



2017/06
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HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB

Plying the Philippines' Waters

Youth Sailors Shine Overseas

Learn to Sail this Summer



Summer Series

2017

Race 1: 7 May 2017

Race 2: 11 June 2017

Race 3: 25 June 2017

Race 4: 9 July 2017

Race 5: 23 July 2017

Race 6: 6 August 2017

Race 7: 27 August 2017

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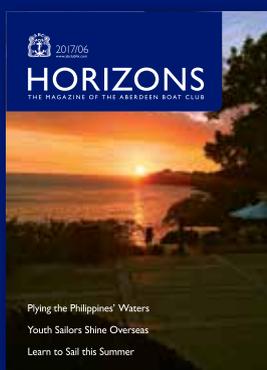
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Cover photo by Ian Skeggs: Sunset at Punta Fuego, the Philippines, April 2017

Horizons welcomes ABC member contributions of articles and photos.



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Commodore's Letter



As you read this issue of *Horizons*, you may care to reflect on the foresight and dedication of the ABC's founding subscribers 50 years ago this month. The actual date of incorporation was 15 June 1967, and the names of the eight founding subscribers may be found in the ABC Articles. These eight, with 17 others – the 25 founding members – paid an entrance fee of just \$1,000. Times and inflation have moved on!

And with time, so has their original investment grown: even given the founders' foresight and ambitious efforts, it is doubtful anyone then could have predicted the size and scope of activities offered by the Club today. There is much on offer at your Club, all for your enjoyment and active participation.

Marking the anniversary this month provides a timely prompt to remind:

- Golfers of the celebratory 50th anniversary event at Kau Sai Chau on Friday 23 June

- Motor cruiser members of the rally jointly with the Summer Series sailors on Sunday 25 June, culminating with a convivial party for all on Middle Island
- All ABC members of the date of the major celebratory party at the Clubhouse on Saturday 18 November.

In the meantime:

- The anniversary snooker tournament between Hong Kong's yacht clubs was won by the ABC on Monday 22 May. A report will follow in the next issue.
- The Summer "Restaurant" Sailing Series continues, with enthusiastic support (volunteer trainee-assistant ROs sought ...)
- See the next issue for the article on the annual Classic Yacht Rally fun weekend.

On completion of this *Horizons* issue our publishers, PPP, will bow out at the end of their contract after many years of support. In thanking PPP for the consistent quality of the magazine I must single out



for special mention my point of contact, editor Ann White, for her initial briefing on the mysteries of space allocation and thereafter for her ever-courteous, patient and persistent reminders to ensure this writer met his monthly deadline. And thanks too for the lesson on how to use word count in Word!

Thank you, PPP, for producing such a fine record of Club activities for members' benefit over the years.

Chris Pooley
Commodore



Flag Officer's Report

On Saturday 6 May, 10 civic-minded Club members spent the afternoon cleaning up Beaufort Island beach. This was the fifth time the Club has cleaned Beaufort Island beach, the previous times having been



in conjunction with the World Wildlife Fund's Coastal Watch project. Although the WWF project has concluded, the Club decided to return to clean the beach anyway as a goodwill gesture.

The Club junk departed Aberdeen at 11:30 am, arriving at Beaufort Island beach about 12:30 pm. General Manager Philippe de Manny kindly provided some sumptuous sandwiches for lunch so the volunteers were well-nourished before hitting the beach.

It was hot and sunny all afternoon and hard work cleaning up, but after some 2.5 hours of effort, 30 large plastic bags, full of assorted rubbish from plastic bottles to styrofoam boxes, was collected and piled up above the high-tide mark for Government services to pick up the following day.



A huge thanks to those members who volunteered their time for the clean-up effort. For many volunteers, this was the third or fourth time they had made the effort to clean Beaufort Island beach!

Jon Zinke
Vice Commodore



Dear Members,

This month I turn 50 years old; well, at least from the time my dads declared me to the Hong Kong authorities.

I have been gifted over the years with many foster parents (they are called committee members) taking care of my development and education, and making sure that my home in Shum Wan was always welcoming, tidy and safe. They did change many times – this is the fate of a foster child – but all of them loved me and cared for me to bring me up to what I am today: a young adult just out of adolescence, ready to embrace another long and prosperous period in my life. I would love to name them all here but the list would be too long (nearly 300 names). However, if you look at Club Reception, the names of their 21 leaders over my 50 years is on a board that witnesses their dedication and commitment to my well-being. And I shall not forget to thank the 200 staff members who worked in conjunction with various committees to make my operations as smooth as possible.

Of course there are you, my Members. Over 8,000 have joined over the past 50 years and I have seen many of you coming to see me day in and day out, making my journey so far a great pleasure full of adventure and success. Not to forget you, my Members who have now gone back to your hometown or to another adventure in another place. All of you, I thank you for being you, and for your contribution. You all have been and are the reason why I will always do my best to make you feel at home where I live.

From the little sailors in the making to the “top dog” big-yacht sea wolf, the mini-tenders to the maxi-cruisers, plus the swimming competition days, the squash team, the fitness addict, and all the way to the next-day hangover-sweaty you, feeling sorry for yourself. And all the other activities I have seen going on in my grounds every single day. Every day has been a new day for me and my call to carry on and get better at everything. All this is for you and thanks go to you.

For my anniversary, I would like to express gratitude to you all and invite you to a great celebration of these wonderful years that have passed by. The celebration will not be in June, mind you, but on Saturday, 18 November 2017, for a great evening with cocktails, dinner, a live band, and more ... and a minimal contribution. Sadly, being a little tight in space, only 200 tickets will be issued from September with priority given to Members. Guests will be on a waiting list until early November for the remaining spaces.

During June and November many other activities will be going on in sports and recreation. Due notice will be given, but to name a few now: the 50th anniversary regatta will take place in September, the Golf Society game in June, and over the next six months, lunches of thanksgiving will be organised for my anniversary.

Now to finish my letter to you, there's just one thing left to do: thank you again and again and hope that you will be coming to see me for a very long time, watching me move from my younger years to adulthood; and also supporting my little sister Middle Island, also growing up very quickly, who will be my backbone for the future development of our activities and pleasure.

All the very best to you all,

**Your loving and caring
Aberdeen Boat Club (aka ABC)**



Dear Members,

It is with great sadness that I write this letter, as this will be the last issue of *Horizons* produced by our editorial team at PPP. I wish to take this opportunity to thank PPP and particularly editor Ann White and publishers Jo Allum and David Tait, who have been instrumental in the development of our magazine for the last five years. They have done wonderful work giving our magazine the boost it needed to reach the quality we all enjoy today. At the same time let's give a fond welcome to David Lee and Martin Williams of Link-Up's, which from July onward will be our new *Horizons* publishers.

Steven Ng: For some time, I have not given news of our friend Steven Ng, who served the Club so well and so long as house manager. Steven is still recovering from his meningitis and doing better every day. Even if progress is slow, there is indeed progress. He is now able to feed himself soft food, can move his arm better and reach out to visitors for a handshake. Steven has started to try to speak but this is still a challenge for him. No doubt this will be the next step in his long recovery. You may visit Steven at Wong Chuk Hang Hospital.

Electricity: Power is finally nearly ready on Middle Island. We have now the consent from all government bodies to build our transformer. We have tendered the work and given it to a company called Adrian Construction. The work will be done over the summer, and we hope to have our new transformer installed by September. From then on, we plan to

upgrade our license and kitchen facilities, at first to give you wider choices of food; then other things will be offered to you.

The water improvement for our final lease review is now nearly sorted, while we await a reply from the Home Affairs Bureau to approve our proposal for upgrade. At this time I cannot tell you when approval will be issued.

The car park and lockers: Lastly, we finally have resolved these issues that have been languishing for two years and, again we await consent to start the move from the Buildings Department, as all other Government departments have agreed on our proposal. The good news is you will have more space to manoeuvre your car as you park and the Club will have four extra parking spaces with the new design.

Essentially, all the lockers will be relocated to where they were previously for safe access.

The Club walls rendering and painting project is a bit behind schedule, but hopefully once you receive this issue the work will be finished or just about to be finished.

Our Club will be safe and sound and good-looking for our 50th anniversary celebrations, which we will host from June 2017 to January 2018.

The 50th anniversary of the ABC:

This month a few events are planned or already started, such as the 50th anniversary snooker competition on 22 May set up by Nick Horvath. The ABC won the inaugural match for the new trophy, with eight ABC wins, six Hebe Haven Yacht Club wins and one win for the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.



On 15 June, a thank-you lunch will be organised for all past ABC committee members around and available. On Friday 23 June, the Golf Society 50th anniversary competition will take place at Kau Sai Chau's south course. If you have not booked yet, please do so quickly. Lastly, please mark your diary for Saturday, 18 November, the date of our big anniversary ball at the Club with a live band and all-day entertainment.

Parking labels: Let me remind you again, I would hope for the final time, that 2016 labels are no longer valid and acceptable. Last month, I had to refuse parking to Members who, five months into the year 2017, still had not changed their label. The rule is a Club rule and will be enforced. As I've said, it takes two seconds to replace your label and doing so makes the parking operations on Sunday far smoother and easier. And let me add that our valued car park attendant does not need to be shouted at when he enquires about your label. Also, for some members, the white line on the

floor is meant to delineate an allotted parking space. These clear lines are not meant to be ignored or considered as targets for your wheels.

Lastly, thank you for your wonderful attendance at last month's Mother's Day celebration. Attendance was so high it made for an all-time record booking for

the Club. You can view the photos of Members and their families taken that day on the ABC website at www.abclubhk.com/MothersDay2017_Photos.aspx.

Father's Day Buffet: If you have yet to book our Father's Day celebration with its Hawaiian theme, do so now; as it

looks as if we may even beat our 2017 Mother's Day record bookings.

Have a great month, everyone; especially our young teenagers sitting for their school exams.

Good luck and for a change of scene why not come to the ABC to revise and/or exercise? 

ABC Junk for Hire

Available 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 are available. Email fnb@abclubhk.com

Rental of speedboats, banana boats and waterskis may be arranged via ABC's Marine Services at 9276 2932.

Night-time: 6 pm – 11 pm

Daytime: 9 am – 5 pm

Monday – Friday: \$4,600

Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: \$5,300

Maximum passengers: 42

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



June F&B Promotions

June Wines of the Month, from Argentina

White: Bodega Norton Chardonnay Barrel Select, 2016

\$52 by the glass

\$258 per bottle

Red: Bodega Caro Aruma Malbec, 2015

\$58 by the glass

\$288 per bottle

Beer of the Month, a craft ale from the U.K.

Spitfire Kentish Ale

\$45 per bottle

June Cocktails

Spicy Summer

White rum, Malibu Rum, pineapple mixer, Jalapeño pepper, and a garnish of fresh mint

\$70

Citron Honey Mint Tea (alcohol-free)

Peppermint tea, citron honey and fresh mint

\$40



Squid Fishing on the ABC Junk 15 & 30 June

Time: 7 pm – sharp – to 10 pm

Going squid-fishing on the ABC junk is entertaining. Bring along the children or a group of friends or make some new friends on the junk.

These evening excursions are run only in May and June.

Book quickly as they are very popular.

Minimum 20 people; maximum 35 people.

Adults and children \$180.

Order dinner at the Galley coffee shop and bring it aboard to enjoy on the junk. Drinks are available on board and billed to your account.



To book your place, please email booking@abclubhk.com



June F&B Promotions

In June, the F&B will present South American flavours at The Galley and The Patio.

June Events

2

Champagne Barons de Rothschild Dinner

Friday

The Four Peaks Restaurant

7 pm

Adults: \$599 (limited seating; please book early to avoid disappointment)

The exclusive range of Champagne Barons de Rothschild, produced from the finest terroirs of Champagne, has never failed to surprise the sophisticated Champagne-loving crowd.

Famous for over 160 years in the world of fine wines, the Rothschild family has always combined an appreciation of excellence with a passion for breaking new ground and a reputation for the highest expertise. Following in the house's footsteps, Champagne Barons de Rothschild is now recognised as one of the most rigorously demanding producers of fine Champagne.

The Champagne Barons de Rothschild blanc de blanc (the highlight of the night) is a rich, complex and ethereal wine. With a low dosage, it is made only with Chardonnay from the Champagne region's best terroirs. This unique landscape gives the wine its fine bubbles, its pale golden colour and its subtle aromas of white fruit.

The Champagne dinner will be accompanied by carefully selected fine French dishes interpreted in modern ways.

18

Father's Day Hawaiian Brunch

Sunday

The Function Rooms, third floor

11:30 am to 3 pm

Adults: \$289 (add \$70 for free-flow of sparkling wine)
Concessionary price for members over age 65 \$229

Children (ages 2-12) \$189

(Limited seating; please book early to avoid disappointment)

Generous Hawaiian-themed buffet spread with variety of cold and hot dishes, with a carvery and delectable desserts. There will be a family photo booth for Father's Day, a free gift for all fathers and a special performance for all fathers!

24

Mediterranean Grill Night with complimentary wine-tasting

Saturday

The Galley and The Patio

7 pm

Adults: \$268

Concessionary price for members over age 65 \$208

Children \$168

Come taste the various Mediterranean flavours of premium beef, lamb, pork and seafood over the grill. Accompanied by hot and cold dishes and the ABC special dessert station.

To reserve for your family and friends, call Reception at 2552 8182 or email booking@abclubhk.com



Father's Day Hawaiian Brunch, Sunday 18 June

The Function Rooms, third floor 11:30 am to 3pm

Treat yourself and your family to a generous Hawaiian-themed buffet spread with a carvery, a variety of hot and cold savoury dishes and your choice of delectable desserts. This Father's Day, we will greet you with a family photo booth, a free gift for all fathers and a special performance for fathers!

Adults: \$289 (add \$70 for free-flow of sparkling wine)
Concessionary price for members over age 65 \$229
Children (ages 2-12) \$189

Limited seating; please book early to avoid disappointment

To reserve your family's place, call Reception at 2552 8182
Or email booking@abclubhk.com



Home Wine Delivery - June

White Wine

Mia



Grape Variety: Macabeo, Xarello and Parellada

Citrusy nose together with a mix of pears and ripe apples. Fresh and crisp.

Spain

Price: \$128

Qty: _____ Total: _____

Trimbach Gewürztraminer 2014



Grape Variety: Gewürztraminer

Its dry personality makes it ideal as an aperitif. It pairs extremely well with specialty cuisine with pronounced flavours.

Alsace, France

Price: \$248

Qty: _____ Total: _____

Louis Jadot Chablis 2015



Grape Variety: Chardonnay

A lipid, bright and fresh wine. The taste and bouquet develop relatively quickly.

Burgundy, France

Price: \$280

Qty: _____ Total: _____

Clos Henri Petit Clos Sauvignon Blanc 2015



Grape Variety: Sauvignon Blanc

Deep black fruits and subtle smoky aromas. The mouth follows with luscious fruit, with freshness and lithe tannins.

Marlborough, New Zealand

Price: \$168

Qty: _____ Total: _____



Red Wine

Peter Lehmann Wildcard Shiraz Cabernet 2016



Grape Variety: Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon

Ripe plum and mocha that integrate seamlessly with mint and blackcurrant flavours.

Barossa, Australia

Price: \$138

Qty: _____ Total: _____

Ogier Tradition Artesis Côtes du Rhône Rouge 2014



Grape Variety: Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre

Notes of spice, garrigue and ample fruit; silky and full, with a permanent freshness. The tannic structure is slight.

Rhône Valley, France

Price: \$168

Qty: _____ Total: _____

Castello Banfi Collepio 2014



Grape Variety: Sangiovese, Merlot

Fresh, fruit-forward, with intense red currant, raspberry and plum notes.

Tuscany, Italy

Price: \$138

Qty: _____ Total: _____

Mascaron par Ginestet Bordeaux 2015



Grape Variety: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot

Black fruit with spicy fragrance. Woody aromas with excellent length backed by fine, silky tannins.

Bordeaux, France

Price: \$145

Qty: _____ Total: _____

Join us for a free wine tasting on Saturday, 24 June, at the "Mediterranean Grill Night" at the Patio and Galley

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

*Minimum order – 12 bottles and mixed case 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 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.





Champagne Barons de Rothschild Dinner Friday 2 June



7 pm, the Four Peaks Restaurant

The Champagne dinner will be accompanied by carefully selected fine French dishes interpreted in modern ways.

The exclusive range of Champagne Barons de Rothschild, produced from the finest terroirs of France's Champagne region, has never failed to surprise the sophisticated Champagne-loving crowd.

Famous for over 160 years in the world of fine wines, the Rothschild family has always combined an appreciation of excellence with a passion for breaking new ground and a reputation for the highest expertise.

Following in the house's footsteps, Champagne Barons de Rothschild is now recognised as one of the most rigorously demanding producers of fine Champagne. The Champagne Barons de Rothschild blanc de blanc (the highlight of our evening) is a rich, complex and ethereal wine, made only with Chardonnay from the Champagne region's best terroirs. This unique landscape gives the wine its fine bubbles, its pale golden colour and its subtle aromas of white fruit. The Champagne Barons de Rothschild blanc de blanc has a low dosage.

Adults \$599 (limited seating; please book early to avoid disappointment).



CHAMPAGNE
BARONS DE ROTHSCHILD

To reserve for your family and friends, call Reception at 2552 8182
or email booking@abclubhk.com



Member Survey Results: Changes on the Horizon

By Richard Walker

The ABC House and Building Committee has conducted two surveys of Members so far in 2017. Both were well-received by Members, with 278 responses to the first survey on the Four Peaks restaurant, and 267 responses to our second survey, on *Horizons*, the ABC monthly magazine for Members.

Responses to the Four Peaks survey indicated that just under 40 percent of respondents dined in the restaurant at least once or twice a month and thought that the western food and the Sunday brunches were the best food provided in the restaurant.

The main purpose of the survey was, however, to seek Members' views on possible future options for the restaurant. Members were given

a number of themed choices in the survey and asked if they would be more, or less, likely to come to the Four Peaks in each scenario. The bar chart below shows Members clearly prefer something similar to the current restaurant, but different!

The first two options, which were clearly the most popular, were for a fine dining restaurant; either modern or more traditional along the lines of the French bistro run briefly in 2015. Based on these survey findings, the House and Building Committee will be bringing a proposal for change to the General Committee.

The *Horizons* survey looked at readership and how Members read the magazine. The vast majority of Members now read a hard copy of

the monthly issue (as opposed to an electronic version that is made available on the ABC website). On balance, Members prefer to continue to receive a hard copy of *Horizons*, though a growing number of Members are interested in a digital-only format.

Encouragingly, around a quarter of survey respondents indicated that they would like to write articles for our magazine.

The House and Building Committee included this important information in the recent retendering of the contract to produce *Horizons*. The Club will continue to provide a hard copy of *Horizons* to every Member. Over the next two years, the Club will also explore developing approaches to communication with Members that is online and digitised. 

Survey Results: Future options for the Four Peaks Restaurant (responses in percentages)



¹More "modern" fine dining food offering and restaurant design: Fusion, contemporary (e.g. Gordon Ramsay, Jamie Oliver, Jason Atherton)

²More "traditional" offering and restaurant design: French bistro or Parisian brasserie as the Club briefly had in 2015

³A more "casual" restaurant: Tapas bar, wine bar with retail wine outlet

⁴A casual eating area: sports bar (Delaney's, Champs)

⁵A Japanese ramen restaurant: Fusion ramen in varied versions, small bites of sushi, tempura, yakitori, sashimi accompanied by innovative cocktails and Japanese whisky.

⁶A Chinese restaurant: From Beggar's Chicken and Peking duck to local dim sum and/or xiaolongbao to wantons

Experience the most modern "Eight Cuisines" styles from Anhui, Canton, Fujian, Hunan, Jiangsu, Shandong, Sichuan, and Zhejiang

⁷A curry house: Thai and Indian high-class style, traditional curries and a creative fusion experience (branto, curry leaf, cicada, Jashan, tandoori) reinterpretation of Indian street foods (Gaggan Anand, Bangkok)



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Simrad – Navigation Electronics for Recreational and Commercial Vessels

Hella Marine – Marine LED Lighting for Interior Exterior and Navigation

B&G – Navigation Electronics for Sailing Vessels and Superyachts

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Ancor – Marine Electrical Installation Products and Tools

OceanLED – Underwater Lighting for Yachts, Superyachts and Docks

Vesper Marine – AIS Transponders and Navigation Aids

Czone - Digital Switching and Monitoring Systems

Pacific Aerials – Marine and Automotive Antennas

Climma – Marine Air Conditioning

Marinco – Shore Power and 12volt Accessories

Flir – Thermal Imaging Cameras for Navigation Safety and Security

Frigoboat – Marine Refrigeration

Watt & Sea - Hydro Generators

Cmap – Electronic Charting

Velocitek – Navigation Electronics for Dingy and Racing Yachts

Scanstrut – Installation Solutions for Marine Electrical Systems

Peplink – 4G /3G Internet and IT Solutions

Tricab - Shipboard, Offshore, Onshore Cable Solutions

Wassp – Multibeam Sonar

Torqueedo - Electric Propulsion Systems

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Full River – AGM Batteries

Our dedicated service team are qualified in AC and DC electrical systems and are factory trained in the products we represent.

*Members: Please quote your boat name/membership number.
Product exclusions apply



A Trip to the 'Pines



Children playing on the beach at Romblon

Words and photos by Ian Skeggs

We were due to set sail for Subic, in the Philippines, on Saturday 1 April, but due to bad weather forecasts, and being no fools, we delayed until the following Monday. It was still blowing, but we left at sparrows' and made it as far as Castle Rock before putting the bows in a wave; and then the outhaul parted. Good thing it happened there as we were able to motor into the bay at Po Toi to make repairs.

The crossing was a little rough but some of us have experienced a lot worse. Some sickness in the crew but the watch captains, Alan Child and I, had no issues. We cracked off a bit to make the passage easier and three days and three hours later sailed into Subic. Dick van Straalen had arranged both port clearance and a berth for us so we had no difficulties on arrival. We provisioned and changed some crew and left for Puerto Galera.

We decided to stop on the way at the Punta Fuego Yacht Club. This is a neat little marina, but its clubhouse closes at 5 pm. So we arranged to be picked up and taken to the nearby golf club where we cleaned up and enjoyed sunset drinks and an excellent buffet dinner.

The next morning we were off to Puerto Galera where we were meeting up with our Commodore who had

chartered *Sandaway* with a team from Hong Kong, including John and young Berry, to take part in the Easter Regatta. The Puerto Galera Yacht Club is always very welcoming and their events great fun. On arrival, PGYC director Alan Solley provided drinks on his lawn by the beach in what has now become an annual event. Thursday was a practice day followed by the welcome party.

We had three days of great racing with good winds. No issues, but as usual the Commodore's crew tried desperately to break their boat.

Restless roaming

After the regatta, we quickly became restless, and Steve Perret, Andy Perret and I set off south, leaving the rest of the crew behind. First stop was going to be Maestre de Campo, a lovely island with two well-sheltered bays. We anchored in the more easterly one, in crystal-clear water. Snorkelling, we were presented with a beautiful reef full of multi-coloured fish. We went ashore and walked over the hill to the second bay looking for a bar or restaurant. None to be found except for a small local store that had a fridge with blizzard-cold San Miguel pilsen. It was not long before we had the company of locals, as long as we bought them

beers. Then the head of police came along. In order that she could report she was doing some work she asked us for our names and addresses.

We walked back over the hill to the boat where our cook Angie had rustled up an excellent curry on-board.

A baying bovine

Dawn came and we were wakened by the noise of a cow baying, or whatever it is that cows do. We then spotted a cow being led into the water and made to swim out to a banka. It was not a happy moo. It was then manhandled onto the banka, not an easy task as you can imagine. Off to market it went, leaving a happy farmer 20,000 pesos better off.

Next stop was Romblon, where we aimed for the Romblon Yacht Club. On arrival we were hailed by Angelique, a charming young girl, who directed us to a mooring. As ours was the only boat there, this presented no problem.

Off we went in search of the Marlin Bar for a spot of lunch. We went back into the town and searched the shops for marble wine coolers, Romblon being the marble capital of the Philippines. There are a couple of excellent little restaurants on the island, an Italian and a German, the latter owned by Will Baumeister,

who also owns the Binucot Sunset Cove Resort on nearby Tablas. There is also the Lombon Deli, owned by David Kershaw. Steve Perret managed to get a first-class haircut nearby.

Boracay: a complete contrast

Next stop was Boracay. I was last there nearly 30 years ago when it was an idyllic island with a beautiful sandy beach and when we stayed at Friday's, a lovely

small hotel. Now it is noisy, dirty and overcrowded. You can hardly walk on the beach and we could not swim off the boat due to the vast numbers of speedboats going past very closely at full throttle. After a night on the town it was time to exit.

Back to Romblon, where we met up with *Freycinet* and *Further* at the Romblon Yacht Club. This time we moored up stern-to-European style at the

yacht club. In the few days between our departure and return, the club had begun to open daily. We presented the club with an ABC pennant. The RYC is a great little club and well-worth a visit.

Samara then returned uneventfully to Hong Kong via Puerto Galera, Punto Fuego and Subic. We look forward to sailing down again for the All Souls Regatta at the end of October and a sail on to Busuanga and Corun. 



Chasing down the Commodore, day one, the Easter Regatta



Approaching Maestre de Campo



Lunch at the Marlin Bar, Romblon



Samara at Romblon



Skippers of Freycinet and Further at Romblon Yacht Club

Hong Kong Optimist Sailors Win Nations Trophy at the 2017 ASAF Sailing Cup Finals

By Casey Law, photos by Vivio Chan

The 2017 ASAF Youth Sailing Cup Finals were held 4-8 April in Ras Al Khaimah, the United Arab Emirates. The Hong Kong team consisted of five girls and four boys: Jasmine Scholer and Nichole Scholer, Oriane Voets, Sorcha Whyte, Kala Davies, Duncan Gregor, Douglas Leung, Thibault Minne and me, all coached by Christos Atzemian.

Day one featured light winds blowing at five knots. There were only 60 entries in the regatta so there wasn't any rush on the slipway whilst launching. The daytime temperature in Ras Al Khaimah was 30°C, and the air was really dry, so we had to drink water very often.

Race one was really good as I had a great start and led the race from the top mark on. I made a couple of mistakes on the mark roundings but managed to finish the race first. What a good start to the regatta!

But I celebrated too early. In the second race, I was 18th as the start was really bad (I was being covered in the second row). I caught up a few places in the race but I could have done better.

The third race was upsetting as I got yellow-flagged by the jury at the starting line because of sculling. I only did a 360-degree turn and went on for five boat lengths before I did my second turn, so I got disqualified even though I came sixth in the race! The fourth race was pretty good as I had a good start and finished at eighth place in the race.

Windier day two

Day two was a little bit windier than day one, by two knots. I came third in race five, fifth in race six, 26th in race seven and fifth in race eight.

In the last race, in the middle of the reaching course, the jury was calling the black-flagged sailors back to the starting line. He pointed in my direction and shouted "Hong Kong", then

he mumbled something. I thought he was pointing at me so I headed down with some other black-flagged sailors like Duncan Gregor and Jasmine Scholer. Duncan was one place in front of me and Jasmine was one place behind me. When I figured that I was not actually black-flagged, I already lost 10 positions. I caught up a bit in that race so I finished 14th. Because of the miscommunication by the jury, I had a redress to fifth position.

On Day three, the wind was blowing at around three knots. We only had two races as we had to wait for the children from Oman to finish their prayers. This took up the whole morning so we only sailed in the afternoon. I had a consistent performance and finished ninth in race nine and seventh in race 10. I was pretty happy with my results on that day.

Day four started with strong winds. However, after the Omani children finished their prayers, the wind died down to five knots. The 11th race was pretty good as I stayed sixth throughout the whole race. The tide was really strong in the 12th race so I got black-flagged and sent home as it was the last race of the day. Many other sailors got black-flagged too so I was not the only one.

Thrice the Nations Trophy

After we finished de-rigging and returning the boats to the club, there was the prize-giving ceremony. I came sixth overall in the regatta, while Hong Kong's Duncan Gregor and Douglas Leung came first and second respectively! Isaac Schotte of Australia came third. Hong Kong won the Nations Trophy for the third time in a row! Amazing!

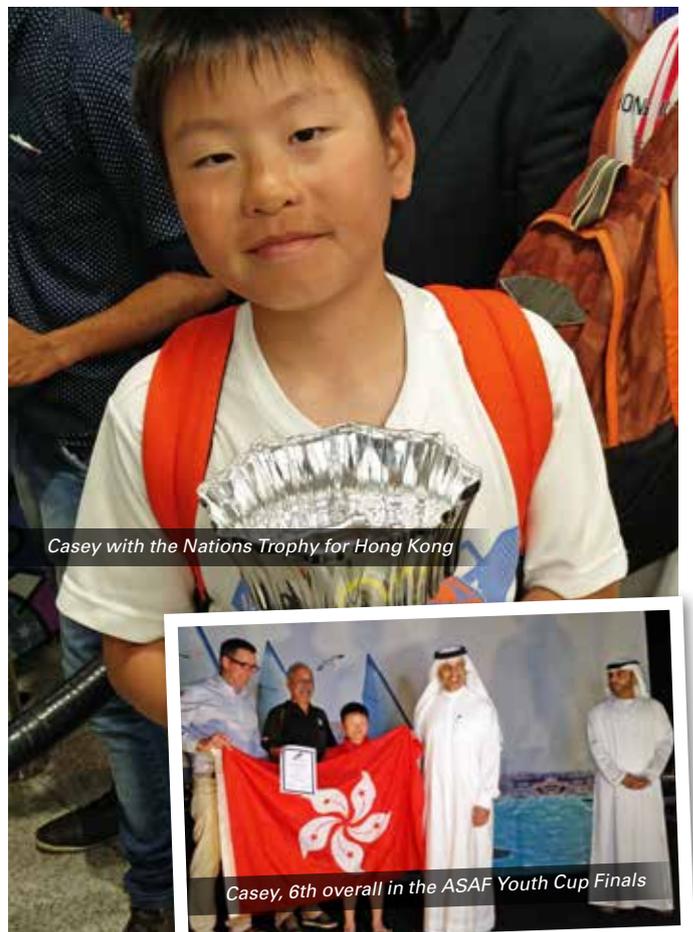
It was an exciting and rewarding experience in the UAE. I would like to thank my coach, Akira Sakai, for preparing me for the regatta. I look forward to participating in more overseas regattas in the future. ✨



The Hong Kong Optimist team



In Ras Al Khaimah, under a blazing sun



Casey with the Nations Trophy for Hong Kong

Casey, 6th overall in the ASAF Youth Cup Finals



Aberdeen Racing Academy Summer Fixtures

By Michele Clark, photos by Rory Goodman

Forthcoming Events

With the summer fast approaching, it's time for the Aberdeen Racing Academy's 29er team to pack the container ahead of the international summer racing calendar. This year, the ARA squad will travel far and wide, first off to Kiel, Germany, then to Long Beach, California, and lastly to Quiberon, France. The Academy will have five 29er teams travelling.

Kiel Week: 17-20 June

Kicking off the proceedings, ARA sailors Calum Gregor and Russell Aylsworth will travel to Germany for Kiel Week, competing 17-20 June. The Kiel Week (in German, Kieler Woche), or Kiel Regatta, is an annual sailing event in Kiel, in northern Germany. The nine-day-long maritime festival is expected to have more than three million visitors and over 1,500 events; making Kiel Week the largest sailing event in the world.

Around 4,000 sailors with approximately 1,700 boats from more than 50 countries will take part in this year's regatta. Good luck to Calum and Russell.

29er US Nationals and Pre-Worlds: 26-28 July

Most of the teams will fly to Los Angeles on 18 July to prepare for the first event, the 29er Pre-Worlds and US Nationals. They will be held at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, in Long Beach, south of Los Angeles, on 26-28 July. Five ARA teams will compete:

- Yann D'Argenlieu with Nathan Bradley crewing
- Calum Gregor with Russell Aylsworth crewing
- Malo Kennish and Anatole Martin crewing
- Lewis Clark and Dylan Richards crewing, and
- Karrie Clark (our youngest and only female competitor), with final decisions yet to be made on her crew.

Zhik 29er World Champs: 29 July-5 August

The Alamitos Bay Yacht Club of California, with the USA 29er Class and International 29er Class Association, will then host the 2017 Zhik 29er World Championship Regatta 29 July-5 August. Last year the event saw 228 boats competing. Three of our teams will return to the event and will be looking to improve on previous results. One team will make its debut together, hoping to gain as much experience as possible from the event.

Good luck to all the ARA teams competing:

- Yann D'Argenlieu with Nathan Bradley crewing
- Calum Gregor with Russell Aylsworth crewing
- Malo Kennish with Anatole Martin crewing, and
- Lewis Clark with Dylan Richards crewing.

29er European Champs: 20-27 August

Lastly, we have two teams, Malo Kennish and Anatole Martin, and Augustin Clot and Russell Aylsworth, taking part in the 29er European Championships to be held 20-27 August in Quiberon, in the French province of Brittany.

ARA seeks corporate sponsor

All in all it's a very busy summer for our team and coaches. Remember to check the Aberdeen Racing Academy's Facebook page, which will be updated regularly throughout the summer with team news and results.

Good luck to all our sailors and a big thank you to the ABC for helping to send the teams around the world.

The Aberdeen Racing Academy is now looking for a corporate sponsor to help develop our youth sailing programme at ABC. If interested, we would be keen to speak to you. Please contact Rory Godman at dinghycoach@abclubhk.com. 



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Summer Youth Sailing Programme

June – July 2017

Application Deadline: 16 June 2017

The ABC 2017 Youth Summer Sailing Programme runs from late June until the end of July. We offer a wide variety of courses and activities for sailors aged seven to 18. Full details are available on our website, www.abclubhk.com and also from Angela at SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com.

As ever, the summer courses are our most popular, and the Junior Optimist courses fill very quickly. Please apply early.

Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	\$ Cost (Member/ Non-member)
Mon 26 – Fri 30 June AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 26 – Fri 30 June PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 1	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 26 – Fri 30 June PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 2	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 26 – Fri 30 June		HKSF Level 1 and 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 26 – Fri 30 June		5 Days' Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18; , passed HKSF L2	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 3 – Fri 7 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 3 – Fri 7 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 1	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 3 – Fri 7 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 2	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 3 – Fri 7 July		HKSF Level 1 and 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 3 – Weds 5 July		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 12 – adult; passed HKSF L2	1,590 / 2,388
Thurs 6 – Fri 7 July		RS Feva Gennaker Course	Age 12 – 18; passed RS Feva Introduction	1,060 / 1,592
Mon 10 – Fri 14 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 10 – Fri 14 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Introduction	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 3	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 10 – Fri 14 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 1	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 10 – Fri 14 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 2	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 10 – Fri 14 July		HKSF Level 1 and 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 10 – Fri 14 July		HKSF Improver Level 3 Course	Age 11 – 18; passed HKSF L2, with one year of sailing since	2,650 / 3,980
Sunday 16 July		Sailing Trip	Age 12 – adult; passed HKSF L2	530 / 796
Mon 17 – Fri 21 July AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 17 – Fri 21 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 1	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 17 – Fri 21 July PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 2	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 17 – Fri 21 July		HKSF Level 1 and 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18 ; can swim with water confidence	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 17 – Weds 19 July		Laser 1 Introduction Course	Age 11 – 18; passed HKSF L2	1,590 / 2,388
Thurs 20 – Fri 21 July		2 Days' Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18; , passed HKSF L2	1,060 / 1,592

Please note course timings:

AM course: 9 am-12:30 pm (meet at 8:45 at main Clubhouse)

PM course: 1:30 pm-5 pm (1 pm ferry from main Clubhouse)

Whole-day course: 9 am-4:30 pm (meet at 8:45 at main Clubhouse)



Summer Youth Sailing Programme August 2017

Application Deadline: 14 July 2017

The ABC Youth Summer Sailing Programme soon will be underway. Course places for sailors ages seven to 18 are still available throughout the summer holidays. Full details are available at www.abclubhk.com and also from Angela at SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com

Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	Discounted cost if booked before 30 June	\$ Cost (Member/ Non-member)
Mon 31 July – Fri 4 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 31 July – Fri 4 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 31 July – Fri 4 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 31 July – Fri 4 Aug		HKSF Level 1 and 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 31 July – Fri 4 Aug		HKSF Improver Level 3 Course	Age 11 – 18; passed HKSF L2, with one year of sailing since	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 7 – Fri 11 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 7 – Fri 11 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Introduction	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 3	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 7 – Fri 11 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 7 – Fri 11 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 7 – Fri 11 Aug		HKSF Level 1 and 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 7 – Weds 9 Aug		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 12 – adult; passed HKSF L2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388
Thurs 10 – Fri 11 Aug		RS Feva Gennaker Course	Age 12 – 18; passed RS Feva Introduction	954 / 1,433	1,060 / 1,592
Sun 13 Aug		Sailing Trip	Age 12 – adult; passed HKSF L2	477 / 717	530 / 796

Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	Discounted cost if booked before 30 June	\$ Cost (Member/ Non-member)
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Application Deadline: 4 August 2017

Mon 14 – Fri 18 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Introduction	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 3	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Aug		HKSF Level 1 and 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Aug		Five Days' Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18; passed HKSF L2	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Aug AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Aug PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Aug		HKSF Level 1 and 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980



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

Part A (Master)

2017 Dates: 1, 3, 4 August; 1, 2, 3 November

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)

2017 Dates: 9, 10, 11 August; 6, 9, 10 November

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 and 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, or register by post. 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 the medical certification of the applicant's eyesight exam results. 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

- 1, 3, 4 August 2017 Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
 1, 2, 3 November 2017 Wednesday, 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.

- 9, 10, 11 August 2017 Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
 6, 9, 10 November 2017 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

That Mid- Season Buzz

By Nicholas Ball, photos by Maamar Ferkoun

The middle of May sees the first break since the start of the dragon-boating season. It is a great opportunity for the Buzz squad to reflect on a colourful, fast and furious season so far and to gear up for the final big races ahead. With summer coming and the weather heating up, Buzz is looking to rise to the occasion to secure podiums in each of the remaining season races, a big ask but something this year's squad is proving capable of delivering.

Buzz had three races in eight days, with the first race of the season on Easter Sunday at Deep Water Bay. The DWB Small Boat Dragon Sprints, as the races are known, are hosted by another local club, South Eagles. It was a great race to kick off the season. With limited fire

power in the squads due to the Easter break, it allowed us to blood in many of our new paddlers that we have welcomed this season. The day finished with Buzz taking several podiums and a few ice-cold beers. It was a fun end to a good Easter Sunday.

May 18 saw Buzz competing at Po Toi, in the first of the local fishermen races (invitation only), where teams transport their traditional teak wood boats across the sea on their fishing boats and race in stunning parts of Hong Kong. The Po Toi race, always held on the Tin Hau festival, is a race full of noise and colour. This year's race didn't disappoint with the Buzz mixed squad making the gold cup final. The men's squad was unlucky to be drawn





Buzz men's boat, Po Toi 18 April 2017

down into the gold plate race. Furious finals saw the mixed team take first place and retain the title we won in 2016 with the tightest of photo finishes. The men's team grabbed second in the plate final.

The final race of the week saw Buzz back at Deep Water Bay, this time for the Victoria Recreation Club's 500-metre regatta. It was almost home turf for Buzz and the first opportunity of the year to go up against many of the expat teams on the Hong Kong circuit. The VRC regatta gave all of the club's teams (men, women and mixed) the chance to compete across all divisions. Another solid performance from the whole club after a day of ultra-competitive racing saw "Lady Buzz" emerge with a deserved podium and third-place finish. Our mixed squad took fourth place and the men's boat took fifth place in the gold cup finals. Buzz extend a big thanks to the VRC for a well-organised race.

The final two weekends before our mid-season break saw the final two fishermen races with the Stanley fishermen invitation race first up. On a glorious but extremely hot Monday, the action was heating up in the same way, with Buzz's mixed crew taking second place in the gold cup final and Buzz's men's crew taking second in the bowl final. The last race of the fishermen trio was a very competitive race that saw Buzz's men's crew take second place in the men's plate final and Buzz's mixed squad take another podium, this time placing third in the mixed gold cup final.

As we take time out to reflect on the season so far, the training and dedication put in by the Buzz squad so far have allowed for some excellent and consistent results. As we have seen, the teams across Hong Kong are always pushing the performance levels ever higher and Buzz will need to dig deep and train hard for the remaining races to ensure we are at the top of our game to try and win races. Anything is possible and Buzz are looking forward to closing out the 2017 season on a high!

If you are interested in learning more about the sport, or would like to join Buzz for the 2018 season, please contact us at info@buzzdragon.com. We'll give you more information about club life, our upcoming off-season programme and open days, training times and membership. 

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Skiff Buoyancy Aid

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SLAM's skiff buoyancy aid is lightweight and flexible, and has two front pockets. Comes in grey and white or black. Used by the ABC High-Performance Sailing Team.

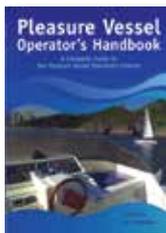


Available now at the ABC Club Shop

Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel Operator's Handbook

\$390

A guide to earning the Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel Operator's License, with all materials needed for the Grade 1 and 2 exams. Includes flashcards on buoyage and navigation lights, sample test questions and the full exam syllabus.

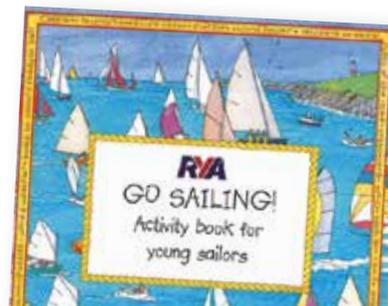


Available now at the ABC Club Shop

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.



Available now at the ABC Club Shop

HKSF Dinghy Logbook

\$60

Covers the syllabus of the Hong Kong sailing scheme with a log to record your sailing (accurate records are important even if you lack HKSF certificates).



Available now at the ABC Club Shop

First-Aid Kit for Home, Car or Boat

\$400

Contains everything to care for wounds as well as a torch, thermometer, tweezers with magnifying glass, note pad and pen. Made of waterproof material with shoulder strap for easy carrying.



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