feva Intro	1,040 / 1,560
	Mon 24 – Fri 28 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11 can swim with water confidence	864 / 1,300
	Mon 24 – Fri 28 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11 Passed Optimist Stage 1	864 / 1,300
	Mon 24 – Fri 28 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11 Passed Optimist Stage 2	864 / 1,300
	Mon 24 – Fri 28 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Supervised Practice	Age 7 – 11 Passed Optimist Stage 3	864 / 1,300
	Mon 24 – Fri 28 Aug AM		ADULT HKSF Level 1 Course	Adult, can swim with water confidence	1,520 / 2,280
	Mon 24 – Fri 28 Aug PM		ADULT HKSF Level 1 Course	Adult, can swim with water confidence	1,520 / 2,280
	Mon 24 – Fri 28 Aug		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18 can swim with water confidence	2,600 / 3,900
	Wed 26 – Fri 28 Aug		3 day Pico / Feva Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18 Passed HKSF L2	1,560 / 2,340
	Fri 28 Aug AM		Wakeboard Morning NEW	Age 12 – Adult, can swim with water confidence	608 / 912
	Fri 28 Aug PM		Wakeboard Afternoon NEW	Age 12 – Adult, can swim with water confidence	608 / 912

The ABC and the South China Diving Club

Words and photos by Robert Christie

On any given Thursday evening at the ABC, you will see a group of people sitting in the Waglan Bar, drinking beer and chatting about a variety of strange topics such as rebreathers, gas mixtures and decompressing. They are members of the South China Diving Club (SCDC), one of Hong Kong's largest and oldest diving communities.

Safe exploring

A group of avid divers, seeking a way to dive regularly in Hong Kong waters despite limited local support resources, founded the SCDC in 1979. Established as an overseas branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), SCDC quickly built a community of divers dedicated to excellence and the importance of training for safe diving.

To this day, SCDC continues to offer ongoing training under the BSAC system for novice and advanced divers alike, helping to ensure that all members are aware of the latest safety and diving techniques.

Each week the SCDC organises an expedition to one of a number of sites across Hong Kong waters. Using departure points from Sai Kung, Tai Po and (of course!) the Aberdeen Boat Club, SCDC hires boats large and small in order to reach a variety of diving sites.

Over the past 30 years, Club members have explored the coastline and sea floor of every island as far south as Po Toi and as far north as Mirs Bay and Tung Ping Chau.

Environmentally minded

With environmental conservation and protection as another of its primary missions, the Club takes part in the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's annual reef check, as well as Coastal Watch, organised by World Wildlife Fund Hong Kong.

Over the years, we have monitored and reported on the impact of the fisheries industry on Hong Kong marine life, helped clear rubbish left behind by container ships and run-off from land, and notified authorities of the discovery of explosive devices left undetonated after World War II.

As with boating, diving is more than a sport

Diving is an adventure about exploring the unknown, asking questions that need to be answered, and challenging our bodies and minds to go to places unfamiliar.

And for this reason our relationship with the Aberdeen Boat Club is special and important to us. Each Thursday evening we are guests in your wonderful Clubhouse where we swap



At the ABC: introducing diving to newbies



Equipment includes "open circuit" tanks (front) and a rebreather (back)



Kitting up and preparing for a dive

stories, discuss diving experiences, and plan our next diving expedition or training. We have been meeting in the Waglan Bar for over 20 years. For many of us the ABC is an essential part of our Hong Kong experience and one for which we are very grateful.

ABC members welcome

As much as we are guests of ABC, we hope that all members of ABC feel free to be guests of SCDC.

We enjoy working with divers of all skill and qualifications level, and even if you haven't been diving in a while, we would be happy to help you prepare and get back into the water.

On a Thursday evening, just ask Brenda to point out the diving club. We would be pleased to chat with you about anything dive-related. Advice is always free, and we respond very well to an offer of a drink!

If you are interested in diving more frequently, our door is always open to new members from the ABC. Our quarterly subscription fee of \$400 is very modest and we keep boat fees as low as possible in order to make diving accessible for everyone. Just stop by and get to know us first, share a beer and chat on any Thursday evening!

To learn more about SCDC, please visit our website at www.scdc.org.hk or send a message to info@scdc.org.hk.



Course and Sailing News

Adult Learn to Sail Programme

ABC Adult Beginner courses run every month until November and always prove popular with members and non-members alike. We start in the smaller Pico dinghies and progress to double-handed Laser 2000s. Successful participants pass at HKSF Level 2 standard. Course dates:

July: 4, 5, 11, 12, 18

August: 1, 2, 8, 9, 16

August/September: 28, 29, 30, 5, 6

October (A): 1, 3, 4, 10, 11

October (B): 17, 18, 21, 24, 25

November: 7, 8, 14, 21, 22

A number of new weekday introductory Level 1 courses are aimed at parents with young children on Optimist Courses. Parents can sail for five half-days and qualify for the HKSF Level 1 Certificate.

Course dates:

20-24 July: (five mornings or five afternoons)

3-7 August (five mornings or five afternoons)

24-28 August (five mornings or five afternoons)

Laser 2000 Three-day Course

These are always popular after a beginner's course or simply as a refresher for those who may not have sailed for a long time. As well as revising basic rigging and sailing techniques, they cover use of the Gennaker and an introduction to racing.

7, 8 and 14 November

Autumn Regatta Dates

Before autumn, Hong Kong and the ABC's peak sailing season, please take note of and register for these most important, not-to-be-missed events:

12 and 13 September: ABC Opening Regatta

20 September: ABC Picnic Day

1-4 October: Optimist National Championships

4 October: ABC Waglan 1

9 October: RHKYC China Coast Regatta starts

11 October: ABC Ladies Helm

25 October: ABC Waglan 2

31 October and 1 November: HHYC 24 Hour Dinghy Race

1 November: RHKYC Etchell World Championships Starts

8 November: ABC Waglan 3

15 November: RHKYC Around the Island Race



Buzz celebrates at Tai Tam

The Local View: ABC Buzz Dragons

By Bryan Ho, photo by Benson Choi

People in Hong Kong know the Tuen Ng festival, held this year on 20 June, is celebrated with dragon boat races. The holiday provides many expats with their first taste of the sport.

And for some people, one race a year just isn't enough.

ABC Buzz Dragons (Buzz) this year have had the opportunity to compete since April, in many important local races. Buzz is the only club team in Hong Kong invited to some races held by the Hong Kong fishermen circuit. Highlights include the races at Po Toi Island and Tai Tam, and the Stanley Fishermen and Chai Wan invitational races. These fishermen races bring out teams' fierce competitive natures whilst still building a sense of community and mutual support.

Races days start with local fishermen boats arriving at the race venue, with their team flags waving in the wind. The boats line up along the race course lined by floating buoys.

But before they can race, to bring good luck, the traditional dragon-dotting ceremony is held. The camaraderie gained, both within teams and with competitors, provides a sense that winning goes beyond race results.

Buzz's racing ability commands respect. Two mixed gold cup finishes (overall championships) during the 2014 season, and two runner-up mixed gold cup championships and two men's gold plate championships in the current 2015 season have put Buzz in a new light.

The dragon boat season culminates with the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat races held in Victoria Harbour from 3-5 July. We'll be there and we would welcome your support.

For more information on the Buzz team, please see <http://www.buzzdragon.com> 



Three-Cornered Competition: ABC Squad Fourth-Time Winners

By Nick Bodnar-Horvath

On 11 May, the ABC took on the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and the Hebe Haven Yacht in a three-cornered snooker competition at the Hong Kong Club.

Each club was represented by four players who, after deciding the "pecking order," played two singles and two doubles against their corresponding player in the other club.

This was the fourth such snooker competition, and from previous experience, it was essential that we commence the match no later than 6 pm, to enable 12 singles and 6 doubles (18 frames) to be completed by midnight.

Competition was very tight and at the end of the singles matches, the ABC edged ahead by five frames to the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's four frames and Hebe Haven's three.

We then adjourned for a sumptuous dinner in the Club's bowling alley bar. After dinner, we played the six doubles matches, also won marginally by ABC.

The final results gave eight frames to the ABC and five each to the Yacht Club and Hebe Haven. It was indeed a very

close contest, with the match only decided in the last few frames. Furthermore, it was the first occasion when we were able to complete all 18 frames within the time allotted. A truly Herculean achievement.

Unbeaten Tong Yun Fat

The star performer for the ABC was Tong Yun Fat, unbeaten on the night, with ABC captain Dave Hilling taking a singles and two doubles and Barry Hill and Nick Horvath winning a singles and doubles each.

It has to be said that the standard of play among all the teams was high and certainly an improvement on previous years. Whilst it was the fourth consecutive victory for the ABC, clearly the opposition have been honing their skills since the last match.

It is to be hoped that a further friendly competition will be arranged in late November. *HN*



Barry Hill in action



Pleasure Vessel Grade II Operator Certificate Courses (Part A master, Part B engineer)

Part A (Master)

Dates: 3, 6, 7 August 2015 / 2, 5, 6 November 2015

Times: 7 pm to 10:15 pm

Syllabus: Rules, lights, shapes, buoyage and signals, seamanship,
local knowledge and the laws of Hong Kong fire and gas precautions.

Cost: \$1,700 for member/person/course. \$2,000 for non-member/person/course.

Part B (Engineer)

Dates: 10, 13, 14 August 2015 / 9, 10, 11 November 2015

Times: 7 pm to 10:15 pm

Syllabus: Engine general construction, diesel and petrol fuel, fuel systems, electrical systems, ignition systems, lubrication,
cooling and pumps, transmission systems, operation and maintenance, fire and gas precautions.

Cost: \$1,700 for member/person/course. \$2,000 for non-member/person/course.

Notes:

1. Students who attend these two courses will be required to sit their examinations at the Hong Kong Marine Department after course completion. Successful candidates will be entitled to operate a vessel in Hong Kong waters up to 15 metres in length with engines of any power.
2. Courses are entirely theoretical for the relative exam. Practical boating is not required for the examination.
3. Examinations are normally held on selected Thursdays. You may go to the Marine Department address below to arrange your eyesight exam and register your exam. Please bring examination fee of \$1,255 (candidate must take both Part A (Master) and Part B (Engineer) exams together in the first attempt), one photo, one ID copy, and a copy of medical certification of the applicant's required eyesight standards. There will be a minimum of five students and a maximum of 20 students/course. If there is insufficient support for a course, that course will be cancelled and those already enrolled will be informed accordingly. Members who responded to the initial inquiry and whose names are held on file will be given priority.
4. Course Instructor: Alan Chau.
5. Please forward the completed application form(s) to Ms Cobo Liu by fax on 2873 2945 or by post or hand to the Club's Administrative Office.
6. See the Marine Dept. website for exam application information and dates:
http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/npvo2.html
(Please book your exams earlier; the suggested date is 6 – 8 weeks after attending the first part of the course.)
Exam application form: <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/mo84p.pdf>
Eyesight exam report: <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/mo935.pdf>
Marine Dept.: Seafarers' Certification Section, 3/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.
Telephone 2852 4941; Fax 2541 6754.





Pleasure Vessel Grade II Operator Certificate Courses

Application form

Part A (Master)

Surname: Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Forename(s) _____

Account number: _____ Telephone: (Mobile) _____ (Office) _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please enroll me on the course for Part A (Masters) to be held 7 pm – 10:15 pm

- 3, 6, 7 August 2015 Monday, Thursday & Friday
 2, 5, 6 November 2015 Monday, Thursday & Friday

Please debit my account by \$1,700.

Non-members, please include a cheque with \$2,000, payable to Aberdeen Boat Club Ltd.
Mailing address: 20 Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.

Signature _____ Date _____

Part B (Engineer)

Surname: Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Forename(s) _____

Account number: _____ Telephone: (Mobile) _____ (Office) _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please enroll me on the course for Part B (Engineer) to be held at 7 pm to 10:15 pm.

- 10, 13, 14 August 2015 Monday, Thursday & Friday
 9, 10, 11 November 2015 Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Please debit my account by \$1,700.

Non-members, please include a cheque with \$2,000, payable to Aberdeen Boat Club Ltd.
Mailing address: 20 Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.

Signature _____ Date _____

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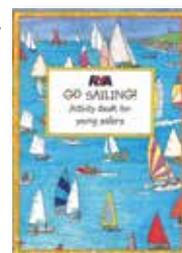


Available now at the ABC Club Shop

RYA Sailing Books for Children

\$85

The RYA Go Sailing and Go Sailing Activity Books are delightful handbooks on dinghy sailing for children with large formats and full-colour. The activity book includes stickers and multiple games, quizzes and educational tasks.



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