

October 2017

# HORIZONS

The Magazine of the Aberdeen Boat Club



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration Event  
Dinghies in Action

Reciprocal Club  
A Jewel in the Sailing Crown

Feature Story  
An Overlooked Hong Kong Sailing Record





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## COMMODORE'S LETTER



Chris Pooley  
Commodore

*"By all these lovely tokens,  
September's days are here,  
With Summer's best of weather,  
And Autumn's best of cheer" [Anon]*

This was not coined with Hong Kong in mind, but gives quite a good description of the month that heralds our finest season and the most active business and social time of the year.

It's a turning point, with the Equinox on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. The Harvest Moon (so-called because farm workers could work late into the light evenings, gathering in their ripe crops) was unusually close to its maximum distance from the Equinox this year. The following, Hunter's Moon coincides

of course with the Lantern and Mooncake Festival being celebrated at the Club on 4 October – which is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 8<sup>th</sup> Lunar Month in the ancient Chinese calendar. Watch circulars for details of this very popular event; and for many others to follow, as the F&B department has a number of new theme ideas to present.

This is also the busiest time of year for sailors, with the Waglan Series expanded to 12 races, starting shortly after we go to press on 8 October. By this time, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opening Regatta will have been held over the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24 September, with a large turnout expected, which should lead to some fine copy and photos for next month's magazine. The matching celebration event for Dinghies was disrupted by the bad weather over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 September; even so, everyone involved persevered, as can be seen in this edition's fine photos by Terry Duckham.

So, there's much to look forward to as this delightful season gets underway, culminating – as far as 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events are concerned, with the major Club-wide celebration on Saturday 18 November. This will comprise two events in one: a cocktail reception, optionally continuing to dinner. Plus there's much else in-between. Check the Club noticeboard and e-circulars as details evolve.

Wishing us all a smooth transition between monsoons: we've had enough typhoons for one year!

## Dinghies in Action





## GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER



Philippe de Manny  
General Manager

### TYPHOON DOUBLE TROUBLE



As you'll have experienced if you were here, August was quite a month for typhoons, with two in a row, most notably the first of them, Severe Typhoon Hato.

We sustained some damage on Middle Island, as the sea water surged over the entire island, the indoor restaurant was flooded, electricity and CCTV went off, and inundation of the changing room and storeroom may have affected the long-term stability of the tiling.

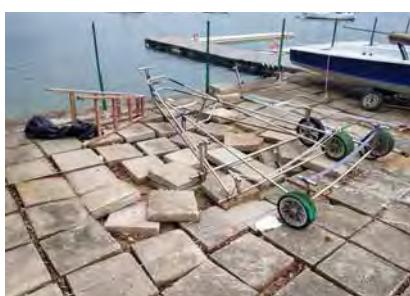
Also, all our planters were submerged by the salt water waves, killing all the plants. All the soil and plants will have to be replaced on the eastern and western side of the island, at least. On the marine side, four members lost their boats, some dinghies had to be written off and many others needed repairs.

Pier railings and pontoons were also affected, this time more by the second cyclone, Severe Tropical Storm Pakhar. They had

to be promptly repaired. I hope all the repair work and cancellation of training or racing have not caused too much trouble, but what has to be done has to be done. Hato was the most severe



typhoon I witnessed since arriving in Hong Kong; the storm surge was certainly the main cause of much of the damage in the territory, rather than the strength of the wind.



### MOORING UP-GRADE (Cont.)

You have seen since August a team working hard on the refurbishment of all our moorings in Po Chon Wan. The progress is on target, or actually even a bit ahead of schedule, which is good news for minimising the minor disturbance you may have to suffer around the area.

The work includes full checks of all components of the moorings, from the concrete blocks called "sinkers" to the attachment rings on top of the chains, including the buoys. This is an enormous task, and it took two years to find a very reputable and reliable contractor willing to work on such an extensive and complicated project. It's extensive due to the possible over-engineered requirement from MARDEP, complicated due the number of moorings to repair within a very limited and confined environment.

Anyhow, we are nearing the end of it, and I am sure that for those members not on ABC moorings that Mr. Kin Kwong-li, General Manager of Kinetic Key Co. Ltd. (KKCL), can be approached individually or in appropriate groups for quotations, though without ABC being involved.

### MISCONDUCT TOWARD STAFF

I would like to remind members that shouting and screaming or threatening and insulting our staff who are doing their best for the Club's benefit and therefore your benefit, is just not acceptable, and even more, against our Club Rules and Regualtions. This month, we had two very aggressive encounters, because in the process of renovating the Club moorings, their usual habits had to be slightly modified. I must say that when my staff target, is the benefit of the general Membership and The Club, individual coziness may have to suffer a bit – and should I have another report of my staff being abused or insulted, as last month, in the course of their duty, I will straight away inform the disciplinary committee for further action.

### NEW STAFF

After many years of trying to reach our optimum staffing level, we finally managed a full team last month, having filled nine empty slots on the manning budget. The addition to our team comprises three kitchen cleaners, three restaurant and bar staff, and three cooks.



Andrew Ng  
Headwaiter  
(Four Peaks)



Roy Chan  
Jr. Headwaiter  
(Waglan Bar/Four Peaks)



Lal Kumari Rai  
Jr. Headwaiteress  
(Waglan Bar/Four Peaks)



## GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER



Abdul Kadir  
Demi Chef  
(Indian Kitchen)



Chan Man Tun  
Chef de Partie  
(Coffee Shop)



Ngai Chor Keung  
Chef de Partie  
(Coffee Shop)



Wang Xi Hung  
Kitchen Cleaner



Lin Guilin  
Kitchen Cleaner



Qin Li Mei  
Kitchen Cleaner

### NEW FURNITURE ON PATIO AND SUNDECK

Last month, I offered members a chance to give another home to our Patio and Sundeck furniture, as they would be replaced this month. I must thank you all for your overwhelming response, either complimenting the actions or for placing orders.

I had to start with 178 various outdoor items to dispose-off, and ended up with only 50. That means that 128 chairs, tables, side tables and armchairs have found a second home with you, and will not end up in the recycling system or in landfills.

We should be receiving our new furniture this month, and each of you who requested furniture will be contacted to come and collect your little treasure from us. Hopefully by that time we will have given our "babies" a little facelift and a touch-up, so they look their best possible before reaching your home.

There were some members complaining that they did not see the note either on time or at all; well I keep on reminding you to read our magazines and e-letters, or look around the Club for notices and posters. We do inform people to the best of our ability; it takes also a little bit of effort to seek information or actually read it.

### BE AFRAID, BE VERY AFRAID: HALLOWEEN RETURNS!

After many years of absence, finally Halloween returns to the ABC with a vengeance, featuring an array of disgusting food, horrible costumes, bad lighting and scary entertainment. Over 200 attendees are already expected at the time I'm writing this article (mid-September). What a great booking – thank you so much! I hope you will enjoy the haunted house, mazes and all the games and music arranged by the Food and Beverage Team.

### 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

As promised in the previous magazine, we are selling tickets on 1<sup>st</sup> October at noon for the big celebration event on 18 November this is either for the cocktail only or for the full event book promptly so you don't miss the chance to join us. Please: no booking by WhatsApp but only by email to me genman@abclubhk.com or in person at the reception, you will then receive your tickets, which will be nonrefundable from the booking date.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary golf tournament to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> of this month looks set for a great turn out, with guests coming from our two related clubs in town, the RHKYC and HHYC golf society. There will be full report with picture in the next issue of *Horizons*.

### PANADOL FILES – “STRIKE BACK” *Last battle in the saga of the lockers*

In June this year, I informed you that we had finally resolved the two-year old issues with different government departments, and that we were just waiting for consent to start the move back of our sailing lockers to where they were previously located.

Well, we are clear to go – all departments agreed that the lockers were at right place two years ago and that I can move them back. I have the consent to start the work, but of course there is a “but”!

Building and Fire departments requested we add a thick, fire-rated partition between the car park and the lockers. That has to be done by law through a registered contractor, under the supervision of a recognised and registered consultant/architect/money-taking person.

So what was supposed to be a simple in-house move back of lockers now becomes a project for which tenders have been called, to express interest “in a very small job” on our carpark floor before we can move the lockers back.

It's an annoying, frustrating, probably not necessary, but sadly compulsory last battle to win before this month or next month I call all the members with lockers to empty them for a short while, so that we can move the empty lockers back in position, build the partition, and then, finally, hopefully get the certificate and close that file.

**While I am on the subject of the lockers, may I respectfully remind members that no dangerous, compressed air or gas, flammable, chemicals, or explosive goods can be stored in them.**

They are meant to be sailing lockers, and as the inspector for the government pointed out he should see sails and no fuel or gas bottles in them.

If another breach of storage from a member is noticed, he will be banned from using these lockers facilities for good, heavily fined or even prosecuted by the Club. So please behave, be nice and we will keep those lockers.

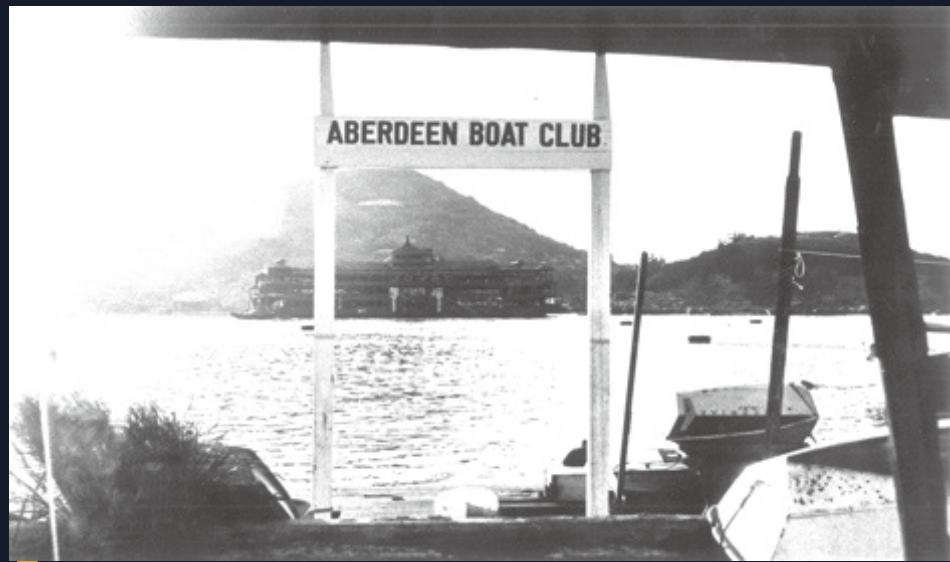
### Middle island electricity upgrade

On 18 September a big barge delivered the transformer to receive our 1000 amps and the RHKYC 1600 amps. After the building of the foundation to receive it, this is another enormous step toward our very long anticipated Middle Island Electricity upgrade.

We have already contacted our electricity engineer, who is now preparing our side of the island, with full rewiring and up-grade of our sockets, plugs and switches. Hopefully we can turn everything on between the end of this month and early November. This has been a very long journey since April 2004, when I sent my first letter to Hong Kong Electric asking to consider giving us more power. Since then, I have been placing regular up-dates in *Horizons*, and now I am about to put a full stop to the story. What a great, interesting and frustrating, at times, journey – but all worth it.

Now, the next step will be to up-grade our water; this is about to happen as well, but as you may expect I am again encountering issues with red tape. By the end of the year, I am confident we will have recognised water and power connections, and we can move on to apply for a permanent occupation permit, which will then allow us to get our other licences up-graded.





# Celebration Time! • 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festivity, 18 November

Cocktails with live band and speeches  
Gala dinner featuring favourite dishes from the 60s to the present  
plus House DJ, museum, more speeches

Free-flow drinks including rum cocktails and Carlsberg beers

Quizzes and games

Dancing and toasting into the wee hours

*The ticket price for the Dinner & Cocktails will be \$500 per person; note that this is for a full event ticket, from 4pm until closure, with everything included.*

*Due to licence restrictions, the Club will only issue 250 tickets, and they will be on sale from the reception desk on 1 October, starting at noon sharp, not before.*

*Primarily, those tickets are reserved for members and spouses.  
Should we have any available at the end of the month,  
they will be open to Members' guests on 1 November.*

*In addition to the gala dinner, should you miss out on the full day tickets,  
a Cocktails-only ticket will be priced at \$200 per person. We will only issue 100 of these,  
for the afternoon function at the patio and sundeck from 4pm to 8pm.*

(No booking by WhatsApp but only by email to me [genman@abclubhk.com](mailto:genman@abclubhk.com) or in person at the reception)



50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

# Sokos Snooze and Cruise

Unique 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event - Weekend of 21-22 October

Join us for an overnight trip to the Sokos - which will be a great event for families and weekend sailors and boaters.

Sail / motor over to the Sokos on Saturday, enjoy dinner on the beach, camp or sleep onboard, and head home on Sunday. No racing, no rating, no results and no protests; just a splendid weekend of cruising to a nearby destination, then a fun evening of partying like carefree island castaways.

Meet at the Sokos before dark for ease of anchoring. ABC will send a boat to ferry people between boats and the beach. There's a potluck dinner - bring one or more dishes of your favorite food, preferably homemade, and share.

RAFT-UP in Siu A Chau bay, Soko North Island, but south beach.

As well as food, bring drinks, guitars, games, tents etc; and especially your sense of fun and adventure. While you may return with a mosquito bite or two, you'll also have lasting memories of cruising and partying in this little visited part of Hong Kong – along with new friends.



And keep a lookout en route: you might see  
fintless porpoises and Chinese white dolphins...

**See you there!**



RECIPROCAL CLUB

# A Jewel in the Sailing Crown

By Commodore Chris Pooley



The beautiful protected mooring area of Puerto Galera Yacht Club.

**P**uerto Galera Yacht Club, which recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary, holds pride of place as the jewel in the crown of Philippine sailing.

Fittingly, the club is named after its picturesque location, which was originally known as the port of galleons, as it was famed for sheltering Spanish galleons from typhoons.

The club proudly hosts the Philippines' largest international sailing regattas – the All Souls in November and the equally

popular Easter Regatta, which is held each year during Holy Week.

Boasting more than 100 members from a dozen different countries, the club is also known as a must-see destination for cruising sailors, many of whom have dropped anchor there and never left.



The upgraded clubhouse.

The easiest access to the club is via a free three-minute service boat ride from Muelle Pier, and visitors are always welcome. The open air clubhouse is full of character, and offers full bar and restaurant facilities, with both western and Filipino cuisine. The club is renowned for its curry buffet on Wednesday nights and its Friday night BBQs.

In recent years, the clubhouse and related facilities have undergone major renovations and upgrades, to improve facilities

The Junior Sailing Program caters for local kids from all backgrounds.

and make room for hosting major events and functions.

With a number of moorings in the bay and several more in nearby Dalaruan, it's little wonder that place is so popular with cruisers and racers alike. The club's moorings are catered to by a service boat facility which operates seven days a week.

Also known throughout the region for its successful Junior Sailing Program, the club has trained hundreds of youngsters, many of who have gone on to win international dinghy sailing championships.

Two full-time instructors are on hand, to offer private sailing lessons to both juniors and adults. Advanced keel boat sailing instruction is also available aboard the club's 30ft yacht *Guinevere*.





# An Overlooked Hong Kong Sailing Record

By Stephen Davies

Setting sailing boat voyage records requires people a touch out of the ordinary, and knowing about them requires a rather recherché enthusiasm. But although resolutely landlubber, super-pragmatic, money-focussed Hong Kong seems the last place on earth you'd expect to find either sailing records being made or sailing oddballs making them – in matters maritime as in many others, our home city can always surprise.

In most sailing records lists you'll find that the first person to sail from west to east across the North Pacific Ocean single-handed was the noted Japanese sailor Kenichi Horie. He made his mark with his voyage from Nishinomiya, Kobe in Japan, to San Francisco in 94 days (12 May to 11 August 1962) on his tiny, 19ft (5.8m) yacht *Mermaid*, which is now being restored at the San Francisco Maritime Museum.

Kenichi Horie not only has that first trans-Pacific voyage to his credit, but also two circumnavigations – one east to west (1974) and one north to south (1978), as well as two more trans-Pacific voyages in Matsu *Mermaid II* (1999) and *Mermaid III* (2002), which were both made from recycled materials. Other voyages include three from Hawaii to Japan: in a solar powered boat in 1985, in a pedal-powered boat in 1992-93, and in 2008 in the



catamaran *Suntory Mermaid II* using only power generated from ocean waves. The now 79-year-old Kenichi Horie is a great sailor, a dedicated and active environmentalist and by all accounts a charming chap. Anyone who is a sailor (and anyone who isn't!) can only say "Chapeau!"

## A Hong Kong hurrah!

But the claim that he was the first person to sail single-handed west-to-east across the North Pacific doesn't give due credit to a forerunner. Of course, if you're a total "sail or paddle only" stickler you'll vote for Horie anyway. But total stickleriness aside, the honour should go to a Hong Kong born sailor who, bar a few miles motor sailing to save his skin, made the voyage single-handed in a Hong Kong built junk in 1959.

## *Yes, it's a "Hong Kong hurrah!" story: an epic tale, even if not quite with the currently most politically correct star players.*

Brian Platt was born in Hong Kong in 1930. At the time, his father worked for the Asiatic Petroleum Co (a.k.a. Royal Dutch Shell) and was based on Shameen Island in Guangzhou, but Mrs Platt had come to Hong Kong for Brian's birth. Later the whole family – by this time with three boys - moved back as a result of the growing Japanese threat. They lived at 373 The Peak (where else?), which we know because in January 1938 Mrs Platt advertised in the *South China Morning Post* to ask if anyone had seen one of their pet kangaroos that had gone walkabout – yes, kangaroos!

The family returned to Britain after that, promptly moving to Argentina, where Brian's father was next sent and where the family spent most of the Second World War. After school and reading history at Oxford, in 1952 Brian Platt joined the Malay Civil Service. Then, with Malaysia's independence on 31 August 1957, he found himself out of a job.

He decided to emigrate to Canada by sailing there single-handed. To that end, he bought a 27ft (8.3m), cutter rigged yacht called *Chempaka*<sup>1</sup>, which had been originally built in Hong Kong in 1945, and on 6 June 1958 set off from Singapore for points north and east towards Vancouver. Things didn't go as planned, and the Platt/*Chempaka* duo did not deal easily with the headwinds and typhoons of the summer season. So when they got to Manila on 11 October, Brian Platt decided he'd load his boat on a ship, head for Hong Kong and take stock.

Brian Platt and his boat arrived on the Norwegian, Klaveness Lines' ms *Bronxville* in Hong Kong on 27 October 1958. His later story of having swiftly made the decision to sell *Chempaka* and build himself a junk doesn't quite tally with the record. Initially, he took *Chempaka* to Cheoy Lee's yard, then at Ngau Tau Kok, to have her refitted for his intended trans-Pacific voyage. Then, at some point over the next month or so he changed his mind. He decided to sell *Chempaka* – he would "accept best offer" – and have a sailing junk built for him.

He later recalled that he'd chosen a junk on the grounds of speed of build, cost, ease of handling and, from what one can gather, a dim view of the qualities of western small craft at sea as a result of his Singapore to Manila sail. But his respective reservations and enthusiasms were not unqualified. What he wanted was a junk to his own specifications, with more space than a 27ft western designed cutter. In 1958 Hong Kong, that was not easily achieved. Shipyards built either western yachts to sets of

plans, or Chinese junks by eye. With things maritime, as with Hong Kong society ashore, hybrids were looked on askance.

He found his builder in Shaukeiwan: the Chuen Hing Shipyard, now long gone though at the time the place to go for sailing junks for export. As its pioneering later role in the modernisation of Hong Kong's fishing fleet indicates, Chuen Hing was an innovative yard and, if sometimes reluctantly, accommodating to novel demands. As an added plus to the project, by this time Brian Platt's father had returned to Hong Kong. He'd retired from being the big boss at Shell and had accepted an appointment to the 1959 Salaries Commission to assess civil service pay, so was on hand to help out, by ordering the teak from which the junk was built and no doubt pulling a string here or there where a pulled string was needed.

### **A hybrid creation, and a false alarm**

Although projected to cost HK\$10,000, by the time all the modifications had been made the final cost was 60% higher. The result – with its half-thickness planking to save weight, increased number of frames, plywood deck and cabin top sealed with two layers of fibreglass, its stayed masts made of a cut down western yacht mast (which would prove a serious problem), western style interior, Dacron sails, artificial fibre running rigging, inboard diesel engine and, the most heterodox modification of the lot, its 2,885lb (1295kg) cast iron ballast keel – was in effect a very hybrid creation and caused much tooth-sucking and even flat refusals at Chuen Hing Shipyard. However, it still looked very junk-like. And even with cost overruns it had been a lot cheaper and, with keel laying to launch in just seven weeks, it had been completed admirably quickly.

The High Tea  
(海帝 – wittily *Hai Di* or King of the Sea in Mandarin)  
– was small at 31ft 4ins (9.6m) long, 9ft (2.74m) in beam and displacing 7.9 tons (8.03 tonnes).

But, Brian Platt noted, she had almost twice the space below of *Chempaka*. *High Tea* was launched on 29 January 1959. The lady who did the honours, Mrs Frances Dominis, was the Hon. Secretary of a now vanished – and one suspects short-lived – Hong Kong Junk



High Tea under sail



## FEATURE STORY

Club, a group of expats racing sailing junks that seems to have begun life as the European Junk Owners' Club sometime in late 1957: a most appropriate timing.

Getting everything ready for the 6,000-mile intended voyage to San Francisco was not quick. After launch, for the final preparations and sea trials the *High Tea* shifted to Kowloon Docks in Hung Hom. And it was from there on 7 May, with 50 days of provisions and 45 gallons of diesel fuel for his boat's ancient and recalcitrant 15HP Enfield diesel engine, that Brian Platt sailed for Yokohama. It was the beginning of a very, very long voyage.

By 5 June, with no sign of the *High Tea*, Brian Platt's father had raised the alarm with the Japanese coastguard, who went searching and came up with a blank. It was a false alarm. It turned out that a few days out of Hong Kong, trying to head east through the Luzon Strait between the Philippines and Taiwan to get into the strong, north flowing Kuro Shio current, contrary winds and a shortage of fresh water had forced the *High Tea* to take shelter in Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte.

### Learning while sailing, as mainmast snaps and cracks

After sending a letter to his father that took a while to arrive, Brian Platt had set off again on 27 May, but again had a hard time with strong following winds, high seas and getting *High Tea* to steer herself. After getting his navigation wrong, by-passing Okinawa, backtracking and sailing mistakenly over reefs, though fortunately without hitting them, and then being becalmed off Naha, he put in there on 11 June, 35 days out of Hong Kong and 1,170 miles down track. He admitted he was "a 'learn-while-you-sail' navigator".

From Naha he sailed for Yokohama, arriving on 5 July. He spent two months there, refitting and trying to establish a workable self-steering system based on various ruses he'd been experimenting with – including a Joshua Slocum style bowsprit. He finally left on 21 September, with a chirping cicada for company, calling at Misaki and Choshi before heading out into the Pacific, only to sail straight into the fringes of Typhoon Vera. After lying ahull as the typhoon passed south of him, he had not long made sail again when the top of his mainmast snapped off – hollow, western style spars and junk rigs do not go well together.

After four days adrift, some helpful, if rather careless, fishermen on the *Kinkei Maru* towed him into Hanasaki on Hokkaido, colliding with *High Tea* several times and cracking the foremast as they did so. After spending two weeks on repairs, he was off again on 16 October, with the vast expanse of the North Pacific ahead of him. All went well for the next five or six weeks until one night, alerted by a change of motion, Brian Platt went on deck to find that the mainmast had snapped again.

### To California for Christmas

By now he was way past the point of no return, winter was advancing apace and, as had been increasingly the case since he'd left Japan, it was bitterly cold. With no chance of an effective repair aboard and his only opt out Hawaii, twelve hundred miles to the south with nothing beyond it, he decided to press on under foresail and mizzen only, changing his destination to California rather than Canada.

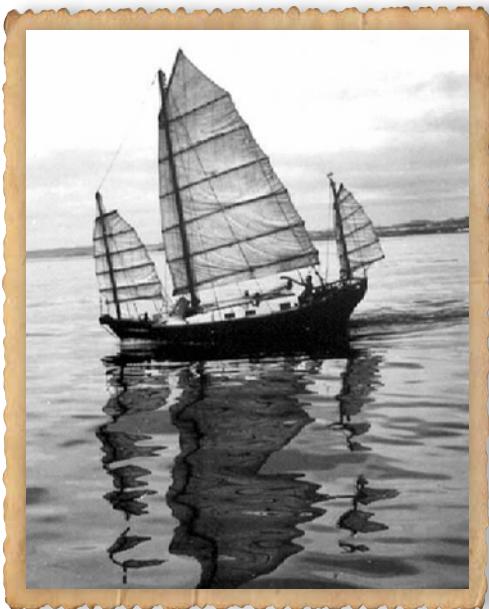
The weather was getting progressively worse, with the frequency of gales increasing. Without a mainsail, *High Tea* was much slower and steering was more difficult. Then the combined strains on the foremast and its supports through getting the broken mainmast back aboard and using the supports to try to rig a bowsprit with the broken mainmast turned out to have been too much. On 11 December, with nearly 90% of his voyage behind him, the foremast snapped when the chainplate to which one of its supporting stays was attached pulled out. He managed to rig a trimmed section as a jury mast, and a blown-out old lifeboat sail provided a replacement for the now ruined foresail.

But the result was dire. *High Tea* was making as few as thirty miles noon-to-noon, despite using some of the precious diesel fuel – this is the bit where the sail-only-sticklers are rubbing their hands – for a few hours each day to snatch some extra miles.

Finally, on Christmas Eve 1959, pinpointing his position by the lighthouses blinking out their welcome, he was just twenty miles north of the landfall he'd been aiming for after *High Tea* had been dismasted: the small coastal town of Eureka. It was a truly excellent navigational performance given fatigue, stress, winter weather and skies and the liveliness of a very small boat. Brian Platt had indeed learned to navigate while he'd sailed.

At this point, for we few students of trans-Pacific, small craft sailing voyages, the *High Tea* proves to have been setting the scene for a *Back to the Future* moment. Dangerous sand spits guard the narrow entrance to Humboldt Bay, which is reputed to have the worst bar on the US west coast. Closing that hazardous port entrance under power on Christmas





Trials

morning, Brian Platt's junk with its cantankerous, oil-guzzling motor ran out of fuel. Luckily, the resident US Coastguard cutter was out on a patrol, spotted the junk before it piled up on the shore and towed him in. The coastguards shared their Christmas dinner with the gutsy Hong Kong Brit, and gave him his first hot bath in seventy days.

### Back to the Future... ?

Flash forward to autumn 2008, 3 October 3. The *Taiping Princess* (太平公主), a 54ft replica Ming Dynasty junk built near Xiamen, had set out from Hong Kong in August that year and sailed via Taiwan, Okinawa and Osima Island near Kushimoto, Japan, before heading out into the Pacific. She was aiming to make Seattle on the first leg of a pioneering circumnavigation of the North Pacific by a sailing junk<sup>2</sup>.

But, as with the *High Tea*, for the *Taiping Princess* currents and winds dictated landfall, not human wishes. And just like Brian Platt on the *High Tea*, eventually Captain Nelson Liu Nin Sheng found himself approaching the offing of Eureka, with Humboldt Bay's hostile shore under his lee. He tried clawing off and using the *Taiping Princess'* inefficient motor to help, but he too was in danger of being swept onto the rocks despite having set an anchor. To add to the palpable sense of *déjà vu* all over again, after sixty-nine days at sea, the US Coastguard towed the *Taiping Princess* in.

The rest of the tale of Brian Platt and the *High Tea*, again like the end of the *Taiping Princess'* story turned out to be, is rather sad. After getting new masts for his junk and repairing his sails, he set off for San Francisco. The two hundred and forty nautical mile voyage was yet again storm-tossed, leading to a back injury and forcing him to take refuge in Fort Bragg for a few days.

On 10 February 1960, some 7,500 miles from Hong Kong, Brian Platt arrived at the St Francis Yacht Club. In short order he left *High Tea* up for sale with a local broker and headed to Montreal in Canada. Poor *High Tea* never found a buyer on the

West Coast, so Brian Platt trucked her to New York, where she was sold. Eventually, she ended up in the back lot of a boatyard, neglected and falling apart. Brian Platt never quite found his feet. Bankruptcy and depression resulted in a move to France where, sadly, in 1989 he died in a fall in a warehouse he owned.



*High Tea* arrival San Francisco 1960

Two record making trans-Pacific junk voyages separated by forty-eight years and a few months, taking seventy and sixty-nine days, respectively; both having started their long voyages in Hong Kong, both arriving in Eureka, California and both heading on to San Francisco. If both have their claims to our admiration, the first of them was an epic of guts and survival. Despite *High Tea*'s measly few miles motored *in extremis*, as the worst of the winter threatened and with only one and a half masts left standing, to reasonable folk Brian Platt's voyage in the Hong Kong built *High Tea* was the first single-handed west-to-east trans-Pacific voyage. An overlooked record, overdue its share of glory. Sorry Mr Horie.

(An earlier version first appeared in the SCMP magazine.)



*Taiping Princess*

#### Notes:

1. The wood of one of the magnolia family, specifically *Magnolia champaca*, though in Malaysia the name is used for most magnoliaceae.

2. In April 2009, 30 miles from her final destination in Taiwan, the *Taiping Princess* was rammed by the product tanker *Champion Express* and sank. Although all the voyage records sank with the junk, happily no lives were lost, there was only one serious injury (from which the victim recovered) ... and the record-establishing circumnavigation knot had already been tied when the junk had crossed her outbound track.

# F&B Updates

By Robin Sherchan, F&B Manager

## The Four Peaks opens 7 days a week now! With a New Autumn Tasting Menu

As per the final results of the "monkey survey" we did few months back, it was concluded that many of our valued members would like to see more modern fine dining cuisines in the Four Peaks Restaurant. So, in the past few months we in the F&B department have been working to design and finalise the whole concept.

We have decided to take it step-by-step and have come up with a New Autumn Tasting Menu - which is conceived and anchored in a strong modern British cooking philosophy while exploring an elemental Asian purism, as well as other international influences that I have been exposed to in my many years of living, working and dining overseas. These dishes can be accompanied with the recommended wine pairings –

which are carefully selected to enhance your dining experience.

We will still keep the main menu intact, with some changes and additional new dishes introduced on a regular basis. To start with, we are introducing Modern Asian/Indian inspired contemporary dishes – based on the distinct royal cuisines across the ASEAN region.

So, please check our website for the new menus; and note that prior reservation is highly recommended.

## The Galley & The Patio

The introduction of farm-to-table dining at The Galley, mainly for the monthly food promotions and some new dishes on the menu, has been gaining positive reviews from you. So, the concept will be an ongoing project, with innovative contemporary cuisine as the main focus. This month, you will see the introduction of Tapas from around the world - allowing you to taste various dishes from the world, on small plates for sharing. Also, attending to some feedback regarding the pricing, we have introduced some new affordable dishes on the menu, which are still of high quality ingredients. Hope you enjoy them !

## Upcoming events

Halloween on 28 October is almost fully booked; thank you for the support ! If you missed out this time, please book early for the next one. The haunted house decorations in ABC will start to go up from 23 October. There will be lots of family fun games and a very scary ghost house on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor ! Our whole team is super excited to be a part of it; I'm sure it will be loads of fun !

## Wine Lover's List

As our wine-pairing dinners with sommeliers and/or winemakers have been gaining huge popularity in the club among our wine loving members, we are now compiling a ABC Wine Lover's list. The listed members will be the first to receive the invitation for these special wine-pairing dinners and if there are still seats available, we will open the booking to other members. The next dinners are planned for November and December. Please look out for the announcement for the one in December, as the prominent winemaker from the Chateau Musar will be hosting the evening and seating limited to 25pax only. Joining the list is easy and simple – you just need to shoot me an email at : fnb@abclubhk.com with subject 'Wine lover's list' and your membership number.

## Feedback

You are more than welcome to drop me an email at fnb@abclubhk.com with any constructive feedback you may have about our food or services. Following the Kaizen Philosophy of constant and never ending improvement, our F&B team is very focused on helping improve your dining experience with us. See you at the Club !



## Tapas Around the World at The Galley & The Patio New Autumn Tasting Menu at The Four Peaks Restaurant

### Beer & Wine Promotion

**SOHO Jagger Pinot Gris 2016 – New Zealand (White)**

\$240 per bottle

\$48 by the glass

**SOHO Havana Pinot Noir 2016 – New Zealand (Red)**

\$260 per bottle

\$52 by the glass

**Beer of the Month:**

**Erdinger Weissbier, 500ml, Germany**

\$49 per bottle

### Autumn Cocktails (OCT & NOV)

**Breeze at the deck \$ 66**

*Cinnamon infused vodka, vanilla cream liqueur with raspberries top of the gruyere.*

**Deck in a Dark \$ 75**

*Berry vodka, Tequila, Blue Curacao with Cranberry Juice and Passionfruit pulp.  
garnished with Passionfruit & flammable lime.*

**A.B.C Sunrise \$75**

*Vanilla infused in Bourbon, bitters in a sugar cube, splash with fruity sparkling wine,  
garnished with strawberry lime.*

**Grapefruit Cooler \$ 66 / \$55 non-alcohol**

*Cinnamon & Cloves infused gin with organic red grapefruit juice and blackberries,  
splash with tonic, garnished with twist peel.*



# Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Buffet

**with Complimentary Wine-Tasting for Home Delivery**

The Galley & The Patio  
Wednesday, 4 October, 7pm

The Festival of lanterns and moon cakes will be celebrated with variety of Chinese traditional and contemporary dishes. Our popular Chinese chefs will surprise you with their creativity and this is definitely a not to be missed event!

**Adult : \$288 only**

**Concessionary price for member over 65 of age \$238 only**

**Children \$188 only**



中秋



## Homemade, Uniquely Memorable Mooncakes

- *Created with a recipe known to only a chosen few*

To celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival on 4 October, Executive Chef Paul and his talented pastry team are preparing homemade mooncakes  
- with a unique, ABC secret recipe.

**TOP SECRET**

Treat friends, family and colleagues to our homemade Mooncakes, with a delectable taste that can be treasured long after the Mid-Autumn Festival. While they will come in a simple, environmentally friendly box, the mooncakes' quality will be top notch!

Introducing: Custard Cream Mooncakes (box of 8): HK\$188 Only!

*Orders must be placed at least 48 hours before the pick-up time  
Promotion from 15 September until 4 October (last pick up time at 5pm)  
Stocks are extremely limited – available on a first come, first served basis*

Call the Coffee Shop at 2554 9494, or email: [fnb@abclubhk.com](mailto:fnb@abclubhk.com)  
NOW to place your orders!





**ABC  
will  
be  
HAUNTED  
THIS  
OCTOBER, 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**

*The terrible party will start at 6:30pm*

Live music/DJ, Scary Games, Free face painting, Varieties of finger foods,  
Free-Flow drinks. Amazing prizes for best costumes & Face paints!

Lots of Haunted Spooky Fun - GUARANTEED!

**ONLY few seats left! Reserve EARLY to avoid disappointment**

Email : [booking@abclubhk.com](mailto:booking@abclubhk.com) or Tel : 2552 8182

Adult : \$248 only (free flow Carlsberg can beers, House wines)

Kids (12-18y/o) : \$198 only (free flow soft drinks & chilled juices)

Kids (under 12y/o) : \$148 only (free flow soft drinks & chilled juices)

# Join the Aberdeen Beer Club! one night only

The Galley & The Patio,  
Saturday, 14 October, 6:30PM

Prost!

Cheers!



Oktoberfest

With over 200 years of history in its native Germany, Oktoberfest is now known and celebrated by beer lovers worldwide. Given the huge popularity of beer in ABC, we are now putting together an unforgettable, fun night!

In addition to carefully selected, ice-cold German and European beers, this year's boisterous Bavarian party will include authentic German food.

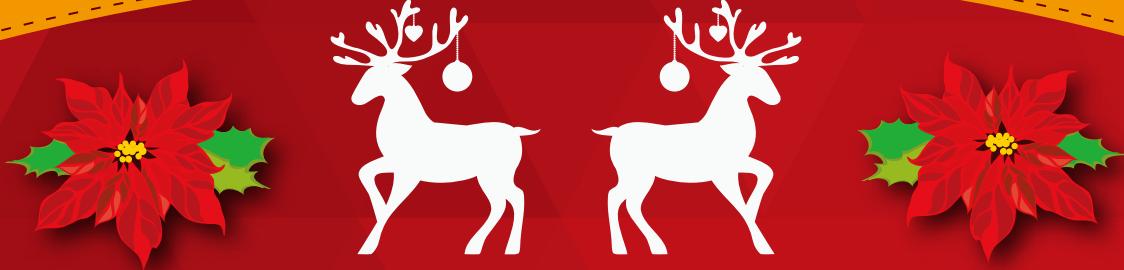


Adult: \$299 only (Add \$120 for 2 hours of free-flow beers, 6:30-8:30PM)

Concessionary Price for member over 65: \$239 only

Children 3-12y/o: \$199 only

# Just Add Santa!



## Comprehensive Corporate Xmas Function Packages

Plan a Xmas lunch or dinner through the Club, and you can be sure everyone can eat, drink and be merry - while enjoying entertainment through our outstanding audio visual equipment.

We offer packages for a Special Xmas Lunch or Dinner in either the Bridge (up to 30 persons) or Harbour Room (up to 120 persons).

**Xmas Lunch  
from only \$218  
per head**

for an executive  
3-course Lunch or  
Buffet Lunch  
(for over 25pax)

**Xmas Dinner  
from only \$328  
per head**

for an executive  
3-course Dinner or  
Buffet Dinner  
(for over 25pax)

For both the lunch and dinner, add \$140 per head  
for 2-hour Free-Flow soft drinks, juices & beers.

All the bookings include projectors, screen, microphones, whiteboards, music and A/V equipment. Plus Xmas table decorations and party packs; and venue rental charges waived.

Book for over 35 persons on weekdays, to enjoy free boat transfers to Middle Island in Shun Fung.

Packages are available from 15 November to 31 December, 2017. Note that there are very limited slots available per week, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please contact the Food & Beverage Manager for further enquiries: [fnb@abclubhk.com](mailto:fnb@abclubhk.com).



# Corporate Annual Dinner & Meeting Promotions

**Executive Lunch and Dinner Packages  
- menus tailored to your requirements**

We offer packages for a Special Customised Lunch or Dinner in either the Bridge (up to 30 persons) or Harbour Room (up to 120 persons) or Middle Island on weekdays (up to 250 persons).

**Special Customised Lunch**  
from only \$178 per head  
for an executive 3-course Lunch or  
Buffet Lunch (for over 25 persons)

**Special Customised Dinner**  
from only \$268 per head  
for an executive 3-course Dinner or  
Buffet Dinner (for over 25 persons)

*For both the lunch and dinner, add \$140 per head for 2-hour Free-Flow soft drinks, juices & beers.*

*All the bookings include projectors, screen, microphones, whiteboards, music and A/V equipment.  
Plus Xmas table decorations and party packs; and venue rental charges waived.*

*Book for over 35 persons on weekdays, to enjoy free boat transfers to Middle Island in Shun Fung.*

*Packages are available from 2 January to 28 February 2018 (though Harbour Room will be closed from 1 February due to refurbishment). Note that there are very limited slots available per week, so please book early to avoid disappointment.*

*Please contact Food & Beverage Manager for further enquiries: [fnb@abclubhk.com](mailto:fnb@abclubhk.com).*

# Home Wine Delivery October 2017

Free Wine Tasting (Wednesday, 4 October 2017) 18:30 – 20:30



Category	Description	\$/Bottle	Qty	Amount
SPARKLING				
	<b>VALDO Prosecco DOC Rose, Valdobbiadene, Veneto, Italy</b> Pale salmon pink, with notes of cherries and blackberries on the nose. A light, dry and elegant sparkling Rose with plenty of finesse. Perfect with salad, as an aperitif or enjoyed on its own.	HK\$102		
WHITE WINE				
	<b>Serafino Goose Island Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2016, McLaren Vale, Australia</b> 70% Sauv Blanc, 30% Semillon. The bouquet features kaffir lime leaf, tropical and fresh cut citrus character. This easy drinking, fresh and fruity wine has a crisp mouth feel.	HK\$102		
	<b>SOHO Stella Sauvignon Blanc 2016, Marlborough, New Zealand</b> Hints of fresh herbs, elderflower and river stone, bursting with melon, white peach, passionfruit and citrus peel. Lovely saline focus, yet generous in expression and texture.	HK\$96		
	<b>Chateau De Messey Ier Cru Chablis 2015, Chablis, France</b> This is a fruity wine with a hint of vanilla nose that offers a tight, minerally texture, lively acidity and an apple- and grapefruit-like crispness. Elegant and sophisticated.	HK\$178		
RED WINE				
	<b>Pannunzio Reserva Malbec 2015, Mendoza Argentina</b> Smooth mouth entry, medium bodied and very well balanced. Flavours of blackberry with a spicy touch.	HK\$102		
	<b>Bodegas Rioja Vega (Ugalde) Reserva 2011, Rioja, Spain – one of oldest wineries in Rioja</b> The nose is alive with wonderful bright fruit, typical of Tempranillo. The palate is smooth, silky, elegant and sophisticated. It is balanced with subtle oak and lingers long on the finish.	HK\$118		
	<b>Serafino Estate Reserve Grenache 2014, McLaren Vale, Australia</b> The palate is rich and thickly textured, but displays life and energy with an attractive liquorice note to conclude on the warm finish. <i>95 points James Halliday</i>	HK\$214		
	<b>Sagrantino Di Montefalco DOCG 2011, Umbria, Italy</b> This is produced from 100% Sagrantino grapes grown in Montefalco DOCG. A complex red wine, with style, balance and grace, and a long lingering finish.	HK\$198		
* Minimum order-12 bottles and mixed case is allowed.		Total:		

Member Name: Mr. / Ms / Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

(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 the Food & Beverage Department at 2555 6216 or Fax: 2873 2945.

FREE delivery will be offered for purchase over 12 bottles, pleased allow 3 working days for delivery.

All wines are subject to availability.

# ABC Club Shop's Merchandise



**ABC Ice Bag**  
@\$220



**ABC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Can Cooler**  
@\$30



**ABC Belt**  
@\$108



**ABC Blue Cap**  
@ \$58



**ABC Can Insulator**  
@\$188



**ABC Sailing Gloves**  
@\$135



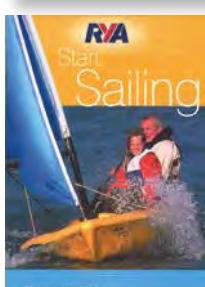
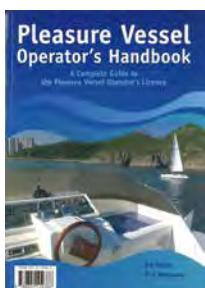
**ABC Pen**  
@\$88



**ABC Collapsible-Water-Bottle**  
@\$20

## Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel Operator's Handbook @\$390

A guide to earning the Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel Operator's Licence, 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.



## RYA Start-Sailing Book @60

This book is designed to help you learn to sail. No matter whether you go on a course at a RYA Training Centre or learn from a friend.

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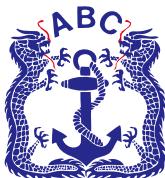


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## Pleasure Vessel Grade II Operator Certificate Courses (Part A master, Part B engineer)



### Part A (Master)

Dates : 1, 2, 3 November  
Times : 7:00pm to 10:15pm  
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 : 6, 9, 10 November  
Times : 7:00pm to 10:15pm  
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 register your exams. to the Marine Dept. by post or in person. Document required for the examination application:- a ready examination application form, one photo, a copy of your identity document, Eye-sight exam. Report from a registered doctor, examination fee HK\$1,255, cheque payable to "The "Government of the HKSAR" (Candidate must take both Part A (master) & Part B (engineer) exam together in the first attempt). There will be a minimum of 5 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](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 at 7:00pm – 10:15pm  
( ) 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 7:00pm to 10:15pm.  
( ) 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

# 2017 ABC October Youth Sailing Programme

For most schools, the October holidays are only one week long, so places are very limited. The ABC recommends you apply at least 3 weeks before the course start date to ensure a place. Note that spaces can only be reserved on receipt of a completed application form (on the website) and deposit payment; we cannot reserve course slots by email or telephone. Early bookings qualify for a discount.

Further details are available at [www.abclubhk.com](http://www.abclubhk.com) and from Angela at [SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com](mailto:SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com).

## 2 – 6 October 2017 (Application Deadline: 22 September 2017)

Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	Discounted cost if booked before 1 Sep	HK\$ (Member/Non-member)
Mon 2 – Fri 6 Oct AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11 ; can swim with water confidence	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 2 – Fri 6 Oct AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4	Age 7 – 11 ; Pass Optimist Stage 3	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 2 – Fri 6 Oct PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11 ; Pass Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 2 – Fri 6 Oct PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11 ; Pass Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 2 – Fri 6 Oct		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18 ; can swim with water confidence	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 2 – Fri 6 Oct		HKSF Level 3 Improver Course	Age 11 – 18 ; Pass HKSF Level 2 with 1 year sailing experience since	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 2 – Wed 4 Oct		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 11 – 18 ; passed HKSF L2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388
Thur 5 – Fri 6 Oct		RS Feva Gennaker Introduction	Age 11 – 18 ; Pass RS Feva Intro	954 / 1,433	1,060 / 1,592
Mon 2 – Wed 4 Oct		3 Days Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18 ; passed HKSF L2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388

## 23 – 27 October 2017 (Application Deadline: 13 October 2017)

Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	Discounted cost if booked before 22 Sep	HK\$ (Member/Non-member)
Mon 23 – Fri 27 Oct AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11 ; can swim with water confidence	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 23 – Fri 27 Oct AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4	Age 7 – 11 ; Pass Optimist Stage 3	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 23 – Fri 27 Oct PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11 ; Pass Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 23 – Fri 27 Oct PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11 ; Pass Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 23 – Fri 27 Oct		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18 ; can swim with water confidence	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 23 – Fri 27 Oct		HKSF Level 3 Improver Course	Age 11 – 18 ; Pass HKSF Level 2 with 1 year sailing experience since	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 23 – Wed 25 Oct		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 11 – 18 ; passed HKSF L2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388
Thur 26 – Fri 27 Oct		RS Feva Gennaker Introduction	Age 11 – 18 ; Pass RS Feva Intro	954 / 1,433	1,060 / 1,592
Mon 23 – Wed 25 Oct		3 Days Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18 ; passed HKSF L2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388

### 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)



# 2017 OPTIMIST ASIAN & OCEANIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 2017年樂天帆船亞洲及大洋洲錦標賽



### HONG KONG

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