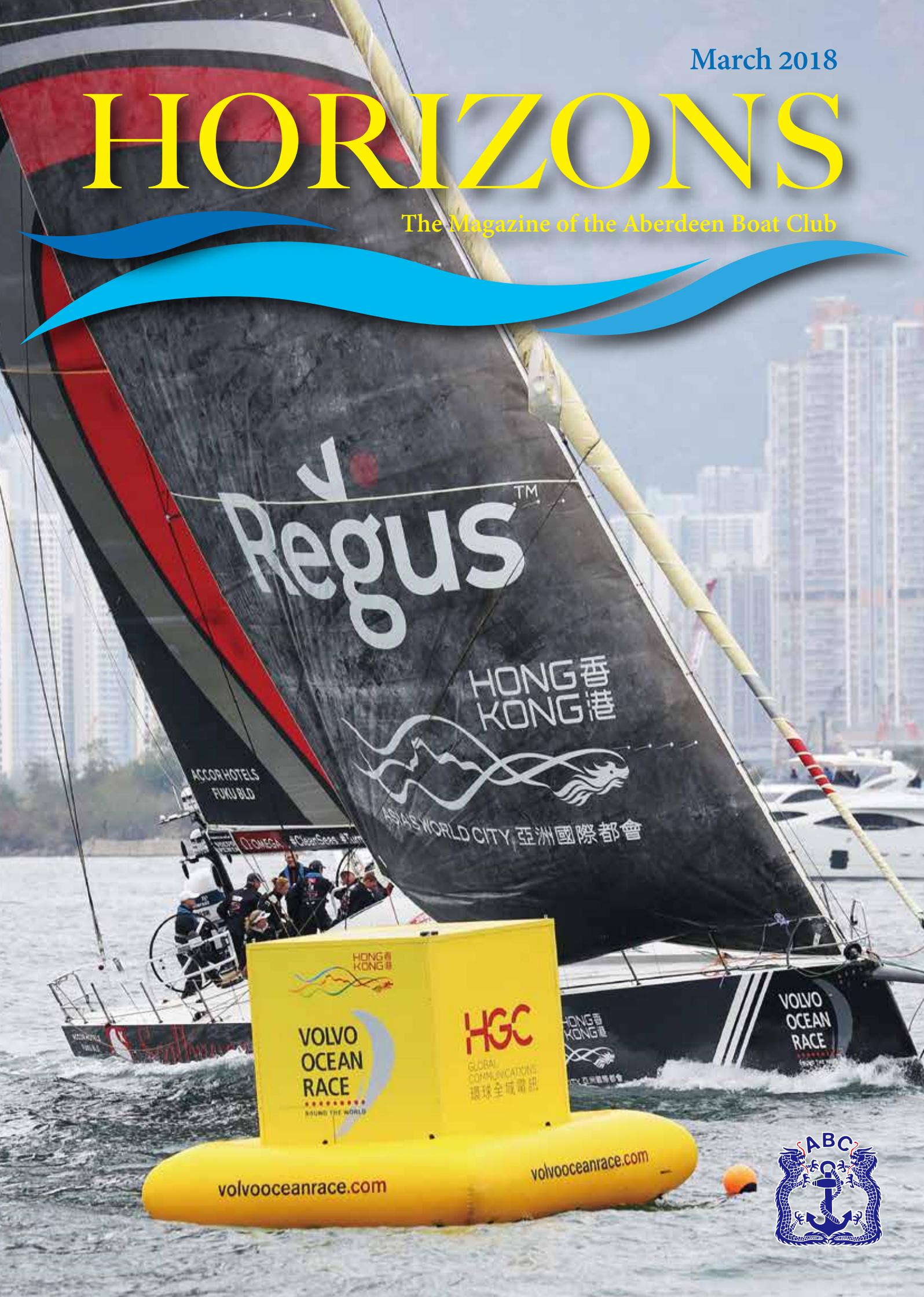


March 2018

HORIZONS

The Magazine of the Aberdeen Boat Club



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ABC Golf Society Calendar 2018

Friday, 9 March	Kau Sai Chau North	(Walking course with multi clubs invitational)
Friday, 20 April	Deep Water Bay	(ABC only – net score on handicap club competition)
Friday, 25 May	Deep Water Bay	(ABC only – net score on handicap club competition)
Friday, 22 June	Kau Sai Chau South	(Invitational Challenge ABC Vs HKCC team Stableford)
Monday, 27 August	Deep Water Bay	(ABC Vs HK Seniors – the revenge)
Friday, 21 September	Kau Sai Chau South	(ABC only – net score on handicap club competition)
Friday, 16 November	Deep Water Bay	(Invitation Commodore's Cup Challenge ABC Vs RHKYC and others team Stableford)
Friday, 7 December	Kau Sai Chau East	(Join WAGS for Annual Charity Day team scramble)

Please mark down in your diary!
For reservation, please email gmpa@abclubhk.com





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Horizons welcomes ABC member contributions of articles and photos.
Please contact the editor at martin@drmartinwilliams.com



COMMODORE'S LETTER



Chris Pooley
Commodore

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself (Josh Billings, 1919).

The Dog: mankind's oldest friend; first domesticated in China, according to fossil evidence, around 5500 B.C. Thus two appropriate sentiments at the start of this Zodiacal Cycle, to fan the hope that this canine warmth will be reflected in good fortune for each one of us!

Looking through a range of predictions for the Year (basically, there are two types, lucky or wrong!), it seems we could face a series of Ups and Downs; good and frustrating times; happy and exhausting periods. A bit like any other year really. Two fairly constant themes: success in the year will go to those who choose honesty and fairness; and Dog years are not conducive to waste or unnecessary expenses. Which add up to a reasonable description of ABC's ethos. And indeed a recipe for life itself!

As these words are typed, another cold spell has struck, and looks set to extend to the 4 Peaks weekend, as is normally to be expected. Results will be known by the time this edition goes to print and prizes awarded. But in reality, there are no losers in this exceptional event: it's the experience that counts.

The Volvo fleet will also have left on their next leg. The Village proved a very attractive venue, crowded with the general public at weekends and school parties on weekdays. ABC's stack of brochures disappeared at a fast clip, and the 29'er on display attracted a lot of attention, not least from the CE. A great effort by HKSF supported by RHKYC, HHYC and of course ABC – to promote sailing to the wider community.

Elsewhere in the magazine you will read about: further bureaucratic delays to the enhanced water supply, and completion of re-wiring at M.I; and the increase in mooring fees following the extensive renovation last year.

Looking ahead: A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for 22 March, to update members on the Middle Island development: and Easter, early this year, will soon be upon us. Look out for announcements of F&B events and, it is whispered, a return of the Sailing Gala.

With Spring in mind, I wish you all a warm start to the Year of the Dog.

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 fmb@abclubhk.com
Rental of speedboats, banana boats and water ski may be arranged via Freely Marine Services at 9276 2932.

Night-time: 6 pm – 11 pm
Daytime: 9am – 5pm
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



GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER



Philippe de Manny
General Manager

CORRECTION REGARDING ARTICLE CREDIT; APOLOGIES TO IAN SKEGGS

In the last issue of *Horizons*, we credited the article "Two Memorable Passages, and In Praise of the Philippine Coastguard" to Steve Perret. We sincerely apologise to all of you – but in particular to Ian Skeggs, who is the actual author of the article. Let's hope such a mistake does not happen again.

CRUISING NOTICE ABOUT PO TOI CLOSURE DATES

As many of you love to go to Po Toi on weekends for the excellent seafood, we need to pass on to you the following notice from Ming Kee Seafood Restaurant on the island:

"Please be informed that our restaurant will be temporarily closed for Chinese New Year from 12 February, re-opening on 8 March 2018.

Also please note that "Tai Ping Ching Chiu" will be held from 2–5 March on Po Toi. This festival is held every three years, and asks the gods' blessings for comfort and confidence for families. Only vegetarian food will be served there (Ming Kee will be closed during the festival). Also, you can enjoy Chinese Opera performances during the festival.

Kung Hei Fat Choi!"

LOCKERS IN PLACE, CAR PARKS RENUMBERED

The relocation of lockers and renumbering of all car parks have been 90% completed; after two years of negotiations, as you may know if you read the previous articles on the issues. We are now waiting for the government's visit and approval of the work done.

There will be soon a second motorbike area, as the number of bikers in our Club has mushroomed recently and the 8 spaces previously allocated for that purpose are not sufficient. There is one car space near the end of the lower parking that is

very impractical to park anything bigger than a Mini Cooper (the old version), and this will be re-assigned for motorbikes.

The lockers are now properly back in place and in use. Please do not leave anything outside the lockers or it will be removed, and do not store anything dangerous in them. There is a notice from the government on the door at the entrance to the sail lockers; read and comply with it; or if the club is found breaching government law through your negligence we will be sanctioned, and may even lose the lockers facility.

NEW-FANGLED CAR PARKING SYSTEM?

In order to improve the car parking system, we have been using for years, we are now getting quotes for an electronic car parking system with plate number recognition. It is rather expensive, but considering the printing of the parking labels, part of the yearly security cost and the difficulty in using parking labels to park, this new system is certainly worth investigating.

As to what the system will do: once your car number is registered with us, the electronic system will recognise your car and open the gate (no more need for labels). If your car is not registered, you will have to register it or park somewhere else; this will apply to guest parking.

The benefits of such technology for you are that first, there will be no need to renew your label every year, no need to move the label from one car to another to enable access, and no more questioning from or unnecessary arguments with our security. The Club will benefit through far better control of who is in and for how long; no more cars escaping our control. There will be a different way of charging per hour and per usage; so if you park and use the Club the fee will be lower than if you park and go somewhere else like next door or to work; the latter two will be expensive of course.



GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER

As we are still investigating this new technology, if you are aware of, knowledgeable about similar systems, please do approach me and share your experience and knowledge.

TWO CHILLERS REPLACED

On 6 February, we received our new chiller for the air conditioning system; and as you can see from the picture it was quite a spectacle to witness the 10-tonne pieces of equipment being lifted onto the top of our fourth floor roof.



For your information, we have three chillers on the roof to produce sufficient cool air in summer. They are all connected to one another, working in parallel for efficient usage. That is to say that we usually operate with one, but if the demand for cool air increases in the Club, the second one quickly steps in, and the third one thereafter if there is extreme pressure on the system or if one fails. They are all

inspected on a bi-monthly basis, and replaced every 8 years if necessary, as recommended on paper. The one we have just replaced was 10 years old and was the last of the old generation chillers. The new ones are now much more energy efficient and supposed to have a much longer life span; experience will tell.

MIDDLE ISLAND POWERED UP BUT PIPE REQUIRED

First some good news: The power of MI has been upgraded to 440 amps.

Now, back to the Panadol Files. Before moving onto a restaurant licence application for MI, Knight Frank has applied for approval for a lease agreement between the Club and RHKYC, for installing our new water pipe and WSD meter. This process started six months ago, and the Lands Department came back (as usual) asking for more survey work before they can consider the request involving 100m by 50cm of land. The request is about assessing if the work to install our new pipe will affect the level of high water mark at the shoreline along the proposed water pipe; and to delineate the high water mark on a plan. Keep watching this space: I hope this will not be another

issue that drags on for years.

TENDER AT THE MAIN PONTOON

There are sometimes too many tenders parking at the main clubhouse pontoon, creating tension with our neighbour, and occasional access and safety issues. A meeting in the form of a forum, with most stakeholders, took place on 22 January to assess and understand everyone's views. The increasing number of tenders, dinghies and RIBs used by Club members frequenting Aberdeen harbour has resulted in repeated congestion of the main clubhouse pontoon. The congestion causes potential issues in terms of safety, property damage, restricted access for ABC working vessels, and ensuing complaints from members and staff of the AMC. The Committee will soon come up with a set of guidelines to avoid conflicts and issues, emphasising a self-policing principle. More to come in the following months.

The ABC supported *Dongfeng*, a People's Republic of China entry in the recent Volvo Ocean Race, while it was in Hong Kong. We provided a support RIB on 27 January for the in-port race, 28 January for the round-the-island race, and on 7 February for the big departure from Hong Kong. *Dongfeng* finished second in the round-the-island race, which was a very entertaining and interesting race to follow on the large screen at the festival (*see article on page 8-11*). If you missed it, hopefully next time the Volvo Ocean Race comes to Hong Kong you will enjoy seeing these Formula One yachts of the seas, and the accompanying festival.

50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK PRODUCTION

On 16 January, 1800 copies of the 50th Anniversary book were delivered to the Club, so are ready to pass to members, each of whom will get the 1st copy free, with each additional copy HK\$550.

Don't forget to ask for your well-deserved copy, if by any bad luck my staff in the Food and Beverage outlet omit to offer it to you.

There are another 200 copies to be sent to those who have contributed to the book production – such as the interviewees, reciprocal clubs, and some Hong Kong top officials who have been involved with some of the Club projects.

If you have not received yours yet, it's probably because you have not yet been in the Club, so on your next visit make sure you ask for your copy.

CALLING FOR ARTICLES, PHOTOS, YARNS BY SEA SALTS OLD AND YOUNG

We are a little short of writers these days – so please if you wish to rant, praise or share anything about the Club, the boating in general or have a great story please send it to me (and yes, we will strive to correctly credit contributors, for lasting fame, glory, adulation; or at least the Club's appreciation). Below are the deadlines for submit your article and high resolution picture if any:

- Apr 2018 material by 5 Mar
- May 2018 material by 4 Apr
- Jun 2018 material by 4 May
- Jul-Aug 2018 material by 4 Jun
- Sep 2018 material by 3 Aug
- Oct 2018 material by 4 Sep
- Nov 2018 material by 4 Oct
- Dec 2018 material by 5 Nov



STAFF PARTY

Please note that the staff party will take place this year on Monday 5 March. The Club will close at 3pm after lunch, and resume normal operation the next morning (with many Panadol gulped down by our staff).

SOCIAL LIFE IN THE CLUB

On 19 January, the Club held its first cigar night, on “The Deck” away from everyone else, and it proved to be a real success. Delicious food, perfect weather and a wonderful atmosphere ... to such an extent that the evening went on well beyond the expected time.

The day did not start so well, as in the morning, the rain was lashing on Hong Kong, but it suddenly stopped in the late afternoon, just in time to welcome members, and we were blessed with a beautiful night.

The evening was one of “terroir” discoveries, and members had the chance to taste Flor de Selva and Villa Zamorano from Honduras.

Eric Piras, the ABC member whose company Cigraal Ltd is the exclusive agent for these brands, was here to give a bit of background on the cigars to the delighted members and their guests.

Some of our members are real aficionados and were very enthusiastic in their discovery of these brands from the ‘New World’ of cigar terroirs, and the ladies were not left behind, being familiar with cigars or trying their first one on the night. The Waglan Bar received comprehensive training on cigars and the brands prior to the event, and were also very keen to recommend their favourites.





RULES REMINDER

WEEKEND TAKEAWAY ORDER REMINDERS

The Club's busy season will start soon. We kindly ask members who wish to take away meals during weekends and public holidays to place their orders well in advance, to ensure timely delivery and avoid disturbing members who are dining in.

When our restaurants are busy, we will not treat any last-minute takeaway order as a priority, and emphasis will be given to dining orders in-house. A takeaway order could take an hour or more to prepare.

Our busiest periods are:

- Saturday lunch: 12 noon until 2 pm
- Sunday and public holidays lunch: 12 noon until 2 pm
- Sunday and public holidays dinner: 5:30 pm until 8 pm

PRIVATE PERSONNEL RULE

We remind you that no private or personal staff may enter any venue of the Club or its premises at any time without the consent of the General Committee, which may delegate the granting of such consent to the General Manager. Only carers for disabled members or their children and guests may be permitted by the General Manager to enter the Club to care for such persons.

Members who are parents are responsible for their children at all times within the Club premises, with the watching over and looking after them that parenting implies. Under no Circumstances may private or personal staff attend to children whilst parents enjoy a drink or a meal in another area of the Club. Should your personal staff member be your guest, as I am often told, you must sign him or her in as a guest at Reception, and he or she must be seen enjoying the Club not as a worker but as a guest, having a meal or a drink. I cannot remember ever asking my guests to take care of my children.

MEMBERS' CHILDREN OVER AGE 21

We remind you that children over age 21 cannot sign on their parents' ABC account, and may enter the Club only as a guest, or join in their own right.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you about our Legacy Program for Children of Associate or Ordinary Members. It allows Members' offspring aged 21 to join the Club in their own right as Associate Members (subject to the usual balloting procedure), and subject to their parent having been an Associate or Ordinary Member of the Club for more than 10 years without interruption. The joining fee is \$15,000. You may download the application form from:
www.abclubhk.com/upload/Membership/2017/Legacy-Mem-Form.pdf



MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND SMART ACCESS CARDS

Members must be prepared to present their membership cards if required, and their smart cards, to access any facilities and outlets. Present your membership card when placing orders for food, beverage and equipment to speed up charging and avoid mistakes.

Membership cards are not transferable. Third-party presentation of membership or smart access cards is not allowed, and will result in the member being subject to disciplinary action by the General Committee.

GUEST POLICY

With the Club becoming busier, I must remind members that the ABC's guest policy is to be strictly followed.

Please be reminded that:

- Four guests per account are allowed in the Clubhouse at any one time (excluding toddlers);
 - Six guests per member account are allowed on Middle Island during weekends and public holidays;
- **Middle Island guests** must be registered at the reception; I also strongly request that members planning to have guests on Middle Island inform us a day in advance, so that logistical issues can be sorted and not faced as you arrive.
- To notify the Club in advance that you will bring guests, simply email info@abclubhk.com with your name and the total number of your guests. This will allow us to plan staff and deploy appropriate transport and greatly improve your experience on Middle Island.

GUEST REGISTRATION

It's important to register your guest at the reception in the main Clubhouse.

Not only is this a Hong Kong government request, it is also a Club rule.

The Home Affairs Bureau requires clubs to give accurate figures on guest /non-members usage, and compliance with the ABC guest check-in rule will make it far easier for us to in turn comply with government requirements.

PARKING & LABELS

As the grace period has ended, please display the 2018 ABC car park label prominently, so that our guard need not stop your car or refuse access.

I remind you of the general regulation on our bye laws' annex two, pages 4 and 5.

Please park your car within the designated space and be considerate of your fellow Club members.



Volvo Ocean Race and Festival in Hong Kong

Words and Photographs by Philippe de Manny and Barry Hill

Aberdeen Boat Club is proud to have supported the Volvo Ocean Race during the first ever stop over in Hong Kong from 17–31 January 2018. A Race Village was established at the Hong Kong Sailing Plaza on the end of the Kai Tak runway site, and all the major sailing clubs and organisations were represented. The event was very well organised and promoted by the Hong Kong Sailing Federation and the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, and

served to showcase the excellent opportunities that are available for sailors in Hong Kong.

The ABC shared a stand with the Discovery Bay Yacht Club, the Hobie Club and the Hong Kong Sailing Federation. Article co-author Philippe de Manny was the main person manning our stand during the two weekends of the festival, and was able to explain the Club facilities and the many boating activities which we provide throughout the year to potential new members and interested visitors.



"I cannot describe how interesting it was to be at the festival and meet so many potential new young sailors and boaters. All were very surprised that they could learn sailing or learn how to drive a boat at the ABC without even being a member. Hence the great usefulness of this wonderful event to welcome the Volvo Ocean Race and spread the message of the many varied aspects of the sport of sailing and boating in general. Congratulations particularly to HKSF Johan Leven for his great communication and dynamism in bringing all the clubs together at the festival."

Philippe de Manny

In addition to the actual race the Volvo Ocean Race includes a Sustainability Education Programme. The world's most extreme race is putting sustainability at its heart and is focusing on taking action to 'Turn the Tide on Plastic'; the rapidly growing and critical problem of plastic pollution in the ocean, highlighted by the United Nations Clean Seas campaign. The Volvo Ocean Race supports this much-needed campaign, through its sustainability team, education

programme and positive actions.

The programme helps students aged 6 to 12 years to discover the excitement of sailing through the Volvo Ocean Race, the importance of the ocean and how ocean plastic pollution is damaging our planet. It also shows ways to combat ocean plastic pollution and how students can make a difference by becoming Volvo Ocean Race Champions for the Sea. In its own small way, the ABC contributes to this international effort by organising and

promoting beach cleanups and other environmentally friendly activities in Hong Kong.

The Volvo Ocean Race is often described as the longest and toughest professional sporting event in the world, and certainly sailing's toughest team challenge. The Race is an obsession, and many of the world's best sailors have dedicated years and even decades of their lives trying to win it. The race sits, just as it always has, at the intersection of human adventure, and world-class competition.

Thanks to the work of the Onboard Reporters embedded with every team, fans are given a unique insight into just what it takes to win a race that is relentless in its demands as teams give everything they have, 24 hours a day, in pursuit of the tiny advantages that can make all the difference.





VOLVO OCEAN RACE

There is no prize money for the winners, but seeing your name etched into one of the silver rings of the Volvo Ocean Race Trophy is a prize beyond comparison for sailors who grew up with dreams of emulating the legends of the race.

The 2017-2018 version of the Race comprises the following:

- At 45,000nm, this is the longest course in the history of the race (previous longest racecourse was 39,270nm in 2011-12);
- It features almost three times as much Southern Ocean racing, around 12,500nm, as in recent editions;
- It will cross four oceans and take in 12 major cities: Alicante, Lisbon, Cape Town, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Auckland, Itajaí, Newport RI, Cardiff, Gothenburg and The Hague; and
- The Race started on 22 October 2017 in Alicante, Spain and will finish eight months later in The Hague, Netherlands.

As we write, the crews are preparing to depart to Auckland in the 6,100 nm Leg 6 on 7 February, but the In Port Racing in the harbour and around Hong Kong Island provided spectators with good opportunities to see the boats in action at close quarters. In addition, festival goers could watch the progress of both races on a giant screen.

The Hong Kong boat *Sun Hung Kai Scallywag*, fresh from a magnificent tactical win in the 5,600nm leg from Melbourne to Hong Kong, finished third in the round-the-island race on 28 January. ABC supported the Chinese boat *Dongfeng* race team while in Hong Kong, by providing a support boat for the Harbour In-Port



Race and the round-the-island race. *Dongfeng's* combined results for the two In-Port races placed her top of the leaderboard for the Hong Kong Series. *Dongfeng* is also second to MAPFRE in the overall positions for the 4 legs completed so far.

The Volvo Ocean Race was a first for Hong Kong and given the success of all the arrangements it is hoped they will return for the next edition, to enjoy the camaraderie and fun of the festival that follows them all over the world.







Cardinal Puff and the Marks

By Ian A. Skeggs

I was recently reminded of an old drinking game called Cardinal Puff. Many of you will have played it.

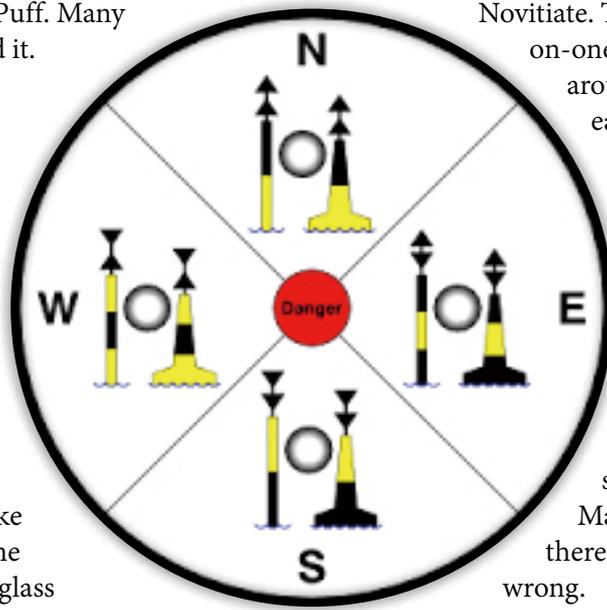
This game is best played with a small group, and each participant must be very observant and alert at all times. The Cardinal demonstrates a Litany to the Novitiate. Perhaps once at moderately fast speed, then a second time at "normal" speed.

The Novitiate attempts to replicate the Litany. If the Novitiate makes a mistake at any time, he must consume the remaining contents of a glass

of alcoholic beverage and remains, sadly, a Novitiate. The Cardinal can do this one-on-one, or on a group basis, going around the table and letting each person in turn make an attempt, with everybody observing the others' mistakes.

The point is: if you get it wrong there is a penalty. The more penalties you get, the more you are likely to get.

What has this to do with sailing? Well, a Cardinal Mark points out a danger, and there is a penalty if you get it wrong.



These are the Marks and they should be well noted.

And this is the result if you get it wrong!!!



Safe Sailing!!

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- Ensuite bathrooms
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SCDC PHOTO COMPETITION

SCDC Photo Competition

By Christopher Dillon



Category: Macro
Winner: Mike Belshaw



Category: Reef Scapes
Winner: Cathryn Chu

In October 2017, 19 members of the South China Diving Club—the friendly folks who meet on Thursday nights in the Waglan Bar—spent a week on Christmas Island, an Australian territory one hour south of Jakarta.

In addition to spectacular diving, Christmas Island provided the backdrop for a photo competition. There were seven categories, and each entrant could submit up to three photos, which were rated on technical merit, composition and impact.

The competition was judged by Club members Andy Niven, Andy Eastwood and Louise Ng, who did not join the expedition.

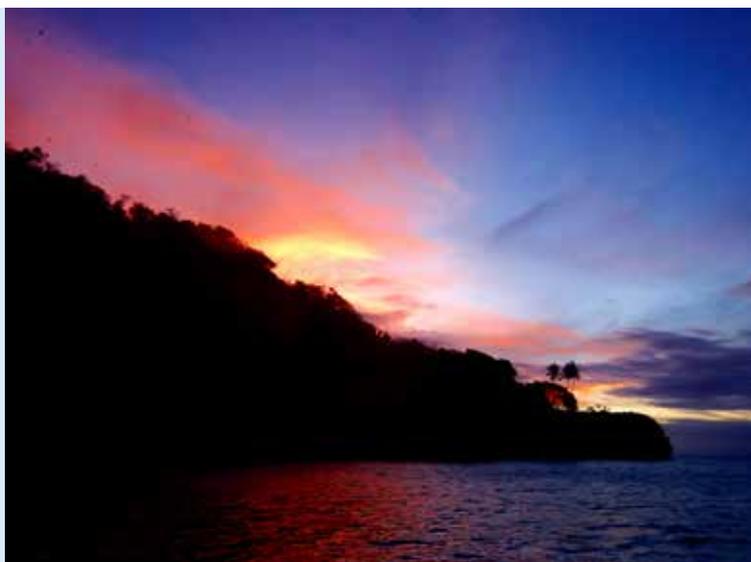
For more on the Christmas Island trip, see Rob Christie's article in the November 2017 edition of *Horizons*, which is available on the ABC website.



Category: Wide Angle
Winner: Cathryn Chu



Category: Funny
Winner: Cathryn Chu



Category: Landscapes
Winner: Maddy Prout



Category: Wildlife topside
Winner: Christopher Dillon



Category: People
Winner: Maddy Prout



YACHT SANDOWAY

Old Sea Dogs Sail on Through Mighty Amihan Voyage Manila to Boracay February 2008

By Chris Pooley



The Log Book which follows records highlights of the eventful race referred to in the caption. The yacht Sandoway is a Sydney 36 , well known to the author from a number of charters .

Royal Cargo

The name refers to the birthplace of the Owner Alan Burrell's Burmese wife Suzie. Burrell was racing on his other yacht RAGS. Sandoway had been chartered on a regular basis to a Dutch Crew who flew annually for a racing and cruising holiday in the Philippines. Chris Pooley was invited aboard as Navigator and general dogsbody along with his friend Dirk van Straalen from Subic. The race organisers offered a Navigator's Log Book prize. This was the winning entry.



All Souls Regatta



YACHT SANDOWAY



Co-ordinated by expatriate Dutchman van Staalen. Four other ageing Dutchmen, led by Skipper Rem Schuijt and all veterans of previous sailing expeditions to the Philippines, sought to escape the rigours of a Dutch winter by cruising the warm and placid waters of the Philippine Archipelago. Hah! Little did they know...

Chris Pooley, having spent three weeks freezing in Hong Kong's longest cold spell on record, was similarly persuaded to join a jolly warm water race amongst balmy tropical islands. Hah! Ditto...

Vincent Antipasado should have known better – but at least he was being paid!

Meeting in the convivial surroundings of the Manila Yacht Club, all looked set for a fine, breezy in parts, run South; although the forecast winds of 6-8kts for Verde Island Passage seemed a little disappointing. Hah! Again.

Quick arithmetic on the back of a beer mat gave a combined age for the 6 amateurs on board of 362 years, for an average age of 60. Truly a geriatric crew, though the age burden dropped to an average 55.4 years if the professional Vincent's 26 years was factored in.

New acquaintanceships were cemented over many beers and much more that evening in M.Y.C and elsewhere...

So all looked set for a fine race to come, blessed by a full moon too.



Race Crew

Rem Schuijt (Skipper)	Age 59 (N)
Rob Koper	Age 62 (N)
Henk Plaatje	Age 61 (N)
Peter Bunschoten	Age 58 (N)
Dirk van Straalen	Age 61 (N)
Vincent Antipasado	Age 26 (P)
Chris Pooley	Age 61 (E)

N = Netherlands

P = Philippines

E = England

LOG OF THE RACE

Wednesday 20 February, 2008

A gloomy outlook, grey, drizzle, light winds but an active scene at M.Y.C. readying boats: victuals to stow, beer to pack on ice, a fortifying lunch for all. Thus, eager to set off early to the start line, some distance away in the Bay. The sea was glassy, the sky grey, the air damp, the conversation lively. Main up; despite the glassy sea's overall appearance there were patches of ripples driven, unusually, by light airs from the Northwest (should be steady NE).

Under main and no. 1 Genoa we were able to 'ghost' around and along the wide open start line. Then, at 14:00, we were off. A good start mid-line on starboard tack; what little wind there was helping us along on the course required to make San Nicholas, flip-flopping from WNW-NW.

We managed to keep to the North, giving a favourable edge over those drifting inshore towards Cavite. A little cool perhaps, and damp, but never mind – we were on our way to the balmy South, albeit slowly. From 14:30, the spinnaker began to help but still we flip-flopped at 1, 2, 3 knots with a few tacks forcing unwanted directions upon us.

Hooray! - 5 knots achieved for the first time at 15:00 with the wind still, oddly, from the NW. Gradually the drizzle fizzled out, leaving grey skies, high cloud and yielding excellent visibility, with

Corregidor standing out clearly in the far distance as our course guide.

Old hands sagely forecast, correctly, that the wind would gradually veer; as indeed it did. By 16:45, with San Nicholas abeam to port, it was blowing from the North. We chortled along gathering speed: 6, 7, 8 knots as the wind increased to force 4 then 5 from the North, no it had veered a touch East of North. Old hands delighted at their forecasting skills and knowledge of local conditions, secure in the belief we were in for a smooth steady ride South, though worried by the prospect of the 'hole' once past Calapan. Hah!

17:45: Drum Island far off on the port beam, as we elected to stay well out to sea for the run down the Luzon coast.

18:30: Gybed on to port tack, as the wind veered further to NNE-NE at Force 5. Now we were rattling along – 9, 10 knots, with the wind increasing to Force 6 and veering further to ENE. Gusts through the mountain ranges pushed the apparent wind up to 20-25 knots. Exhilarating; speed reached 10-12 knots (later, the GPS revealed a top speed of 13.2 knots, notwithstanding the adverse flood tide). Jackets went on; it was cool in the wind but still dry at this stage. Joyous sailing, but the geriatrics could handle it.

Then: Whoosh a gust too strong, a broach; unable to 'dump' the main as it was already at the sheet's extent. The spinnaker sheet was let fly; still we rounded, giving the boom a thorough washing, before we could resume course with the kite flying from the mast head and both sheet and guy flailing from it. So we went 'fishing' in the sky, with the spinnaker held by the halyard and eventually securing a handhold which enabled all hands to haul it down.

Still we flew on, under main alone, at 9 knots. No damage to the kite, but one set of guy and sheet lost. Up went the No. 3 for a gain of another 1 to 1.5 knots. The wind was now gusting regularly to Force 7, until with Fortune Island at 20:30 abeam to starboard, in went the main's single, and only reef. No change in speed but easier on the helm and gear.

On we went, and on went more layers as the temperature fell, worsened by wind chill; and drizzle, then steady rain, set in. Wind on the port, beam ENE, yielding an apparent 21-28 knots, flicking up to 32 from time to time.

Ageing knees over the windward rail, sodden torsos facing the wind, mouths chomping on wet

ham sandwiches. Aren't we having fun? Ah, the tropics.

At 23:30 standing well clear of the reef (thanks to van Straalen's experience in finding it on a previous voyage!) we passed San Tiago to port, rounding course gradually from 175 to 130 degrees close hauled, on port tack. The wind backed to NE, again delighting the expert forecasters. The moon peeped through, but the rain persisted as we commenced the transit of Verde Island Passage, looking as though we faced a battering to its Eastern end.

Really cold now, we stood on, bumping and bashing our way against wind and sea in driving rain. The boat's movements reminded the author of the time his car left the road in icy conditions and careered out of control bumping over a frozen ploughed field.

Thursday 21 February, 2008

Progress was surprisingly good; Maricaban Island hove in sight to port, showing through in ghostly luminosity; steadily the course lifted. At 01:00 some distracting activity: van Straalen's supper went over the leeward side! No words; just the act, then back to his bunk.

Still the course lifted, with Mericaban abeam we pointed 110 degrees, occasionally 105 degrees, the helm determinedly gritting his teeth. The mixture of rain and spray made for a totally WET ambiance, chilled of course by the wind, with no cheer from the wine being impossible to open in the conditions even if the corkscrew could be found. North Sea conditions to make the Dutch feel at home, one would have thought, yet they were asking themselves why they had to spend on airfares to enjoy it. In reality the conditions were a gift from China, as their harshest winter weather in 50 years extended its hand across the China Sea to the 'enchanted archipelago', in the form of the enhanced Amihan.

By standing on, and avoiding the tack until we could hear the surf as well as see it on white beach to starboard at 03:00 we first passed then drew astern, *Vivaldi* (earlier naughtily attempting to pass us in the dark), then yachts Challenge and Selina Star. Revenge for the latter two came later.

Fun on the tack; the lazy sheet had detached itself from the headsail which became a wildly trashing thing, reined in eventually by bruised arms and legs. So, on starboard tack we made our way North in calmer sea towards Minoli Point, leaving this to starboard at 04:00.



YACHT SANDOWAY

04:00: Back on port tack, still reefed, with No. 3 headsail, for the passage past Verde Island (to port of course) towards Calapan. This was reached on one tack until at 07:30 we had to tack out to make the rhomb line South.

Breakfast in the rain – wet corned beef sandwiches, but no singing. The wind again ENE, just as strong. Yet it was a bit brighter, bright enough to encourage us to use the narrow passage between Silonay Island and, 08:30, Calapan Point. A bit tricky, swirling currents, but the wind eased so we helped ourselves to a second round of sandwiches.

Cheered up more by an SMS from RAGS, describing their retirement in the descriptive, surely to be immortal phase from the ageing skipper: “I’m too old, it’s too cold and too wet!”

Plenty of wind, no hole, what had we been worried about? The wind did not so much wane as steady, so the reef came out and down the coast we went, towards Dumali Point having gained probably 30 minutes on *Challenge* and *Selina Star* thanks to the Silonay Passage. But where was *Vivaldi*?

NOON: Dumali Point to starboard, course rounded to 165 degrees on port tack. Time to chance the kite again, using only a single guy and sheet precluding a gybe without dropping. In the event any prospect of a gybe was precluded by unobliging gusts to 27 knots apparent, resulting in a series of splendid broaches until common sense prevailed and the No. 3 again replaced the spinnaker at 16:00, with Maestre de Campo on the port quarter.

After this the Tablas Strait passage was relatively straightforward: wind Easterly Force 5, gusting 6, easing to 4, at which point with the apparent wind around 14 knots the No.1 Genoa was hoisted. *Challenge* and *Selina Star* were still astern, their kites at first flying, later dropped.

18:00: More ham and cheese sandwiches, and a beer or two, as the sun set, revealing itself for the first time in the race.

At this point, complacency or perhaps geriatric stupor set in, as we metaphorically ‘took our feet off the pedals’ and contented ourselves with 7-9 knots under the Genoa instead of the 9-11 knots the kite would have given us in the apparent winds of 15, gusting 20 knots.

Not so *Challenge* and *Selina Star*, which steadily overhauled us until, too late, at 20:30 or so the wind picked up again and we accelerated past Caraboa

Island to port and on towards Boracay and its outlying reef. Despite the Easterly wind we seemed to have drifted, set – presumably – East, and had to counter the effect by steering out downwind to clear the reef, not helped by a malfunctioning GPS and an elusive waypoint. So why not follow *Selina Star*? Which we did!

The wind freshened off Boracay but we had the right rig and so roared on, reaching 11 knots again. Blast! The depth sounder shut down; just as well we had *Selina Star* ahead.

Then, joy! The flashing green light of the turning mark, just as the Sailing Instructions promised, was sighted.

The wind freshened more, the crew prepared for the ‘hardening up’ to come with the rounding. And round we went at 22:20, up into the roaring wind and on to the finish line close-hauled, pinching without loss of speed, on port tack. Pinching more but still making 8 knots in the strong wind we almost made the line in one.

So with a final rapid tack, we flicked over on starboard at the buoy end at 22:38 by watches on board, but 22:40 by official reckoning hard astern of *Selina Star*. What difference is 2 minutes in this race? None; none at all: we’d done it, finished in a creditable time with no injuries, minimal damage and ‘wintry’ memories, yet warm feelings.

On to the anchorage.

Beer first, followed by Aged whisky, Aged Dutch Gouda Cheese, and Aged jokes from the Aged Dutch crew and companions. Only at this point was it revealed that the skipper’s name REM SCHUIJT translates directly in English as “BREAK SHIP!” Fortunately we didn’t, so safely moored in Boracay at a respectable hour the Geriatrics drank on....

Though we didn’t win our class, might we perhaps claim victory in the GERIATRIC category?

A memorable race, best summed up in the words of Alan Burnell (skipper of the retired RAGS): “Too old, too cold, too wet”; as our happy crew relaxed at last in (relatively) calm Boracay....

I verily declare this LOG to be a true account of our race:

CHRIS POOLEY, NAVIGATOR

REM SCHUIJT, SKIPPER



Surprise Wind Increase Fails to Faze Racers

Waglan Series 2107- 18 # Race 8: Islands Course, 21 January

By Alex Johnston

The races started in Repulse Bay, by Round Island, and covered Course # 15 – ABC SSI 2017 – June edition. The IRC race headed to the Tai Tam mark and then TCS2. The HKPN Combined raced sailed around Beaufort and back. The RO was Alex Johnston; Jennifer Li and Dai Fuk were the AROs.

While the wind was initially Force 3- 4, it increased to Force 5 to 6 during the race – which had not been in any forecasts. There was a 1.5m swell, and the tide was on the flood until 13:10 hrs.

Though 24 boats had been entered, only 14 started, and they all finished. The race start was scheduled for 11:00 hrs; the IRC race got underway at 11:05 hrs, while yachtsmen's code fans may be interested to note HKPN A + B + J 80.

The IRC race winner among 12 starters was *Lighthouse Alpha*. *Diamond Queen* came first of the three boats in HKPN A; and *Generations* finished first of four in HKPN B.

Post race, MSM did PG at the main Club, which was well attended.





VALENTINE PURSUIT RACE 2018

Valentine Pursuit Race – incorporating Ladies Helm

By Jennifer Li, Assistant Marine and Sailing Manager

It is always said that the ladies' feelings are fickle, therefore just as well the wind should be fickle on the day of the Valentine Pursuit Race which incorporates the Ladies Helm race.

When the Committee boat first arrived at the start area, there was next to no wind, there were mirror patches! It wasn't enough to start a race and that the start might have to be delayed.

Initially as we were setting the course, the wind was from the North approximately, five knots, however, there was a major shift to the South fifteen minutes before the start and another last minute change to the West just as we were going into sequence, requiring some swift relocation of the marks. Fortunately, the wind direction settled down to allow all the boats to start.

Five boats entered this race which included two new boat entries, *Early Bird* and *Boss*. As this is a pursuit race, boats start according to their HKPN rating and race to chase each other in hope to take over preceding boats. The first boat - *Five O One* helmed by Natalie Berry started at 10:50, followed by *Early Bird* helmed by Chan Yee Yan, Kat, *Legend* - helmed by Cecile Martin, *Boss* - helmed by Agnes Chong, finally, *Jarrah* - helmed by Elaine Morgan.

Course No.14B was selected which took the boats around Beaufort Island, followed by Castle





Rock, Tai Tam Club Mark and Chesterman Buoy before the finish.

After the race started, the wind decided to stay and build strength, this provided an exciting turn of events, as *Legend* helmed by Cecile Martin over took the other boats, it speeded through Beaufort Channel, and roared towards Tai Tam Club mark, before taking line honours and first place of the race.

Jarrah, due to her HKPN rating, had a twenty five minute wait from the first boat starting. But no fear, as the boat was helmed by Elaine Morgan who skillfully sailed the boat, over took 3 boats and crossed the finish line in second place.

Third place was taken by new entry - *Early Bird* helmed by Chan Yee Yan, Kat. It was nice to see a new boat racing with ABC and hopefully they will be back again for our other events.

We would like to thank the ladies and their crew for joining us for the Valentine Pursuit Race and we look forwards to seeing them join us in our next Ladies Helm race and our other future sailing events. Please visit our website for event dates and more information.



ARA's 2018 29er Team

By Michele Clark

The Zhik Hong Kong 29er World Championship got underway with the Opening Ceremony at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's main Clubhouse on Kellett Island on the 2nd January. A traditional lion dance enthralled the 58 teams from 11 countries including Australia, Canada, France, Great Britain, US Virgin Islands, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Slovenia, USA and Hong Kong.

ARA had 7 teams competing, the Academy also welcomed a new team from Canada, Henrick and Josh who spent the week training and racing alongside the Academy.

Our Optimist team had a well earned break over the Christmas period. The New Year saw the team get straight back into training with their first work out at Strive fitness on Saturday morning.

Training is now underway for the next big event - Hong Kong Race Week, both our Optimist and 29er teams will be competing. Our new Optimist team members will also have the opportunity to compete in Green fleet.

Please keep checking our facebook page for updates. <https://www.facebook.com/aberdeenracingacademy>.



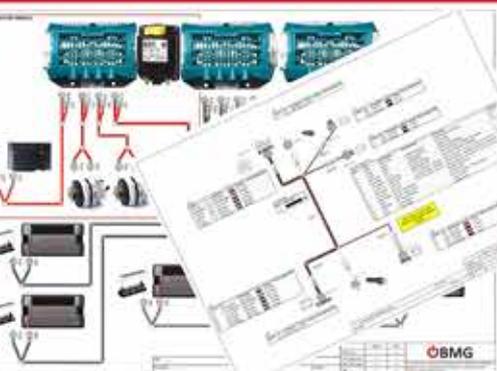
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F&B PROMOTION



March F&B Promotions

**Modern Mediterranean Flavours at
The Galley & The Patio**

**New Spring Dishes at
The Four Peaks Restaurant**

**Winter Wonder-Warmer:
MIDDLE ISLAND HOT POT**

Catering to new demand and the fantastic weather, Middle Island will have a set hot pot available every weekend.

This will have an attractive price, starting at only HK\$199 per set (HK\$66per person) until late March.



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會



White:
Wente Morning Fog
Chardonnay, 2016
HK\$210/btl & HK\$45/gls

Tasting notes: Flavours of green apple, tropical fruits, subtle oak on nose, balanced acidity with medium-long, refreshing finish.



Red:
Wente Southern Hills
Cabernet Sauvignon, 2014
HK\$210/btl & HK\$45/gls

Tasting notes: Ripe black cherry, juicy red plum on nose, mouth-filling tannins, rich full-bodied with long smooth finish.

Wine of the Month
Wente Vineyards, Livermore Valley, California



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會

Beer of the Month

Carlsberg
Carlsberg Smooth
Draught, Pale Lager
(325ml)
HK\$29/btl

*Tasting notes:
Crisp, light and smooth.*



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會



Cocktails of the Month:

**Coconut & Lychee
Tropical Sidecar**
HK\$45 (Alcoholic),
HK\$32 (Non-Alcoholic)
- Cognac, coconut, lychee

It's About Thyme
HK\$45 (Alcoholic),
HK\$32 (Non-Alcoholic)
- Bourbon, honey, lemon,
thyme sprig



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會

ASEAN 6 & MONGOLIAN NIGHT with free wine tasting for home delivery

Date: Saturday, 10 March

Time: 7pm Venue: The Galley & Pati

Price: HK\$289 for adults, HK\$229 for senior
citizens, HK\$189 for children under 12 years

Back by popular demand!

Indulge your senses with selected delicacies
from six ASEAN countries: Indonesia, Malaysia,
Philippines, Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam;
plus grilled premium Lamb from
mystic Mongolia!!

This night is surely not to be missed.



F&B PROMOTION

Clash of the Titans: Bordeaux vs Burgundy

Date: Friday, 16 March

Time: 7pm – 8:30pm

Venue: The Waglan Bar & The Sun Deck

This event is by invitation,
and on a first come, first served basis.
Please email Robin at fnb@abclubhk.com
to be included in the VIP invite list for this
and other exclusive events!



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會

Delhi-Chennai Express Night with

***Free-Flow Carlsberg Canned Beer!
(Rescheduled)**

Date: Saturday, 23 March

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Galley & The Patio

Price: HK\$227 for adults,

HK\$127 for children aged 3–12 years,

HK\$187 for senior citizens.

Add only HK\$39 for free-flow Carlsberg canned
beer from 7pm-9pm.

A night with savoury delights from north to
south India, featuring authentic dishes! There
will be a pani puri & dosa station, with the
ever popular, extra long buffet spread.



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會

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

Happy Easter Specials

Good Friday, 30th March

Seafood BBQ Gala with LIVE BOSTON LOBSTER!

*Half a Lobster for each paying adult member!

The Galley & The Patio, 7pm

Fabulous range of seafood on the grill including mussels, bay prawns, Alaska crab legs, whelks, clams, scallops, trout, salmon with sides of steamed vegetables and sweet potatoes.

Adult: **HK\$398 only**

Concessionary price for member over 65 years of age: **HK\$328**

Children aged 3-12 years: **HK\$228**

Saturday, 31st March

Lamb on a Spit

The Patio, 7pm

Roast lamb accompanied by fantastic choice of vegetables, pasta, curries, salads and savoury desserts.

Adult: **HK\$259 only**

Concessionary price for members over 65 years of age: **HK\$209**

Children aged 3-12 years: **HK\$159**

Complimentary wine tasting for home delivery.

Easter Sunday, 1st April

Early-Bird Breakfast Buffet

The Patio, 7:30am – 11am

Adults: **HK\$78**

Children aged 3-12 years: **HK\$58**

Easter Egg-Hunt

Children's Playground, 11am-11:30am

An egg-citing Easter Egg Hunt will take place at the Children's Playground

Children aged up to 10 years: **HK\$35**

Easter Sunday, 1st April

Easter Brunch & Delectable Dessert Buffet

The Galley & The Patio, 12pm – 3pm

Enjoy your choices from freshly prepared buffet offerings of salads; hot cross buns; ham and marinated roast lamb; barbecued sirloin steak, satays and sausage varieties; entrées including shepherd's pie, squid ink pasta with prawns, pizza and spaghetti Bolognese, stews; grilled Mediterranean vegetables and corn on the cob; and admire and sample the delights of the dessert show from our talented team of pastry chefs – ranging from fresh fruit to carrot cake and chocolate cake, mango pudding, cupcakes & beautifully decorated cakes.

Adults: **HK\$287**

Concessionary price for members over 65: **HK\$227**

Children aged 3-12 years: **HK\$187**

Add **HK\$70** for free-flow of sparkling wine and Carlsberg canned beer.

Family Egg Race at Middle Island

3pm, Children aged up to 10 years: **HK\$35**

To reserve for your family and friends, call reception at 25528182 or email booking@abclubhk.com

Home Wine Delivery March 2018

Free Wine Tasting (Saturday, 10 March) 6:30pm – 8:30pm

SPARKLING	\$/Bottle	Qty	Amount
Villalta Prosecco Vino Spumante Extra Dry DOC – Veneto, Italy A rich scent of apples, lemons and grapefruits. Pronounced aromas of wisteria in bloom and acacia flowers. Pleasantly acid, fresh flavour. Full bodied	HK\$65		
WHITE WINE	\$/Bottle	Qty	Amount
Canaletto Pinot Grigio 2016 (Screw Cap) – Veneto, Italy Lovely floral aroma with fresh fruit flavours on the palate and a rush of citrus acidity, perfectly balanced and totally refreshing. An elegant style of wine.	HK\$72		
Tormaresca Chardonnay Puglia IGT 2016 – Puglia, Italy Light yellow with very bright greenish hues. Fresh notes of white flowers, thyme, orange rind. Fresh and snappy with a sea-salt tinged and fruity aftertaste, Very persistent and pleasurable.	HK\$95		
Domaine Laporte Sancerre Blanc Les Grandmontains 2016 – Loire, France With a golden green reflection, this great wine from the Loire has delicate of citrus and developed scents of flint. In bouche, clean attack without excess leaves room a well-balanced roundness.	HK\$180		
Prunotto Moscato d'Asti DOCG 2017 – Piedmont, Italy (SWEET WINE) A musky nose with additional notes of hawthorn and acacia honey. On the palate it is full, dense, vigorous, and elegant with a fresh, balanced, and pleasurable finish.	HK\$120		
RED WINE	\$/Bottle	Qty	Amount
Paul Jaboulet Cotes du Rhone Parallele 45 2015 – Rhone, France Deep colour with an attractive brilliance. Elegant and aromatic, with red fruits blended with spices. Well-structured on rounded tannins, with a final spicy note.	HK\$98		
Torres Coronas 2015-Catalunya, Spain Opaque, dark cherry red wine. Intensely fruity (blueberries, blackberries) with delicately spicy (juniper) and balsamic notes. Warm on the palate with velvety tannins nicely rounded by oak ageing.	HK\$98		
Casarena Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 – Mendoza, Argentina Aromas of red fruits with light notes of chocolate orange rind. Well structured, with sweet spice and vanilla notes from French oak ageing and soft, finely grained tannins with excellent length.	HK\$120		
Torbreck Woodcutter's Shiraz 2016 – Barossa Valley, Australia Aromas of black plums and blackberries with hints of charcoal, violets, smoked duck and black pepper. Full-bodied with flavours of blackberries, minerals and savoury meat.	HK\$165		
*Minimum order - 12 bottles and mixed case is allowed.			
	Total:		

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2018 ABC Easter Youth Sailing Programme

The Easter school holidays are about the best time to sail with great wind! Easter tends to be our most popular time to sail, and courses quickly become full, especially our Optimist Junior activities, so apply early. As usual full details are on our website, www.abclubhk.com and also from Angela at SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com. We are also offering an “early bird discount” for those who book before **2 March 2018**.

Application Deadline: 23 March 2018

Date & Time	Activity	Detail / Entry requirements	Discounted cost if booked before 2 Mar 2018	HK\$ (Member/ Non-member)
Mon 2 – Fri 6 April AM	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	1,215 / 1,791	1,350 / 1,990
Mon 2 – Fri 6 April PM	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; Pass Optimist Stage 1	1,215 / 1,791	1,350 / 1,990
Mon 2 – Fri 6 April PM	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; Pass Optimist Stage 2	1,215 / 1,791	1,350 / 1,990
Mon 2 – Fri 6 April	HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,655 / 3,582	2,950 / 3,980
Mon 2 – Fri 6 April	HKSF Level 3 Improver Course	Age 11 – 18; Pass HKSF Level 2 with 1 year sailing experience since	2,655 / 3,582	2,950 / 3,980
Mon 2 – Wed 4 April	RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 11 – 18; passed HKSF L2	1,593 / 2,150	1,770 / 2,388
Thur 5 – Fri 6 April	2 Days Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18; passed HKSF L2	1,062 / 1,433	1,180 / 1,592
Sun 8 April	Sailing Trip	Age 12 – Adult; passed HKSF L2	531 / 717	590 / 796

Mon 9 – Fri 13 April AM	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11; can swim with water confidence	1,215 / 1,791	1,350 / 1,990
Mon 9 – Fri 13 April AM	Optimist Stage 4 Race Intro	Age 7 – 11; Pass Optimist Stage 3	1,215 / 1,791	1,350 / 1,990
Mon 9 – Fri 13 April PM	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11; Pass Optimist Stage 1	1,215 / 1,791	1,350 / 1,990
Mon 9 – Fri 13 April PM	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11; Pass Optimist Stage 2	1,215 / 1,791	1,350 / 1,990
Mon 9 – Fri 13 April	HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18; can swim with water confidence	2,655 / 3,582	2,950 / 3,980
Mon 9 – Wed 11 April	Laser 1 Introduction Course	Age 12 – Adult; passed HKSF L2	1,593 / 2,150	1,770 / 2,388
Tue 10 – Fri 13 April	29er Introduction Course	Age 12 – 18; passed HKSF Level 3	2,124 / 2,866	2,360 / 3,184
Thur 12 – Fri 13 April	2 Days Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18; passed HKSF L2	1,062 / 1,433	1,180 / 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)



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ABC 50th 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
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