

## SAILING CALENDAR

		May 2019								
Dates		es	Yachts - ABC	Yacht - Other clubs						
	Sat 4 Sun 5		ABC Classic Yacht Rally		15/5/15/1					
			·							
þ	Sat	11			RHKYC Spring Regatta/ DBYC Lamma Cruise					
	Sun	12	. 10 10		RHKYC Spring Regatta					
9	Mon	13			RHKYC Spring Regatta Resail					
c	Sun	19	ABC Summer Series 1	[29er	1000					
3	Sat	25			RHKYC Summer Cup/					
-	Sun	26		Tong Po Chau Series - Sprin <mark>g</mark> 4 (MI)	Samui Regatta (25 May - 1 Jun)					

			June 2019	-0.5-				
Dates		Yachts - ABC	Dinghy	Yacht - Other clubs				
Sun	2	ABC Summer Series 2						
Fri	7	A	THE WATER	COA Mid Summer Rally				
Sat	8	1/	you keep of the second	COA Mid Summer Rally				
Sun	9		Tong Po Chau Series - Summer 1 (ABC)	COA Mid Summer Rally/ HHYC Typhoon 1				
Sat	15			DBYC Docs Dash/ HHYC Summer Saturday 1				
Sun	16	ABC Summer Series 3						
Sun	23	ABC Crusing Club		HHYC Typhoon 2				
Sat	29			COA HKSAR Day Macau Race/ DBYC Sai Kung Expedition/ HHYC Summer Saturday 2				
Sun	30	ABC Summer Series 4		COA HKSAR Day Macau Race/ DBYC Sai Kung Expedition				













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





Chris Pooley
Commodore

#### THE MERRY MERRY MONTH OF MAY

"When Skies are bright, and hearts are light" are the preceding two lines of Stephen Foster's 1862 song, the title of which has entered into common parlance. Rightly so, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, where in Hong Kong sunset is now measurably later, widening the opportunity for fun afloat.

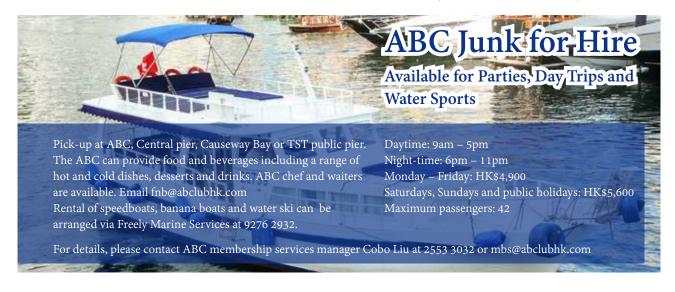
Which leads to the extremely welcome announcement of the Club's purchase order for a new fleet of dinghies, as replacements for those lost in Typhoon Mangkhut. Not just simple replacements but a rejuvenated fleet, with a series of classes designed to foster the progressive development of sailing skills up to international racing standard, from a solid foundation of recreational sailing for all skills. The deployment of this fleet and our expanded facilities will place ABC in the forefront amongst regional dinghy training and racing centres. All of this merits a big vote of thanks to Sailcom and our Marine office for their thorough and dedicated planning analysis. A detailed briefing will be given to Members at a presentation in May, which will further outline our ambitions in this arena.

The opportunities for water sports will be further enhanced by the re-opening of the MI Clubhouse, with a number of improved features alluded to in last month's letter. With the insurance proceeds in the bank, work commenced on 4 April and is now well in hand. The reconstruction design has prioritised the re-opening of the changing rooms, to which access is expected to be available from Mid-May.

Completion and re-opening of the Clubhouse and all facilities is expected by 31 July at the latest with, readers can be assured, due and full celebrations! There will be more news on that in the June edition of *Horizons*, along with photos and a report on the Classic Yacht Rally that will take place as this edition goes to print.

May will also see the start of the Summer Racing Series on Sunday 19th. A merry month indeed....

Meanwhile, members who are curious to learn more about the future of dinghy training, water sports generally and the new facilities under construction on MI sooner rather than later, are best advised to collar Committee members at the bar, where they may easily be persuaded to wax enthusiastically on these welcome subjects....







Philippe de Manny General Manager

Dear Members,

After receiving many messages about the missing Panadol files last month, I have no other option than to get back on my laptop and write a long one for this month's magazine.

Let's start with the magazine headache then. You may have realised last month that if, by any chance, I cannot dedicate the time to writing my share within the period of time allocated by the editing company to provide material, well only 50% of the usual pages are published. This is what happened last month, but once I tell you the reasons you will understand the lack of time.

#### PLEASE HELP WITH ARTICLES, AS REBUILDING BEGINS

This is also calling to beg your assistance in providing material. When I read other clubs' magazines, I can see that many members do actually take part in writing about something. Whether it is their experience in the club, visiting other clubs, talking about their passion or their trips, there is always something from members. So please help me to make the magazine more alive, and send me by the middle of every month something you want to share with other Club members. It could be good or bad, praise or a whinge, against the Manager; everything will be published, a bit like the letter to the editor in the SCMP. So have fun. I am now waiting for your part....

On 4 April, the re-building contract for Middle Island was signed, and the work started the same day. Prior to that, it was hectic with meetings, design, tendering, meetings again, and finally the start. My mind was set on MI rebuilding, not on writing *Horizons*.

As just stated, we have now started to rebuild Middle Island, and the work is expected to be finished on 15 July 2019. Now, as usual, I write

that I expect the date may only be contractual, as I cannot remember finishing any project on time in nearly 30 years of my career. So let's see if I will be wrong this time.

#### WHAT WAS MIDDLE ISLAND LIKE?

After MANGHKUT, you remember that we had nothing left on MI – not even a spoon. It took 4 months to resolve or more precisely unblock the insurance situation. It took one week to find an auditor to review Middle Island operations, and one month to provide a vision for the future, and then 5 months to decide on what boats will be replaced or what fleet will be purchased.

The various roadblocks described a couple of issues ago, the uncertainty about our insurance, the numerous insurance hassles, development and working group meetings and the constant and legitimate queries about Middle Island progress from Members added to the management desperation and stress over this period of time, even making some of us physically and mentally exhausted.

#### WHAT IS HAPPENING?

As a song says, "there ain't no mountain high enough", and we are now finally making progress, and the project is moving as fast as possible to be ready for the next typhoon season.

It took me 2 seconds in October to propose a new service way, with the idea of opening for 6 days and more recreation activities, other than just racing, on offer over there. Yet this is still a very touchy topic amongst leaders and managers, but I shall stand strong on this, as I strongly believe it is necessary at this stage of our large project development to know and understand your response on a week-long opening schedule before it is too late.

You will see practically the same area being



rebuilt, but a completely new look and feel. It will be a place to learn, to race, to unwind, and to be merry every day of the week. The food choice is going to be tremendously different and more varied. The new electricity supply will allow us to have better and more equipment such as woks and combi steamer to cook for you and a – very rare in Hong Kong –outdoor wood burning pizza oven, allowing us to make the best pizzas in Deep Water Bay and probably in the southern district of Hong Kong. For the good old time aficionados, do not worry – you will still have your DIY BBQ, but this time we are moving away from frozen food and you will see a display of top quality fish and meat to cook/burn at will on the newly designed BBQ.

On the sailing side, 20 dinghies that were lost during the typhoon are being replaced as I am writing this article, in order to be back in full strength, and coinciding with the reopening of Middle Island in mid-July.

The Club also took this opportunity to modernise the fleet to be more in line with international pathways for dinghy sailing. We have now ordered 5 racing Optimists, 4 training Optimists, 1 Pico and 3 Laser 1, 3 Feva and 4 Laser 2000, to replace some of the dinghies lost during the typhoon. In addition to these, we are also buying a new fleet of more modern boats to improve sailors' experience and training at the Club. This comprises 6 Tera, 1 Zest, and 4 RS Quest. In the near future, we will increase the modern fleet with 6 more Tera and 2 more RS Quest.

Part of this purchase will be covered by the insurance claim made in October, but all the new fleet will be a new investment for the Club assets and its continued effort to be a prime dinghy sailing centre in Hong Kong, open to all Members and the general public alike.

Finally, many more paddle boards, windsurfers and kayaks are, if not already here, on the way to be delivered; but there are a few more surprises for the kiddies which you will discover in July.

#### WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF THE LONG WAIT?

Tuesday to Sunday recreation, sports and food and beverage on Middle Island. A world-class team is already in place to take care of the sport and recreation, while a food and beverage team is in the process of being hired.

Summer by the bay will be a new experience, and Middle Island – or should I call it from now on TONG PO CHAU, will be your new Club house, away from the hustle and bustle of Wong Chuk Hang.

We hope that by using part of the development fund and improving the entire look and feel of TONG PO CHAU in line and toward the grand project, you will forgive us for taking so much time; and we shall endeavour these coming months to make sure you will in the end find that the time we took was not a waste, but worth the wait.

Looking forward to see you all for the re-opening – or should I say the Opening of TONG PO CHAU!

#### PANADOL FILE, PART 1: THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND THE PONTOONS

You are all aware that, for many months now, we have after the typhoon re-built our pontoons on Middle Island with a new configuration, in order to provide better berthing and especially to be able to better protect them when another typhoon comes. These new pontoons are not bigger than the previous one, at least they do not occupy a different area to before, but as we built them in-house instead of buying expensive useless plastic ones, the Marine Department needed to re-license them. So far, no issue; this



is normal. We also changed the way boats will be secured there, by having what is known as Mediterranean berthing; and the Marine Department also had to consider this new arrangement.

In October, we sent the drawings and we had a first visit. Measurement were taken, recommendation given, and a file deposited in the capable hands of the officer in charge of the area. After a few weeks of waiting and no reply, we contacted them again, in fact a few

times; this resulted in an inspection by another section of the Marine Department, who seemed to have not communicated well with the first party. Nevertheless, again measurements and recommendations were taken and given and attended to.

By that time, I had written in the magazine that we would be soon able to us the new pontoons. Yet after another long wait and no news on progress with our licence, we discovered that our file had been lost and that another set of measurements and probably recommendations would be necessary. Luckily, as my marine team is well organised, they had kept a copy of the entire file and we sent it to MARDEP to speed up the process. But to no avail. The file was lost again.

Around February, finally, we seemed to have had all issues sorted, but a person from yet another part of MARDEP requested that an authorised marine surveyor be employed to perform an inclination test.

After searching the MARDEP website to check the list of authorised surveyors, it appeared to be missing. Contacting them, we were told to look for it using a Google search, and yes we found the list, but none of the surveyors were free or wanted to do such a small job. Arguments and many phone calls later, it transpired that when we originally deposited the first licensing request, for which we had to pay a fee, that fee included an inclination test to be performed by MARDEP.

Now, 6 months down the line we are waiting for a date from MARDEP to come and perform that infamous test; and hopefully get our licence so we can open the pontoons.

We will soon call to all the membership for help, as we will need, for about one hour, 60 people to get on each pontoon for that test. So please, once we have a date form MARDEP and you receive the message from Jennifer, put your hands up. I will buy Prosecco and nibbles for all volunteers.

It is faster and easier to license a new boat or put wild moorings all over the harbour than license a non-moving platform to park a boat!

#### PANADOL FILES, PART 2: BIG TROUBLES OVER TINY ROOM

Every year, we need to renew countless licence and permits; the processes are usually accompanied by thorough inspections of the Club. Once again this year, we managed to renew most of them, and had few troubles until the last inspection.

The exception was for a tiny area on top of the gym room. This was a viewing gallery 10 years ago, before we turn it into the Accounting office. After 10 years of inspections with no objection, we thought this was alright. Well; not that easy.

The last inspector very thoroughly remarked that the drawing did not show an office, but it was fine as long as it was stipulated in an official drawing. So we obliged on the spot, with of course an Authorised Person, who took a hefty fee to change the descriptive name on the old drawing. A few months later, once the drawings were sent and the authorities had time to review the 6-letter amendment, a further inspection was made; and as expected these days, a further modification requested. We now have to had a fire exit sign (in a one-door room), to make sure that in case of fire the staff will find their way out. I find that quite offensive; it is just like telling someone to his face that he cannot find his way out of a paper bag.

Nevertheless, we obliged again. So, was this story over? It was not.

Next request: to have the new drawing approved, is now to have the entire room sprayed with fire retardant. All right, this is a sensible request. Now, knowing that most of the contents in the entire room is paper in folders, this is going to be a long process if they ask us to apply fire retardant to every page.

Lastly (I hope you are well seated while reading this), we need to change the chairs in the room; I have no idea why, but we have no choice. The whole process, of what started as just changing 6 letters on an old drawing, has cost nearly HK\$40,000 in fees and drawings (plus one box of Panadol), and lasted over 6 months. Hold on though; it's not yet approved, and we may have more to come.



#### RULES REMINDER: NEW BYE-LAW FOR THE CAR PARK

Any member parking his or her vehicle in the Club car park, but failing to display a valid Club parking label for the parked vehicle, shall upon first offence receive a warning letter from the Club; upon second offence (within 12 months of the first offence) incur a fine of HK\$500; and in the event of a third or further offences (within 12 months), the right to park in the Club car park shall be suspended for such period as the General Committee shall think fit, without entitlement to any refund for any period of suspension.



#### **IYENGAR YOGA WITH A VIEW!**

Practice Iyengar yoga gazing at our beautiful harbour view and give yourself the gifts of health, strength, energy and calm. From now on, Gaelle, the certified Iyenga Yoga teacher holds a Yoga class at ABC opened to members and their friends. No prior yoga experience or flexibility level required... just motivation.

Schedule: Mondays & Thursdays

10:00am to 11:15am

Price: Trial class - HK\$100

5 classes package:

HK\$900 for members,

HK\$1,100 for non members.

Venue: 3rd floor function room

Please call or WhatsApp 9685 0086 or email gaelleinla@yahoo.com for the first trial class.

# Squid Fishing on the ABC Junk

Going squid-fishing on the ABC junk is entertaining. Bring the children or a group of friends or make some new friends on the junk. These evening excursions are run only in May and June. Book quickly as they are very popular.

17 & 29 May / 14 & 27 June 2019
Time: 7 pm - sharp - to 10 pm
Minimum 25 people; maximum 35 people
Adults and children \$190

To book your place, please call 2552 8182 or email booking@abclubhk.com



## Member-Get-Member

## Program



It's wonderful to be surrounded by friends and family to share good times. In that vein, we are launching our Member-Get-Member membership program. We'd like you to invite your family, friends, and colleagues to become Members of the Club. Keeping our membership levels healthy is good for all of us. What makes it even better is that we're sweetening the deal for you.

Successfully refer a new Member to the Club and we'll make sure you're handsomely rewarded. Depending on the type of membership purchased, you may enjoy up to 6 months waiver of your monthly dues and minimum F&B.

#### Now that's the great deal!



Successfully refer one debenture membership, to receive 12 months of free subscriptions



Successfully refer one nominee subscriber membership, to receive 6 months subscription waiver



Successfully refer one associate membership, to receive 2 months waiver

#### Double the successful referrals, and we shall double the reward.

Promotion period from 15 May to 15 July – which, coincidentally, is when Middle Island reopens.

Please contact the membership Manager Cobo, or General Manager Philippe,
regarding potential new Members.



## Four Peaks Race 2019

6 boats entered this year's Four Peaks Race, the race this year was not for the fainted hearted as wind overnight was over 25 knots.

This edition of the race saw the introduction of The Twins for Division B instead of Tung Lung Chau.

Along with Beneteau and Simpson Marine, 2XU became a supporting sponsor providing winners with amazing running prizes.















#### **Summer Series 2019**

Summer breeze, island sailing, lunch at seafood restaurant...Yes the Summer Series is back!!

The first race will be on 19th May, register online. Start line location will be announced on the club website by 09:00 am each race day.

Don't forget to pack camera, sunscreen, water and other items (hint: beer/wine) to make the causal summer racing even more relaxing and enjoyable!



## Tong Po Chau Series

Race dates
Spring 4 - 26 May
Summer 1 - 9 June
Summer 2 - 7 July
Summer 3 - 11 August

No matter whether you would like to participate in a fun, relaxed dinghy race or would like to improve your racing skills, come join the series.

Richard Knight will be on hand to offer tips and feedback! Don't miss this great opportunity!

Dinghy races start at 1:30pm - Members need to register online in advance.

Visit our club website to register!





#### Sail Training - Summer 2019

Process has started in replacing boats that were damaged or lost during Super typhoon Mangkhut.

Therefore we look forward to welcoming a host of new dinghies, giving us the opportunity to provide you all new and exciting courses and better sailing experience!

With that in mind, we have published our summer course dates!

Visit our website for the latest information and application deadline!

Remember to apply early to get the 'EARLY BIRD' discount!



#### RYA Powerboat Level 1 & 2 Courses

This two day entry level course provides the skills and background knowledge needed to drive a powerboat and is the basis of the International Certificate of Competence.

Next course dates:

15 & 16 June 27 & 28 July 10 & 11 August 7 & 8 September

For more information and online registration, please visit the club website.





#### Sun Bum - Trust the bum

Would you like to have a sunscreen that not only does the job in protecting your skin (Water resistant 80 mins), it also smells great and most importantly, it is "Reef Friendly"! Sun bum sunscreens does all the above!

Currently the club shop sells the following:

- 1. SPF 50 Sunscreen lotion (8 Fl. Oz) \$200
- 2. SPF 50 Clear Zinc Oxide (1 Fl. Oz)- \$160
- 3. Cool Down Lotion \$110

The club shop will also sell their Mineral sunscreen and Baby bum sunscreen at the end of May. Check out the club shop!



#### **Typhoon Preparation**

Summer is fast approaching and we would like to take this opportunity to remind all mooring holders to carry out all typhoon preparation before typhoon signal no. 3 (T3) is hoisted.

The marine staff will be deployed to carry out club typhoon preparation procedures therefore, please ensure that you carry out preparation work with ample time as ferry and sampan service to carry members might stop before T3 is hoisted.

The mooring holders are responsible for carry out typhoon preparation for their own vessels.

All ferry and sampan service will stop once T3 is hoisted.

#### 2019 ABC Summer Youth Sailing Programme

The summer school holidays are a great time to be on the water and is a popular time so courses fill up quickly. This year we are introducing our 'Reacher' courses which are structured practice sessions aimed at building upon skills previously learnt and along with fun games.

BOOKING OPENS on 2 May 2019 at www.abclubhk.com. Please note that spaces can only be reserved by completing our online booking system with full payment. You can see the number of places remaining online. We cannot reserve course slots by email or telephone. Bookings before 1 June qualify for a discount so please do book early.

#### Course timing:

AM course: 9am – 12:30pm (meet 8.50am at main clubhouse)

PM course: 1pm - 4.30pm (meet 12.50pm at main clubhouse)

Full-day course: 9am-4:30pm (meet at 8:50am at main clubhouse) Lunch included on full day courses except for 'Sailing Trip' and 'Assistant Instructor Course'

#### Monday to Friday Courses

#### Application Deadline: 10 days before the start of the course

June		July			August									
17 ≀ 21	24 ≀ 28	1 ≀ 5	8 ≀ 12	15	22 ≀ 26	(Jul) 29 ≀ 2	5 ≀ 9	12 ≀ 16	19 ≀ 23	26	Time	Activity (Detail / Entry requirements)	Early Bird Discount booking before 1 June 2019 Cost HK\$: (Member/NM)	Regular Price Cost HK\$: (Member/ NM)
✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	AM	Junior Stage 1 Age 7 – 11 can swim with water confidence	1,278 / 1,881	1,420 / 2,090
<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	PM	<b>Junior Stage 2</b> Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 1	1,278 / 1,881	1,420 / 2,090
✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓	PM	Junior Stage 3 Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 2	1,278 / 1,881	1,420 / 2,090
✓		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		✓		✓	AM	Junior Stage 4 Race Intro Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 3	1,278 / 1,881	1,420 / 2,090
	<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		AM	<b>Junior Reacher</b> Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 3 or 4	1,278 / 1,881	1,420 / 2,090
✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓	9-5	HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course Age 11 – 18 can swim with water confidence	2,970 / 3,582	3,300 / 3,980
		<b>✓</b>			<b>✓</b>		<b>~</b>			<b>✓</b>	9-5	HKSF Level 3 Improver Course Age 11 – 18 Pass HKSF Level 2 with 1 year sailing experience since	2,970 / 3,582	3,300 / 3,980
<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>	9-5	RS Feva Introduction Course (3 days) Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,782 / 2,150	1,980 / 2,388
<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>	9-5	RS Feva Gennaker Course (2 days) Age 11 – 18, passed RS Feva Introduction	1,188 / 1,433	1,320 / 1,592
	<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		9-5	Youth Reacher (3 days) Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,782 / 2,150	1,980 / 2,388
	<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>		9-5	Club Racer (2 days) Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L3	1,188 / 1,433	1,320 / 1,592

#### **Weekend Course**

1 Day Course 30 Jun, 28 Jul or 25 Jul	9-5	Sailing Trip (1 day) Age 11 – Adult, passed HKSF L3	N / A	660 / 796
2 Day Course 29 & 30 June (2 days)	9-5	Assistant Instructor Course (2 +1 days) Age 14 – Adult, passed HKSF L3	N / A	700 / 980
14 Jul or 11 Aug	10am – 12pm or 3pm – 5pm	Stand Up Paddleboard Intro  Age 11 – Adult, can swim with water confidence	N / A	450 / 500

11



## Waglan Series 2018-2019

By Jennifer Li

ind, the unpredictable wind....
Several races in this Series struggled for sufficient wind, however, the last race of the series saw winds over 28 knots, granting sailors a chance to battle wind, rain and cold before the arrival of summer sailing. A big thank you to all who entered the series.

The IRC division in this series has grown over the years, with an average of 13 boats in any given race this year.



Waglan Series 2019-2020 sponsor



























## Easter sailing courses

fter Super typhoon Mangkhut the club's Middle
Island facility sustained extensive damages limiting
the sail training
operations.

Howie Suen, our club's Chief Instructor has worked hard to bring our Easter programme together despite the various challenges on Middle Island.

The Easter sailing course was run at full capacity, first time after the typhoon damage.

Thank you to all who joined our courses and for your patience whilst we bring you a new and better MI facility.



The Summer Sailing programme is out, check out the course dates on page 11.

Don't miss out on the Early bird offer!





































# Dinghy Racing Spring 3, on 28th April 2019

Words and pictures by John Berry and Felix Mak with inputs from Richard Knight



ood conditions for sailing from 6 to 12 knots in bright but overcast conditions. Race Officer Felix Mak said that this definitely was a great racing event, with the biggest number of boats racing for some time.

Five of the regular ABC dinghy racers signed up for this raceday plus Nozomi Fukazawa of RHKYC who wished to get back to racing after a 14-year break. We were joined by a large additional contingent on the initiative of Richard Knight, our new Middle Island Sports and Recreation Manager who, with his team, are encouraging the ARA Optimist team to step into a Pico/Feva boats

(depending on their weight/experience/conditions) for the ABC dinghy race days. Noting that the races are under handicap, Richard advocated a single start as it would encourage sailors (especially the younger ones) to sail a boat that is suitable to their size/weight rather than stepping up into a bigger boat just to compete against their friends. The committee may add divisions for end of series results/prizes. The possibility of splitting off a separate division (eg for Fevas, Picos and Toppers) may be considered for the next series depending on numbers.

Overall, there were 4 Laser 2000s, one Laser Radial, one Topper, 5 Fevas, (a total of 11 racers), and three 29ers who showed up for the second race start.

Felix set Course 8, a double windward leeward course, with the course laid by by Fuk Tsai between Repulse Bay and a point southeast of Ocean Park. The start/finish line was expected to be long enough to accommodate all boats, but as the first start time approached more Fevas approached making the line tight, particularly as the wind suddenly backed as the start gun sounded, almost causing several bumps and collisions. Andrew Blank's Laser 2000, the Hoekstra's 2000 and the Feva of Juliette Clot and Chris Lam were able to break out from the crowd and dashed to the windward mark, however, trailing boats nearly managed to catch up with the leading pack by the finish. Tom Huml's Laser Radial and Nozomi's Topper sailed side by side for most of the race with Topper trailing at the upwind leg due to its older, less-efficient design. Andrew Blank's Laser 2000 took line honours.

For the second race, the leeward mark was relocated northwards. In this race the pressure on the start line was further tested three 29ers also joined this start. Feva crews from ARA optimist team who were now a little more familiar with the boat were competitive at the start line. Casey Law and Augustine Clot in a 29er, and Andrew Blank's Laser 2000 led the pack at the start line. Positions had been shuffled during the race for the middle of the fleet, Andrew's 2000 again led the race right to the finish line.

Photos taken by Felix during the race can be found at https://ldrv.ms/f/s!AoiSlhso19OGhccdVJ6 D1g6utdlSrQ

For information the Middle Island repair contract progress was observed – temporary covered structures and sail storage (tight but useful for changing) had been erected, along with temporary toilets and a shower.

#### First five were on HKSF handicaps showed up some of their older competitors:

- Race 1 1. Nozomi (Topper),
  - 2. Juliette/Chris (Feva),
  - 3. Andrew Blank,
  - 4. Sjoerd Hoekstra,
  - 5. Berry;
- Race 2 1. Nozomi,
  - 2. Blank,
  - 3. Berry,
  - 4. Juliette/Chris,
  - 5. Ethan/George (Feva).

Full results including those under ABC's performance Adjustment system can be found on http://www.abclubhk.com/TPC\_Series.aspx

We look forward to seeing more members joining the next dinghy calendar dates:

#### **SPRING SERIES 2019**

Spring # 4 - Sun 26 May 2019;

#### **SUMMER SERIES 2019**

Summer # 1 - Sun 9 June 2019, # 2 - Sun 7 July 2019, # 3 - Sun 11 August 2019.





# Often Entertaining, Sometimes Troublesome: Hong Kong's Wild Boar Thriving in the Year of the Pig

By Martin Williams

f I'd written about wild boar during the last Year of the Pig, 12 years ago, I would expect you hadn't seen one in Hong Kong – as boar were shy, rarely sighted even by wildlife experts. But now, you might have seen wild boar several times, or at least read and watched news items about wild pigs in the city.

Looking for info on people born in the Year of the Pig, I find, "Pigs mostly have a great build and a resilient body. They are always spirited, as if they will never run out of energy," which seems to fit wild boar too. Plus, there is, "Pigs love entertainment and will occasionally treat themselves."

That last part seems true as well. Though Hong Kong's wild boar are accidental entertainers, like one that in 2015 spent four hours in a shopping mall, even making the BBC news website, which cited reports saying, "the boar fell through the roof on to the top of a display case. It then jumped to the floor and ran around the shop, knocking over mannequins and signs."

Last year, a huge boar photographed as it scavenged from waste bins on the Peak



was dubbed "Pigzilla" or the "Emperor of Pigs". Though it was not really supersize for wild boar worldwide, which can grow to two metres long and weigh up to 200 kilogrammes – making them Hong Kong's largest surviving land mammals.

The lower entrance to
Aberdeen Country Park seems a
good place to encounter wild boar
that enjoy treating themselves
to human food. Here, I've seen
wild boar – so far all way smaller
than Pigzilla – trotting around
the barbecue site hoping for

handouts. To me, they seemed well-behaved compared to the macaques north of Kowloon, which are ready to snatch and grab food from unwary people. Two youngsters wandered up to a barbecue table, readily accepted some morsels tossed down to them, then trotted to the edge of the woods to rummage for food in the leaf litter.

While feeding wild boar is illegal, many people enjoy doing so, and this has helped make boar so accepting of humans nowadays. But also, operations

by officially sanctioned wild boar hunting teams have been suspended since 2017. Add the local extinction of predators like leopards and South China Tigers the last of which, for Hong Kong, was shot at Stanley in 1945, and these are indeed the years of the wild pig.

Of course, wild boar can be dangerous as well as entertaining. So far, unprovoked attacks on people are rare here, but wild boar are ready to defend themselves, as a foolhardy policeman discovered. Tasked with catching an errant boar, the police officer kicked it, prompting the boar to attack him and a passing cyclist and dent a van before being caught with nets and taken away. There's surely a lesson here: if you see a wild boar, give it some space, and certainly don't kick it.

With numbers of wild boar perhaps rising, there are calls for culling them, rather than simply focusing on individuals that cause a nuisance, which are typically shot with tranquillising darts, neutered or given contraceptive injections, and released in relatively remote places. Paul Crow, Senior Conservation Officer at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, believes culling may be needed – but, "should be based on sound science and population monitoring; we don't have that yet."

So for the time being, wild

boar look set to continue living beside and sometimes in the city, often entertaining and only occasionally

throughout the Year of the Pig and beyond.

troublesome,

But what about you? What are your prospects if you are a Pig in the Chinese zodiac? According to the website with the above info, "Pigs themselves are not overly fortunate this year. It's not a good time to make investments," – which perhaps suggests this is not the ideal year to buy that fancy

new yacht you are considering. More cheerfully: "It's a good idea to attend happy events such as weddings or family gatherings." Including, presumably, events at the Club, which are of course happy for all Members, no matter which year they were born in.









## Fantastic Pots, Horrible Misses, and a Convincing Victory

By Dave Hilling



n Monday 25 March, the ABC hosted the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club for a snooker evening. It is fair to say that the Yacht Club are currently in a transition period, where they are bringing in new players under their snooker convener Hugh Kerridge, who only started in the position last year. The ABC, on the other hand, have a well established team and a wealth of new talent also coming up through the squad.

It was therefore important for the ABC to be supportive and encouraging, because I remember having a similar situation for ABC's transition period a few years back. That said, this was still a competition between the two clubs – and Barry Hill raced into a resounding first victory of the evening with some good break building. We all decided to have a doubles match next, and allow the Yacht Club players some time on table. It was great to see them really step up, and after a really close match going down to the pink ball, the Yacht Club had drawn level.

With a return to the singles matches, the ABC pushed on with a strong victory for Tong Yunfat and then captain Dave Hilling dispatched one of the new players from the Yacht Club. It was his first time playing for the Yacht Club, because he is a new member, but already showed a lot of promise because he used to play a number of years ago.

After the customary ABC curry buffet, there were 2 matches left to play, which led to Wayne Robinson having a solid match of potting and safety to secure the win for ABC with an unassailable 4:1 lead. This was followed by the final doubles match, which had everything from fantastic pots, to horrible misses and a lot of lucky snookers. This did slightly exaggerate ABC's margin of victory for that match, but the final result on the evening was 5:1 to the ABC.

However, most importantly it was a great evening of snooker with a lot of camaraderie, and the Yacht Club can build on this for the return match on Kellett Island later this year.





## Optimist - Green Fleet

By Michele Clark

ive of ABC's youngest and newest sailors competed in the 2nd Green Fleet event of 2019 which was hosted by Hebe Haven Yacht Club. Green fleet helps teach and introduce new sailors into racing. Competing for ABC were Vernon Ha, Kristen Hwang, Andrew Chui, Chloe Kong and Ariaf Han. There were 28 competitors, and 8 races over the weekend.

All of the racing was very close. This was the first time any of our sailors had competed out of Sai Kung and so they were not used to the big shifts. The conditions were gusty and as Green Fleet were sailing below the main fleet the wind was not consistent.

Vernon showed great promise throughout the event, finishing in the top ten for seven of his races and finishing his last race in 2nd place. A great effort. Well done to all the team as the more experienced sailors begin to move up into the main fleet.





## **Optimist Fleet**

By Richard Knight

hile the 29ers were experiencing winds in excess of 20kts on the south side of Hong Kong Island at the HKSF FOS regatta in Port Shelter we struggled to record over 8 to 10 kts all weekend. It was a gusty oscillating easterly that meant the sailors had to keep their eyes out all the time. In the first race it was Juliette that was one of the few to be picking all the lifts on the beats and took a nice lead on the first beat. Although she lost a place on the downwind she retook the lead on the second beat and never looked back to take the race win. Meanwhile Casey was making his way through the leading pack and managed a second place after

capitalising on some navigation errors by his closest rivals.

With race one out of the way, things were looking good for Casey and Juliette, but it was clear that the fleet had learnt their lesson from race one and from then on the racing was extremely competitive. The starts were extremely congested with most competitors choosing to fight for the same part of the line; and no amount of encouragement from coaches between races could get them to use the rest of the start line which was mostly empty. Not only were the sailors bunching on the line but they were also finding themselves well back from the actual start line at the start, compounding the problem.











#### ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB ACADEMY NEWS





Despite a thorough briefing before racing on day two, many of the sailors fell back in to a similar pattern of not being able to find a front row start. This is an area we will be focusing on in training, including positioning using transits and acceleration for the starts. It is difficult

to simulate a big fleet start in training, which is why these ranking regattas are so important for the sailors.

We have been encouraging the mid-ranked sailors to think of these regattas as training events so that they pick certain skills to practice (like a pin end start for example), rather than being concerned about their overall result. This is why you may have heard I have been telling the sailors I'm happy when they are actually OCS, so at least we can see they are 'pushing the starts'. When we see too many OCS we will start to hold them back!

Overall, it was two good days of racing. Most of the ARA sailors achieved results at or above their HKODA ranking, but it is getting noticeably more competitive at the top of the fleet with the bullets being shared around!









## 29er Hong Kong Nationals

Words and photos by Michele Clark



he 29er Hong Kong
Nationals were hosted
by Aberdeen Boat Club
and the 29er Class
Association on the weekend of
the 23rd and 24th March. ARA
had 3.5 teams competing: Malo/
Anatole, Karrie/Penelope, Lewis/
Dylan. Augustin paired up with
RHKYC's helm Samantha and got
some crewing experience under
his belt. Eight teams entered the
Nationals and it was encouraging
to see the fleet begin to grow
again.

Sailors arrived at ABC's Middle Island on the first day of racing to be greeted by heavy winds and white caps outside the club house, caused by a monsoon prevailing from the coast of Guangdong. Race Officer David Norton knew the wind was only to build the next day, so was very keen to ensure that 4 races were sailed on Saturday. Winds at Po Toi and Stanley were well above the class

limit, and so it was decided to set the race track behind Middle Island under Ocean Park.

The first race of the event was probably the hardest for all the teams with winds at a steady 20 knots and the highest wind speed noted at 36 knots. Malo/ Anatole got off to a good start and led throughout the race, Lewis/Dylan were in second place for the entire race, with Karrie/ Penelope overtaking the HKSI boat after they capsized at the top mark. Lewis/Dylan's race turned from good to bad when Dylan's harness broke just before the finish line and the boys capsized. This allowed Karrie/Penelope to overtake them just before the finish, giving them huge confidence to go into the second race.

Race Officer David Norton was quick to get race 2 underway as soon as possible. Malo/Anatole were over the line on the start







## ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB ACADEMY NEWS



and went back, the girls had a clear start off the pin end. Malo/ Anatole came back quickly from their bad start and won confidently.

The wind continued to blow into race 3. Some sailors were getting tired but battled on. Malo/ Anatole continued with their impressive display and finished 1st. Karrie/Penelope finished in 2nd place. Lewis/Dylan's run of bad luck continued into race 3 when their main broke; sadly they crossed the finish line just after the time limit so had their first DNF.

Race 4, Malo/Anatole took some time to pull away, the girls were not far behind them at the top mark but the boys accelerated quickly once they had hoisted and began to make their lead even more apparent, they finished the day with four 1sts. Karrie/ Penelope then had to fight it out with the HKSI boat for 2nd place, beating them to the line by 50 yards. Both girls were delighted with three 2nds in their first day. Lewis/Dylan finished in 4th place, however HKSI were OCS and this gave them their third 3rd of their day.

It was hoped for Day 2 that the race track could be set at

Stanley but once Race Officer Dave Norton had assessed the wind strengths between 25 and 30 knots, again the track was again set out by Ocean Park. Race 5 got underway as scheduled - Malo/ Anatole had a clean start and led the fleet out on the starboard tack towards Ocean Park. Lewis/ Dylan capsized in a gust, not to be defeated the boys fought back valiantly and their race was far from over as they reached the finish line. Karrie/Penelope gybed first for the last sprint to the line, but were unable to fill their gennekar and get enough speed



to pull away quickly. Lewis/Dylan gybed earlier and filled their gen effectively and were quick to catch up with the girls, the boys headed above the girls but missed out on beating them by just a foot on the line.

Race 6 started and the fleet once again headed off on the starboard tack underneath Ocean Park. Malo/Anatole and Lewis/ Dylan both had good starts. All ARA teams sailed well and once again the finish was not something to be missed for 2nd and 3rd place.





RO David Norton quickly set the sequence for Race 7 and racing got underway. Malo/Anatole continued their impressive display, finishing with a clean 7 bullets, Lewis/Dylan had started to get momentum and finished in 3rd place. For Samantha/Augustin, the event was proving to be a huge learning experience for them in such heavy winds.

Malo/Anatole decided to head in at the end of race 7 due to illness, which left the rest of the fleet to fight it out for 1st place. Karrie/Penelope headed out on the starboard tack for Ocean park while Lewis/Dylan and the HKSI boat tacked off towards Round Island. It looked like Lewis/ Dylan had made the right move and would make it to the top mark first however a 90 degree wind shift hit them and the girls monopolised on it by rounding the mark first and pulling away quickly to the committee boat. Sadly just before the committee boat a large motor boat came through the course at huge speed, the girls made an error in judgment and gybed and then capsized, this meant the HKSI boat and Lewis/Dylan overtook them. Leading to an eventual win for HKSI and 2nd place to Lewis/ Dylan.





A great weekend was had by all in such challenging conditions and thanks go to all the volunteers, ABC for hosting and Race Officer David Norton.





#### Rear Commodore Graeme Brechin with prize winning ABC sailors



Karrie Clark / Penelope Martin
1st Ladies



Karrie Clark / Penelope Martin 2nd Overall



Lewis Clark / Dylan Richards 3rd Overall

#### **HKG National Champions 2019**



Malo Kennish Anatole Martin









## MAY PROMOTIONS

The Galley & The Patio

Modern South American Flavors

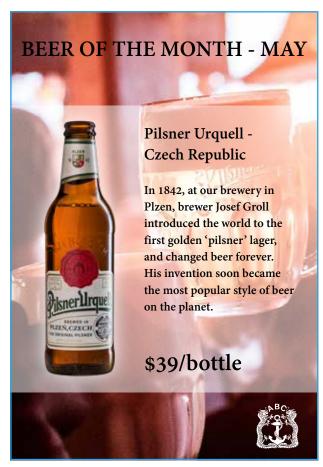
The Four Peaks Restaurant

New Spring Dishes



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會







#### May Cocktails of the Month

Classic Aperol Spritz HK\$55 (Alcoholic)

Aperol, prosecco, soda

#### Rosemary Blueberry Smash HK\$32 (Non-Alcoholic)

Blueberry, honey, lemon, rosemary sprig



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會





#### Welcoming Summer-ABC BBQ Gala at The Patio!

Date: Saturday, 18 May

Time: 7 pm

Venue: The Galley & Patio Price: \$268 for adults,

\$208 for senior citizens,

\$168 for children under 12 years

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT seafood, meat & vegetables on BBQ. You may choose to cook your own BBQ at our outdoor stove or let our chefs do it for you on this special night. Accompanied by variety of hot and cold dishes and ABC special dessert station.





Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會

#### World of Chinese Cuisine in a Wok! With Chefs Po & Man

Date: Saturday, 25 May

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Galley & The Patio

Price: HK\$257 for adults, HK\$157 for children aged 3–12 years, HK\$197 for senior citizens.

Join us for an unforgettable night, and be entertained by our very popular Chinese Kitchen chefs' outstanding wok skills! They will be hosting the live station on the Patio to indulge you in the world of Chinese Cuisine – unique meat, seafood & poultry dishes from different parts of China, expanding to the greater ASEAN region.

The live stations will be accompanied by savoury cold starters and delicious hot dishes on a buffet spread.

You may end the night with our very own Chinese-inspired desserts!



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會

#### Home Wine Delivery May 2019

#### Free Wine Tasting (Saturday 25 May) 6:30pm at G/F Galley & Patio

SPARKLING	Se	lling Price	Qty	Amount
Torresella, Extra Dry Prosecco DOC NV – Prosecco, Italy A pale straw-yellow in colour that is delicately aromatic, perfectly balanced and decidedl appealing.	у	HK \$75		
CHAMPAGNE				
Champagne Louis Auger, Brut NV – Champagne, France ( <i>The Real Review 92 pts</i> ) A superb value Champagne for any occasions. Complex notes of bread, biscuits, citrus ar apples complement the lighty toasty mouthfeel and soft rounded finish.		HK \$230		
WHITE WINE	Se	lling Price	Qty	Amount
Tribu, Torrontes 2017 – Argentina, Mendoza Fresh, aromatic wine with moderate acidity, smooth texture and mouthfeel as well as distinctive peach and apricot aromas on the nose.		HK \$65		
Marqués de Riscal, Blanco Rueda DO 2017 – Spain, Rioja Superb example of Verdejo varietal wine with a mixture of tropical fruit aromas and hint fennel and fresh green grass, giving a refreshing feel.	s of	HK \$85		
Amelia, Chardonnay Casablanca Valley 2016 – Chile, Casablanca Valley Elegant Chardonnay offering more savoury, autumnal tones than overt fruit. Aromas of hay, hand grilled nuts lead to a bright citrus and mineral-inflected palate that has great acid structure.		HK \$240		
ROSE	Se	lling Price	Qty	Amount
Marqués de Riscal, Rosado Rioja DO Ca. 2016 – Spain, Rioja Bright and pale pink in colour, this rosé wine is fresh, balanced, glyceric mouth-feel and a finish packed with pleasant, crisp, sharp fruit sensations.	gives	HK \$85		
a minori pachea with preasant, crisp, sharp fruit scribations.				
RED WINE	Se	lling Price	Qty	Amount
	ruits,	lling Price	Qty	Amount
RED WINE  Trivento, Golden Reserve Malbec 2016 – Argentina, Mendoza (James Suckling 94 pts)  A terroir focused wine with purple red with deep violet tones. It has a bouquet of berry fi plum jam, coffee and tobacco notes. The wine is elegant and powerful on the palate with	ruits,		Qty	Amount
RED WINE  Trivento, Golden Reserve Malbec 2016 – Argentina, Mendoza (James Suckling 94 pts) A terroir focused wine with purple red with deep violet tones. It has a bouquet of berry fi plum jam, coffee and tobacco notes. The wine is elegant and powerful on the palate with velvety tannins.  Marqués de Riscal, Red Reserva Rioja DO Ca. 2014 – Spain, Rioja (James Suckling 93 pts.) Structured and powerful red wine with dried berry, chocolate, spice and salty, mineral	ruits,	HK\$180	Qty	Amount
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Total amount will be charged to Member's account. Order accepted by email or in person.

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All wines are subject to availability



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



#### Part A (Master)

Dates : 15, 16 August 2019; 4, 5 November 2019

Times : 7:00pm to 10:30pm

Syllabus : Rules, Lights, Shapes, Buoyage and Signals, Seamanship, Local knowledge and the Laws of Hong Kong Fire & gas

precautions.

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

#### Part B (Engineer)

Dates : 22, 23 August 2019; 11, 12 November 2019

Times : 7:00pm to 10:30pm

Syllabus : Engine general construction, Diesel & Petrol fuel, fuel systems, electrical systems, ignition systems, Lubrication,

cooling & pumps, transmission systems, operation & maintenance, fire & gas precautions.

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

#### Notes:

- 1. Students who attend these two courses will be required to sit their examinations at the H.K. Marine Dept. after completion of the course. 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 related exams. Practical boating is not required for the examination.
- 3. Examinations are normally held on selected Thursdays, you may register for your exams with 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, eyesight exam result. 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 at 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 email mbs@abclubhk.com or by post or hand to the Admin Office of the Club.
- 6. Website information for applying to take exams with the Marine Dept.

Website for Exam Date: http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\_services/npvo2.html

(Please book your exams earlier, the suggest exam date is 6 – 8 weeks from the date the 1st part of the course is attended.)

Examination Application: 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

Marine Department, 3/F Harbour Building,

38 Pier Road, Central, HK.

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 I	Part A (Masters) to be held at 7:00pr	n – 10:30pm	
( ) 15, 16 August 2019	Thursday, Friday		
( ) 4, 5 November 2019	Monday, Tuesday		
Please debit HK\$1,700 from my acc	count		
	cheque for HK\$2,000. Payable to Ab	perdeen Boat Club Ltd.	
Address: 20 Shum Wan Road, Aber	deen, Hong Kong.		
Signature		Date	
Part B (Engineer)			
Tart D (Eligineer)			
Surname: Mr/Mrs/Ms		Forename(s):	
Account number:	Telephone: (Mobile)	(Office):	
Fax:	Email:		
Please enroll me on the course for I	Part B (Engineer) to be held at 7:00p	om to 10:30pm.	
( ) 1	Thursday, Friday	- 1	
( ) 11, 12 November 2019	Monday, Tuesday		
HK\$1,700 from my account			
For Non-Member please include a	cheque for HK\$2,000. Payable to Ab	pardaan Root Club I td	
Address: 20 Shum Wan Road, Abe	=	etacen boat Glab Eta.	
Signature		Date	





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