November-December 2019

HORIZONS

The Magazine of the Aberdeen Boat Club

Sunseeker Opening Regatita 2019





NOVEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020

1000		Yachts - ABC	Dinghy	Yachts Other Clubs
	-		November-2019	
at 2	2			HHYG Monsoon Winter Series 2
Sun 3	3		ABC Tong Po Chau Series Autumn 3	
Sat 9	9		HKODA Tai Mei T"uk	COA Single IDouble Handed ChaUe, nge
Sun 1	10	ABC Waglan Series 3 & 4 (W/L)	HKODA Tai Mei T"uk	
Sal 1	16			HH:YC Monsoon Winter Stritt 3
Sur, 1	17		ABC To.mg Po Chau Series Autumn 4	
Sat 2	23	1 1 1		RHKYC Alound Middle Island Race (MI)
Sun 2	24			RHKYC Around the Island Race
Sat 3	30	ABC Sou-thsi e Regatta	HKOOA Green Ffeel	RHKYC Lipton Trophy IHHYC MoMOon W Sefies 4
		11 12	December 2019	**************************************
Sun 1		ABC Southsid, eReg a	HKOOA Green Ffeel	
Sal 7	7			COA Chris1111as Cup (Soko BBQ)
slin 8	3	ABC Waglan Series 5		
Sat 1	14			HHYC Monsoon Winter Series 5 (Final)
Sun 1	15 A B	C Waglan Series 6 & Commodo;t Drin	iks	
rhu 2	26	New York		HHYC Boxing Day Treausre Hunt
Sat 2	28			
Sun 2	29			
	32I.	1.3	January 2020	
Ned 1	1	< 1		HHYC New Year'\$ Sailaway
Sun 5	5.	ABC Waglan Series 7		
	11	ABC Four Peaks Race		RHKYC K.owloon C-up
	12			RHKYC Kowloon Cup
Sal 2	25	ABC Four Peaks Race		COA CNY Macau Race
Sun 2	26	and a	3	COA CNY Macau Race
Mon 2			18 k.	COA CNY Macau Race











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Chris Pooley Commodore

AS DOUGLAS ADAMS FAMOUSLY SAID: "I LOVE DEADLINES. I LIKE THE WHOOSHING SOUND THEY MAKE AS THEY FLY BY."

And so, this month's deadline made that same attempt, saved only by Selina's prompt, which fortunately found me during a quiet spell between travels in England. An odd time of year you might think – correctly – to travel to the UK, when HK is beginning to enjoy the finest season of the year. But there is a good, exceptional, reason for this: a full capacity cruise to follow, with 52 current or ex-HK hiking and sailing pals off the West Coast of Scotland on board *Lord of the Glens* (www.lordoftheglens.co.uk). No, this is not an advert, just an illustration, with tales to follow at the ABC bar. And a further article, perhaps, from one of the several ABC members aboard.

Meanwhile, members are no doubt enjoying the season on Tong Po Chau following the very successful Grand Opening on 31 August, when attendance at one point threatened the regulatory limit! The main sailing season also got off to an encouraging start, with a fleet of 25 boats joining the Opening Regatta. The expectation of favourable winds with the later start date was met instead by light fickle breezes. Nonetheless, the full race schedule, while testing the patience and skill of the RO and sailors, was completed.

Looking ahead, members are invited to try the facilities at our new Reciprocal Club, the VRC – HK's oldest – and enjoy a reverse view of Deepwater Bay from their Terrace. Contact Cobo if more information is needed. Then, a chance for all parents to match their children's shrieks of joy with jumps of fright: the annual Halloween Night on 26 October, which is now almost fully booked. Further ahead, the AGM, which has enjoyed healthy attendance in recent years, falls on Tuesday 26 November. Gencom Nomination and AOB deadline dates are 29 October and 19 November, respectively.

The Waglan Series is now well underway, with Races 3&4 scheduled for 10 November, after this issue of *Horizons* reaches members. A much bigger event for many is the Southside Regatta, taking place over the weekend of 30 November and 1 December. Well over 100 dinghies are expected to participate, many for the first time from ABC's new fleet. As always, competition is bound to be keen. That will be followed by the popular – perhaps because it's free! – Commodore's Drinks and Buffet on TPC [MI], following Waglan 6 on 15 December. Finally, as the January issue will only just have been published by then, please pencil in ABC's 4 Peaks Race dates of 10-11 January 2020.

The 4 Peaks in its restaurant guise has been enjoying a renaissance of late, thanks to enlightened menu changes, with a further boost more recently from Friday piano recitals by David Robinson of *Fragrant Harbour*. If you haven't been for a while, do give yourselves a treat.

As this issue covers part of the Festive Season, there are more events to come than can be covered in this letter; so, note the details in the following pages, and watch out for many future specific reminders.

The writer, looking forward to HK's Autumn season on his return, will no doubt catch up again with many members at the Waglan Bar and on the rejuvenated Tong Po Chau.

Wishing all members fair weather in the meantime.

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NEW RECIPROCAL CLUB - VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB







Sunseeker Opening

Regatta 2019

Words by Graeme Brechin, photos by Guy Nowell



Supporting Sponsor:





hen the sun rose over the Lamma Channel to South West Lamma it was not looking good. Brilliant sunshine, yes, but not a wisp of wind. The Observatory was looking to be correct. Maximum force three breeze later in the afternoon if we were lucky.

Alex Johnston, the RO, hoisted the AP flag; and there was muttering around the boat that if only the Regatta was held in the strong winds of the weekend before. The good news and - bravely some would say - the AP only stayed up for twenty minutes before the first Race was underway, in light conditions to say the least. The fleet of thirty-plus boats completed the two shortened courses within one to two hours. Some had a longer lunch than others, with several HKPN boats basically turning around to start again on Race 2. There was a bit more breeze for the second race, which helped, and thus a third race was squeezed in for IRC only. All IRC boats started before most HKPN had finished race 2. So, there were three races for JRC and two for HKPN. This was clever use of time and worked well with all happy under the conditions. Credit again goes to Alex and his team.





Results-wise, it was the tussle of the big boats in IRC, with *Lighthorse Alpha*+, *Mandrake III* and *Quest* pushing all the way. With a strong tide equally pushing their tacticians to the limit, over the "Olympic sausage course". Races 1 and 2, *Lighthorse Alpha*+ had her line honours pipped by *Mandrake III* and *Quest* on corrected time, before finally winning outright with line honours and corrected time on race 3. Thus clinching the overall title on Day One.

IRC 2 was dominated by three boats – *Red Kite II*, *Wicked* and *Gambit* all fighting it out for the Crown. *Red Kite II* won overall by some margin, with a win in Race 2 and second in Race 1 and 3. As ever consistently good, albeit possibly aided slightly by *Gambit* in Race I and 2, sailing with her outboard down! HKPN Division A was won by *JeNa PaBe* and Division B by *XT*.

Sunday, sadly, was much the same weather-wise: glorious sunshine but light winds mainly from the North West before moving South and dropping throughout the day. Course 16 to Cheung Chau Rock and back to South Lamma was shortened at Power Station 1, all against a strong current in which the lighter faster boats did reasonably well up to Cheung Chau; however the heavier boats at times struggled to achieve any form of forward momentum. At the end of the day only, two retired so under the light, difficult conditions there was another success for the ABC Regatta Team.

IRC 1 line honours went to *Lighthorse Alpha*+, which was beaten on corrected time by *Mandrake III*. However, *Lighthorse Alpha*+ won the overall Regatta by the slimmest of margins over *Mandrake III*. IRC 2 overall was won by *Red Kite II*, HKPN A overall by *JeNa PaBe* and HKPN B by *XT*.













In summary, overall congratulations to the ABC Race Committee alongside RO Alex Johnston, Jennifer Li and their team. A faultless event under difficult conditions, all wrapped up over a sumptuous curry buffet washed down with cold beers, complements of ABC and her sponsors. This of course all in the magnificent surroundings of ABC's new refurbished Tong Ping Chau (Middle Island) Clubhouse. Roll on the Waglan Series !























Race 1: 6 Oct 2019 Race 2: 27 Oct 2019 Race 3 & 4: 10 Nov 2019 Race 5: 8 Dec 2019 Race 6: 15 Dec 2019



2019 - 2020

Race 7: 5 Jan 2020 Race 8 & 9: 16 Feb 2020 Race 10: 1 Mar 2020 Race 11*: 15 Mar 2020 Race 12: 29 Mar 2020 Resail: 5 Apr 2020

*This race forms part of the IRC National Champsionships Supporting Sponsor:



Shifty winds among the challenges of international competitions



n summer 2019, six sailors from the Aberdeen Boat Club's Racing Academy competed at major international events in Poland and Italy. Support for the Youth Worlds came from the Hong Kong Sailing Federation and Hong Kong Sports Institute, while participation in the 29er World Championships was a combined effort from the Federation, Institute and the Clubs. The ABC also supported the European Championships with equipment and coaching support. Such events provide the sailors with valuable experience which can't be replicated here in Hong Kong, and comprise an important stage in their sail racing pathway. They are not only important for these sailors, but also provide inspiration to others. In the sailors' own words, here are stories from the events....

MALO KENNISH AND ANATOLE MARTIN Youth Worlds -29er World Championships – 14th in Silver, 59th out of 175 boats

European Championships - 15th out of 210 boats

This summer, Malo and I have competed in the 29er World and European championships thanks to our dear racing club, who have followed us since our first steps in Optimist several years ago: the ABC.

I would like to thank ABC for everything they did this summer, to enable racing in the best possible conditions. ABC supplied the best equipment they had by container: boats, masts, sails, foils, ribs, spares ... which arrived in time and in perfect shape, as every past summer. We couldn't ask for more.



The European championships was an important regatta for us, knowing it was our last one together on a 29er. Things might have not gone the way we wanted in the end, but it was still one of the best

KARRIE CLARK AND PENELOPE MARTIN Youth Worlds -

29er World Championships – 2nd U17 Girls and 3rd in Bronze Fleet, 93rd out of 175 boats European Championships -

This year, Karrie and I went to Europe for several events: the Youth Worlds (supported by HKSI), the World Championship and the European Championship.

The two first events were held in Poland, where we stayed for almost one month. Thanks to Szymon, our ABC coach, we could practice a few Polish words with the people!

The winds in Poland were pretty unstable, very shifty, but we managed to keep the boat up. Szymon gave us lots of tips about winds and currents.

On the last day of the Worlds, before the racing, we were pretty anxious because we knew that we could have a good position, but could not guess the exact ranking. At the end of this day, Szymon came to us and told us we were 3rd in the Bronze Fleet and 2nd in the Under 17 girls overall. That made our day!

The Europeans were held in Italy, at lake Garda. The scenery was just amazingly beautiful ... and the Italian food was so good. Wind was constantly strong, so it was not really in our favour because we are too light to keep up. But we still could get into the Bronze Fleet. We will never forget this event. regattas I have ever competed in, and one of many which I will never stop thinking of. We qualified in the gold fleet in 20th position, then became 4th overall, at the end of the first day of finals, then 9th at the end of the second day, but on the last day, unfortunately our spinnaker halyard broke at the 2nd top mark of the first race. Being forced to retire for the day, knowing we couldn't repair the issue on the windy race course of the Garda Lake, we ended up 15th overall out of 210 boats. A frustrating result, knowing our personal best was 15th in France two years ago.

This regatta proved once again that we still have a lot to learn, and we are more than eager to pursue our sailing dreams.

To complete this short text, I would to sincerely thank our coach Szymon for his remarkable coaching and all his efforts that were put into this regatta, including driving the boats from Gdynia to Garda and back.



We truly thank the ABC Club for all the support, the equipment, the transportation of boats, and a big big thank you to Szymon who dedicated all his time for us, travelling back to Poland with the boats to put them in a container ... for their journey back to Hong Kong.

Penelope

This summer Penelope, and I competed at both the 29er Europeans and World Championships; and we would not have been able to achieve 2nd U17 female world champions without the support of Aberdeen Boat Club supplying us with boats to do so. We would also like to thank Szymon for the support and coaching in both events; we learnt lots and it was a great experience.

Karrie





CASEY LAW AND AUGUSTIN CLOT 29er World Championships – 41st in Bronze fleet, 131 out of 175 boats

Augustin: This summer, Casey and I had the chance to travel to Poland in order to compete in our first major overseas event since we formed a team. We had an incredible experience, both on and off the water, during our two-week stay in Gdynia. We stayed in the Mercure hotel which was only five minutes away from the event area, which was very convenient for us, because it meant that we could always go to and from the area. Joining us were fellow Hong Kong sailors Malo/Anatole, Karrie/Penelope, Pei/Pasu, as well as Ulysse/Madellena and Adam/ Matheo from the RHKYC.

Casey: Before I went to Poland, I had participated in an exhausting Optimist World Championships in Antigua. Fortunately, I had a nice weeklong vacation in England to recuperate. The regatta was two weeks long, so we were eager to start training once we got to Poland; however, the boats were stuck at customs and we were unable to get them until three days before the racing started !

Conditions in the Baltic Sea were unique, with a huge load of small waves (chop) and a very light breeze; we were definitely unprepared for the regatta. Hong Kong's water is very flat compared to Gdynia's, so we ended up nosediving a lot on the upwind. On the first few days, there was not much wind so we didn't do as well as the others. On the 3rd day, we surprised everyone with a 9th and a 10th. This put us into the Bronze fleet with Karrie and Pei's boat.

Augustin: After qualifying into the Bronze fleet thanks to our great results from the third day of qualifying, Casey and I were very optimistic about

our chances for the final series. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough wind for the race committee to hold races during the first day of the final series, so we ended up waiting on the shore for quite a bit of time before it was confirmed that we wouldn't be racing that day.

This was obviously a bit disappointing for us, since we wanted to keep the momentum we had from the third day, but nevertheless we still kept a positive attitude. However, the second day of finals came

as a big blow to our hopes of getting a good result in bronze fleet. The wind picked up around midday and kept on increasing throughout the day, and Casey and I were faced with a physical as well as mental challenge. We ended up completely cracking, with multiple capsizes throughout the day, and finishing with poor results for the day. But oh well, that's part of the learning, isn't it?

Casey: On the last day of racing, nothing much happened, since there was no wind. We only managed to do two races and came dead last in both, although we tried our best in the 1-2 knot winds. In contrast, in the 2nd race, Karrie and Penelope achieved a bullet, and ended the regatta in a positive rank: 3rd in the Bronze fleet and 2nd U17 Girls Overall. Whereas we ended up almost last in the Bronze fleet. This was our first World Championship together, so I didn't expect any good results from it. Next year, we will strive for our best and achieve better results ... I hope.

Augustin: We both learned a lot throughout the 29er worlds this year, and although the results weren't great, we came away with much more confidence in the boat and as a team, and hope we can build on the positives that we were able to achieve, and come back stronger in future. We would like to thank ABC for their support, along with our coach Szymon for taking care of us and pushing us during the two weeks. Finally, we would like to thank our parents, because without them this whole trip wouldn't have been possible.

Interested in dinghy racing? Learn more about the Club's Aberdeen Racing Academy online www.abcmiddleisland.com/ara-team or contact our Head Coach at Szymon@abclubhk.com.

MI SPORTS AND RECREATION UPDATE

Scouts Watersports Day

On 30 September, we were pleased to welcome scouts taking part in the 28th West Island School Scouts Group Watersports Fun Day to Middle Island. During the day, they were able to try Sailing, Kayaking and Standup Paddleboarding, as well as enjoy lunch and some of the games onshore. Our thanks to James Ross for organising the scouts to attend, and we look forward to seeing them again next year. If you are interested in organising a Fun Watersports day, please contact us for more details.



Stay warm on the water this winter

The winter is when we see the best breezes for sailing in Hong Kong, thanks to the Northeast Monsoon; but it does come with a temperature drop, and it's important that all sailors, particularly dinghy sailors, have the correct clothing. With the temperatures in the teens and the sun out you will probably feel warm onshore; but once you are out sailing the combination of wind and water will make you feel colder very quickly.

Layering is the best way to stay warm. Wetsuits are great. and there are options for long and short sleeves and legs, but another windproof layer on top provides extra warmth. This is particularly important before you are in the water, since the wetsuit really works by trapping a layer of water between the suit and your skin, which then warms up thanks to your body heat.

A warm hat will go a long way to keeping the rest of your body warm, since a significant amount of heat is lost out the top of your head. Put a lid on it to keep it warm ! People often complain of cold hands and feet. It is possible to buy winter sailing gloves; but an alternative on those days when the temperatures reach single digits is to wear a thin cotton glove, followed by a rubber waterproof glove (medical type gloves are good as they close on the wrist as well) and then a normal sailing glove on top. If you are prone to cold feet, a wetsuit sock is a good way to add warmth to a normal dinghy sailing boot.

In Europe, most dinghy sailors who sail through the winter will invest in a dry suit – which is completely waterproof with seals on the wrists and neck; and often with full waterproof socks. These are incredibly effective, and the good ones are also breathable, but in Hong Kong you probably wouldn't get more than a few days a year use of them.

Where can you purchase all this gear? Use your favorite internet search engine and type in 'buy sailing clothing Hong Kong', and on the first page you will see several options for high quality gear. If you would like more advice, do not hesitate to contact us in the ABC Sailing Office.

MI SPORTS AND RECREATION UPDATE

Sailing Courses

We were pleased to see so many sailors joining us over the October half term holiday courses, and we are now looking ahead to the Christmas Programme. We have two weeks of courses on offer. Check the following page for the full course schedule.

Week 1 16–20 December Week 2 30 December to 3 January

As ever, if the scheduled courses don't work out for you and you have a group of 4 to 6 people of the same standard, then contact us to see if we can offer additional courses. Email sailingsecretary@abclubhk.com.

ADULT

If you haven't yet tried the new RS Quest dinghies, you can sign up for the two-day RS Quest Introduction course. We also have a number of one day courses, which are perfect for those who have completed their Beginners course and looking to practice their skills, or for those who have not sailed for a few (or many) years and are looking to get back into dinghy sailing.



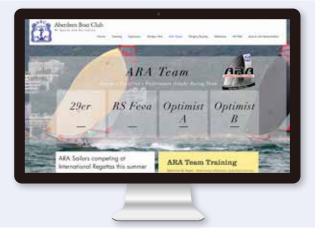


Wellness

Escape the city and join Dr Michelle Lee, our Wellness trainer, at Middle Island for regular stretching sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays. For more details on the programme, you can visit the webpage: www.abcmiddleisland.com/wellness.

Aberdeen Racing Academy

The racing season is now underway, and in October 15 Academy sailors took part in the Hong Kong Optimist Dinghy Association Annual Championships at Middle Island. This year, many of the team joined the main fleet after several events in the green fleet. This was a step up for these sailors and a great taste of competitive fleet racing. Check out the ARA website for more news and reports.



Sailing Courses in November and December

Bookings are available through www.abcmiddleisland.com. Booking deadline is 10 days before the course start date. ABC reserves the right to cancel courses at any time if there are insufficient applications.

Beginner Courses

Course Code	Date	Course Detail	Course Fee ABC Member/ Non-Member
A2-11	December 7014	Adult Beginners Sailing (5 days) This course follows the Hong Kong Sailing Federation (HKSF) syllabus for Level 1 & 2. Suitable for those with no dinghy experience or those returning to the sport.	\$3,100 / \$4,800

Intermediate Courses

QI-11	November 23, 24	RS Quest Introduction (2 Days) For those who have completed the HKSF Level 2 or of equivalent experience and want to try these new dinghies and for members who want to be assessed for the ABC Quest approved helm list to be able to hire the dinghy.	\$1240 / \$1920
AR-11	November 2	Adult Sailing Skill Refresher Day (1 day) A great way to refresh those skills from the Level 2 course including Tack/Gybe/Launch/Recovery/Round the buoys.	\$620 / 960
AE-12	December 7	Adult Sailing Skill Enhancer Day (1 day) This one day will refine the skills of a Level 2 sailors and focus on using telltales, the five essentials, sail controls and sailing on a longer course.	\$620 / 960
ARS-11 ARS-12	November 16 December 8	Adult Recreation Sailing Day (1 Day) A day to explore nearby beaches within Deep Water Bay, Repulse Bay and Chung Hom Kok sailing areas, weather permitting.	\$620 / 960
A3-11	November 2,3,9,10,16, resail 17	Adult Improver HKSF Level 3 (5 Days) This course follows the Hong Kong Sailing Federation (HKSF) syllabus for Level 3. Candidates must have a season's worth of logged sailing experience since their HKSF Level 2.	\$3,100 / \$4,800
AT-12	December 14	Adult Sailing Trip (1 Day) For sailors who already hold the HKSF Level 3 certificate and who would like to join a longer distance sail to Stanley/Po Toi depending on the weather.	\$620 / 960

Booking

For more details and to apply for these courses visit www.abcmiddleisland.com/adult-sailing

Youth Courses over the Christmas School Holidays

December				
16 ∂ 20	≀ [≀] Time		Activity (Detail / Entry requirements)	
\checkmark	\checkmark	AM	Junior Stage 1 Age 7 – 11 can swim with water confidence	1,420 / 2,090
\checkmark	\checkmark	РМ	Junior Stage 2 Age 7 – 11 Junior Stage 1	1,420 / 2,090
\checkmark	\checkmark	РМ	Junior Stage 3 Age 7 – 11 Junior Stage 2	1,420 / 2,090
	\checkmark	AM	Junior Stage Reacher Age 7 – 11 Junior Stage 3	1,420 / 2,090
\checkmark		AM	Junior Stage 4 Age 7 – 11 Optimist Stage 3 or 4	1,420 / 2,090
\checkmark	\checkmark	9am - 4:30pm	HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course Age 11 – 18 can swim with water confidence	3,300 / 3,980
\checkmark		9am - 4:30pm	HKSF Level 3 Improver Course Age 11 – 18 HKSF Level 2 with 1 year sailing experience since	3,300 / 3,980
\checkmark		9am - 4:30pm	RS Feva Introduction Course (Mon to Wed) Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,980 / 2,388
\checkmark		9am - 4:30pm	RS Feva Gennaker Course (Thu to Fri) Age 11 – 18, passed RS Feva Introduction	1,320 / 1,592
	\checkmark	9am - 4:30pm	Youth Reacher (3 days) Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,980 / 2,388
	\checkmark	9am - 4:30pm	Club Racer (2 days) Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF L3	1,320 / 1,592



Exploring Micronesia on Soko

By Ian Skeggs



s do many trips, ours started in the Bar when Richard Winter mentioned he was going sailing in Micronesia. Richard previously had sailed his yacht *Soko*, a Moody 46, from Hong Kong to the Philippines, and then on to Palau in Micronesia, where he left the boat at Sam's Dive Centre. So the trip was planned. The crew consisted of Alan Child, Graeme Brechin, Peter Duggan, Paul Brown, Richard Winter and me.

On 19 February 2019, we flew from Hong Kong to Koror in Palau, and set about checking the boat, making repairs and arranging the provisioning for our adventure. After sorting everything, we went on a shakedown cruise on the 24th around some of the stunning islands of Palau. We anchored in a beautiful bay, almost entirely surrounded by rock, and swam through a tunnel in the rock, with small sharks.

We were due to leave the next day for Yap but, as there was an early typhoon about to hit Yap, we had to stay another couple of days, and explored Palau further. Palau is a famous diving centre.

At last we set sail. It was a 300-mile sail, with bumpy seas and unsettled weather following the



typhoon. We eventually sighted land at 05.00 hours on Thursday 28 February.

Yap is a beautiful island and is interesting because of the stone money. These rock coins, or Rai, are enormous and were used as money. Rai stones were quarried on several of the Micronesian islands, and transported to Yap. They have been used in trade by the Yapese as a form of currency, for thousands of years.



The monetary system of Yap relies on an oral history of ownership. Because these stones are too large to move, buying an item with one simply involves agreeing that the ownership has changed. As long as the transaction is recorded in the oral history, it will now be owned by the person to whom it is passed, and no physical movement of the stone is required.

We found some lovely walks on the island, and came across several relics from the Second World War on the Tamiljog Trail. We went by boat through the mangroves to the Manta cleaning station, where the rays come into to be cleaned by small fish inside the reef, and then went swimming with sharks outside the reef. We were also lucky enough to arrive in time for the Yap Festival, their National Day. Dancing, traditional competitions, colourful outfits and general fun !



After re-provisioning, we set sail for Sorrel – an uninhabited atoll of stunning beauty. We anchored inside the lagoon in crystal clear water. Going ashore, we met a giant monitor lizard as we walked along the white sand and swam in the sea. Overnight the wind came up, and in the morning we found ourselves across the lagoon and nearly on the reef on the other side. Fortunately the anchor caught again as the reef came up.



From Sorrel we set sail for Woleai. This island is inhabited by about 500 people, and has no regular communication with the other islands. Only a few sail boats come here. The Chief keeps a book and asks visiting skippers to fill in a page. Looking through it, there was an entry from Ute and Miami Vice (Jeorg Weiss) a well know watch purveyor from Hong Kong. The island does not use money, and the islanders share the work of fishing and very limited agriculture.

On our first evening, we were invited to the Chief's circle with about eight islanders who meet every night at sundown. Here, we exchanged tales of sailing and shared our beverages. We shared our rum with them, and they shared their fermented palm juice. I think they had the better deal. The ladies, always topless, were not allowed near, and had to stay in the ladies' hut.

Over the next few days, we explored the island. One day, we were invited to the school, where they entertained us and fed us royally. The school was based in old buildings left over from the Japanese occupation. The islanders were all evacuated to Yap, and the island was just an airfield. The Japanese bulldozed the whole island during the war, and consequently 12,000 starved at the end – as once the Japanese on the island surrendered, the Allies departed and left them to their own resources.





Nowadays, everything on the island is so relaxed. The Chief, who is totally blind, arranged for us to go sailing on one of their boats. Although blind he is still an expert navigator, being able to do so from the wind, the feel of the water and the smells of the sea. These boats sail for hundreds of miles across the Pacific. Tacking is interesting, as they come up into the wind, then un-step the mast and take it to the other end of the boat, and then sail off in the opposite direction.

We invited the islanders onto *Soko*, and they were particularly fascinated by the electronics.

It was time for us to set sail again, and on departure we were given gifts of fish and bananas. We were hoping to visit Lamotrek and Ngulu on the way back to Palau but, as we were delayed by the typhoon, we had to sail directly back to Palau. The return was a five-day trip with unsettled seas and strong winds. Altogether, a 1,500 mile trip. A once in a lifetime experience!

Richard subsequently sailed *Soko* to Helens Reef and West Papua, where she is now stationed pending exploration of the Spice Islands.





Highland Bothy on a Hong Kong Island

Tong Po Chau transformed into venue for intrepid explorers of the delights and histories of Scottish whiskies By John Binks





n 9 September, the ABC Middle Island Clubhouse was the venue for the Johnnie Walker Blue Label Bothy. This was the first opportunity to showcase the newly refurbished facilities after the damage caused by Typhoon Manghut. And it didn't disappoint!

The clubhouse was transformed by the Johnnie Walker team into a highland "Bothy" – a traditional place of hospitality where strangers are welcome and drink is taken. Upon arrival at Tong Po Chau – aka Middle Island, we were treated to an old-fashioned cocktail or two, (or three in some cases) together with some perfectly matched canapés, before sitting down to dinner.

We were privileged to be joined by Charles MacLean for the evening. Charles is by most peoples' reckoning the foremost expert on Scotch whisky – having written, lectured and researched the subject during a career spanning almost forty years.



The idea was that we were to be encouraged to appreciate the whisky blender's art, by drinking the Johnnie Walker signature Blue Label alongside some of the single malts whose characteristics can be detected within the blend. The malts were drawn from distilleries in four regions: The Highlands; The Lowlands; Speyside; and The Islands.

Food and Beverage Manager Robin Sherchan, together with chefs Jeff Cheung and Aurelian Lagrange, created an exceptional menu to be paired with the whiskies. Aurelian's roasted beetroot with smoked eel and goat cheese mousse and Jeff's Iberico Pork neck were particularly special.



Smoked Eel & Roasted Beetroot paired with Talisker 25 years old





Iberico Pork Neck paired with Teaninich 17 years old



with Mortlach 20 years old



explaining the whiskies



Charles answering the member's questions



Charles introduced each whisky in turn, encouraging us to take time to notice the essential aromas and flavours of each. By the end of the evening, nobody seemed terribly keen to leave. They were encouraged, no doubt, by ample quantities of Johnnie Walker Blue Label Ghost and Rare Port Ellen blends; Teaninich 17 year old, Mortlach 20 year old and Talisker 25 year old single malts; and the "not for sale" 40 year old Cambus Single Grain.

Thanks are due to the Johnnie Walker team for their work in creating the evening, to Charles Maclean for his enthusiasm and knowledge, and the ABC Middle Island and Main Clubhouse staff and the catering team for putting together a superb evening.

The Middle Island Clubhouse is an exceptional venue for occasions such as this – use it, book it and appreciate it; we are very lucky to have it.

These events are by invitation only and on a first come first served basis. Please email Robin at fnb@abclubhk.com to be included in the VIP invite list for these exclusive events in the future !



One on one with Charles and ABC members



Charles telling his personal story



Just Ask Amy

Meet Club Assistant Amy Yeung

By Martin Williams

f you've phoned or walked into the Club reception with a question recently, chances are you've spoken with Amy Yeung, who joined in early July as Club Assistant. Amy has a wealth of experience as a receptionist, and a background in the travel industry.

On leaving high school over 15 years ago, Amy was very interested in travel, and studied for a diploma in food and beverage with the Hong Kong Travel and Tourism Training. After graduating, she became a travel escort – taking groups of Hongkongers on tours to places in China and in east and southeast Asia.

"I especially liked Thailand," says Amy. "The people were friendly, and if there was a problem, they would teach me how to solve it. I also liked the food, and shopping."

South Korea was another favourite of hers, again for food and shopping. She had fun travelling, which broadened her horizons as she learned more about other countries, such as the culture, the people, and customs.

"Also, working as a tour escort, you need to meet many different people from different backgrounds," says Amy. "Communication and presentation were my first challenges as a fresh graduate, and I had to learn how to handle emergencies. After I was familiar with the job, I really enjoyed travelling to different places and talking with many people. All the valuable experiences working there helped me in my role as a receptionist, as I need to communicate with different guests and face different situations."

Amy really enjoyed working as a tour escort early in her career. "Then the wonderful moment came," she recalls. "I met my husband, and then had my own family, which made me consider changing to a more stable working environment." She joined an NGO that focuses on fixing social sustainability issues in the toy industry supply chain and supporting the well-being of factory workers.

While this may seem relatively sedate compared to the travel industry, Amy didn't find her receptionist



work boring. "I met many people, and there was a friendly environment," she says. "It was like a family, so colleagues cared if I wasn't feeling well, and celebrated birthdays." But after 11 years, Amy decided it was time for a change, and spotted an advert for a role with the Club.

"I was happy to meet the general manager, and found the Club is rather like a hotel, as I learned about with my food and beverage diploma," says Amy.

Amy had been with the Club for a month when she spoke to *Horizons*, and says her work so

far involved helping members with problems, sometimes recovering lost items, fixing issues with membership cards and car park permits, and passing questions she couldn't handle to colleagues in the correct departments. "I like it," she says "The staff are nice, happy to help when I have a problem, and the members are very friendly."



Langkawi Trip (First from left)



Bangkok Trip (Second from left)



The Little Ship Club - UK

he Little Ship Club is a sailing club and RYA Training Centre in the City of London. Their Clubhouse offers stunning views of the River Thames, a variety of rooms for event hire and five cabins for overnight stays.

The Club hosts a range of sailing and social events including rallies around the UK, Brittany, and Montenegro, and a series of Fast Cruises. The Skippers and Crew page on our website connects members together which means that those who do not own a boat can still enjoy our rallies and cruises.

We hold both RYA and our own training courses at the Little Ship Club. From long Day Skipper and Yachtmaster courses to one day courses such as the First Aid or Radar course, our experienced and enthusiastic trainers are here to help you get the most out of your sailing experiences.

The Little Ship Club is a yacht club for sailors, power boaters and non-sailors alike.













NOVEMBER PROMOTIONS

The Galley & The Patio Contemporary Sichuan Dishes

The Four Peaks Restaurant New Autumn Dishes

DECEMBER PROMOTIONS

The Galley & The Patio Christmas Delicacies

The Four Peaks Restaurant Christmas Delicacies



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會

November & December Cocktails of the Month



Sparkling Mojito HK\$75

- Prosecco
- Mint syrup
- White Rum
- Soda, lemon juice and garnished with Fresh mints

Cherry Vanilla Sparkle HK\$70

- Cherry Juice
- Sake, Vanilla extract, Club soda

Warm Rum Toddy HK\$65

- Dark Rum
- Honey, Lemon
- Garnished with orange sprig

Hot Sake Grains HK\$65

- Hot Sake
- Syrup, crispy rice
 - grains as toppings

November Wine of the Month Promotion



December Wine of the Month Promotion



WINE OF THE MONTH

ITALY









Shabu Shabu Shinjuku Hotpot Night

The Galley & The Patio Saturday, 9 November, 7:00pm

All-you-can-eat Shabu Shabu hotpot with wide selection of premium seafood and meat dishes!

Adults: \$287 only

Concessionary price for members over 65 year of age: \$227 only

Kids (3-12y/o): \$187 only



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會



The Galley & The Patio, Saturday, 23 November, 7:00pm

A great buffet for meat lovers!

Featuring prime roasts of beef, lamb, pork and the festive turkey! Our chefs will prepare the best cut for you according to your liking.

A wide array of side dishes, mains, salads and desserts will also be available !

Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會

Adults: \$319 only

Concessionary price for members over 65 year of age: \$249 only

Kids (3-12y.o): \$219 only





Thanksgiving Sparkling Dinner 2019

The Four Peaks Restaurant Thursday, 28 November, 7:00pm

What better way to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with your friends and family other than with Sparkles! There will be a very special menu designed to celebrate the beginning of the festive season!

Adults: \$398 only (free flow Sparkling Wines)

Kids (13-18y/o): \$298 only (free flow soft drinks & chilled juices)

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



2019-2020 FESTIVE SEASON EVENTS PROGRAMME



ABC Service to the Community

The Anti-Scrooge Christmas Gift Collection

From 1 – 22 December, there will be a giftcollection Santa cart at the first-floor entrance of the Main Clubhouse. All gifts will be delivered on 23 December to children at the Po Leung Kuk orphanage. If sufficient donations are received, some gifts will also be donated to children spending Christmas in hospital, instead of at home with their loved ones.

The anti-Scrooge wish list includes new electronic games, portable music players, board games, handicrafts, arts and crafts kits, and art supplies, comic, Lego block sets, remote-control cars, soft toys and dolls of all sorts.

It is imperative that all gifts come wrapped in their original packaging, with a brief description of the gift and the suitable age group. Please write this on a tag attached to the gift.

All gifts must be delivered by **Sunday, 22 December** to allow Club staff sufficient time to sort and allocate them properly.

We are confident that the collection cart will be overflowing with beautiful gifts and make ABC's legendary generosity ring the bell of happiness in the lives of less fortunate children.

Food collection for Feeding Hong Kong

Last year, the ABC managed to provide a week's supply of food to over 250 families in Hong Kong. This year, we will attempt to do even better. The collection boxes will be kept at the Patio from 2 - 22 December to collect donations of non-perishable food, in cans or dry items (e.g. rice, noodles, pasta, oil, canned fruits, vegetables or fish, UHT or powdered milk, crackers and biscuits).



24 December at Little Sisters of the Poor Retirement Home

As our yearly contribution to the local community, ABC will give a full Christmas lunch to the residents of Little Sisters of the Poor Retirement Home in Wong Chuk Hang. There will be about 300 residents and once a year we bring them a little bit of our spirit and a delicious festive meal to celebrate Christmas.

ABC Private Holiday Functions

ABC Venues

The Harbour Room can accommodate up to 80 guests for a sit-down lunch or dinner.

The Bridge would be a perfect venue for a standing cocktail party of up to 40 guests.

Middle Island on weekdays can accommodate up to 200 guests for a buffet party. Some Saturdays of the month maybe available to book for private functions and is limited to max. 60 guests by prior arrangements only.

The Patio is available only for weekday functions with a maximum of 80 guests.



Packages

We have prepared a selection of festive buffets and set meals and drinks menus that you can download from our website home page under "Festive Season Packages".

As a token of your great support this year, all room-hire charges are waived. Every function price includes Christmas decorations and party favours.

Cancellation Policy

48 hours advance notice - No charge

24 hours advance notice – 50 percent of the event price

Cancellation on the day of the event – Full charge, except if weather conditions preclude us from hosting the event.

Contacts To book places at our Club events: Assistant F&B Manager – Henry Lam Tel: 2555 6216 or Email: bar@abclubhk.com

Christmas Special Home Delivery and Takeaway Offerings

This year we have selected for you a large number of exceptional products for your end-of-year parties and family reunions. As you progress through the brochure, you will see all takeaway orders, wine home delivery offerings, special wine selection pick-up orders and Christmas goodies ordering options.

They will all be available from 1 November until 31 December.

2019-2020 FESTIVE SEASON EVENTS PROGRAMME

ABC Seasonal Events





Thanksgiving Sparkling Dinner (Takeaway menu available from 1 – 30 November) Time : 7pm Venue : The Four Peaks Price : \$398 per adult, \$298 for children age 13 – 18 years and \$198 for children age 3 – 12 years

Santa Visits the ABC

Time : 11am – 3:30pm Venue : Children's Playground Price : \$198 for adults, \$168 for children age 5–12 years and \$158 for children under five

Lunch, magic show and clown show, face-painting, games, and bouncy castle in the playground. At 2pm, Santa will appear with Christmas goodies.

Parents are asked to deliver a small gift intended for their child, value not exceeding \$150, wrapped and labelled, to Reception no later than Friday, 13 December. Make sure your child's name is on the gift – remember, Santa is not getting any younger, and needs your help to remember all the children who have been good this year.

Special Extra Treats for Dad and Mum:

Mulled wine, gammon ham on toast, warm roasted chestnuts and mince pies.



Commodore's Christmas Cocktails at ABC

Time : 3pm – 6pm Venue : Tong Po Chau Clubhouse Price : Complimentary

To be held immediately following the ABC Waglan Series Race 6, our yearly gathering around a glass or two of mulled wine and Christmas nibbles is a unique opportunity to wish fellow Club members and friends a merry Christmas.

All Club members and families are invited to mix and mingle with our new Commodore and ABC committee members who will be on deck to share with you their vision for the Club, but most importantly to share a very special Christmas moment.

Warm roasted chestnuts, Christmas fare and drinks will be served. Booking is required as there is a maximum attendance of 120.



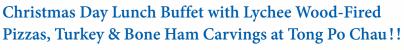
Christmas Eve Champagne Dinner

- Time : 7pm onwards
- Venue : The Four Peaks
- Price : \$599 for adults

for a five-course dinner and unlimited Champagne Mansard,

\$499 for children age 5 – 18 years for five-course dinner and soft drinks, and

\$349 for children under five, for a three-course dinner.



Time : 12:30pm – 3pm Price : \$329 for adults and \$229 for children under 12 years

2019-2020 FESTIVE SEASON EVENTS PROGRAMME



To make the night exciting, DJ "El Senior David" from last year's party returns to play this year.



New Year's Day Brunch Extravaganza at the Galley and Patio

- Time : Early bird breakfast 8am 10:30am Brunch 10:30am – 4pm Price : \$309 for adults, \$359 with sparkling wine, and
 - \$189 for children under 12 years



Early-bird Breakfast Only \$92 8am – 10:30am



Members' Day on the Junk

- Time : 11am 5pm
- Venue : The Club Junk
- Price : \$310 for adults, with unlimited Sparkling Wines and a simple curry on board and \$85 for children under 12 years with a packed lunch

The Club has booked the junk for you and your family and guests to enjoy this first Saturday of the New Year on a cruise around Hong Kong island.

Limited space for 38 passengers, therefore, please book quickly so as not to be disappointed.

All menus can be seen on our website: www.abclubhk.com Please book in advance with us on Tel: 25528182 or email: booking@abclubhk.com

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER WINE ORDER FORM

Every order of 12 bottles get a complimentary bottle premium italian vodka! 700ML, Value at \$550

OR

PREMIUM ITALIAN GIN! 1L, VALUE AT \$550



Region: Champagne, France

750ML WS91

Price : 228

Quantity (Bottle)

Sub-Total

80% Pinot Noir, 20% Chardonnay. Its strength and its copper colour are obtained by virtue of the estate's blends and the very detailed attention that they lavish upon them. Expressive nose with hints of red fruits: a gourmet delight.





La Bastide Saint Dominique—Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc AOP 2016

Region: Rhone Valley, France

750ML

Price : 300 Quantity (Bottle)

Sub-Total ____

Pale gold colored wine with silver reflections, brilliant and crystalline. Elegant nose of william pear, apricot and hawthorn, followed by hints of anisseed. A pure aromatic expression, an intense minerality and the presence of a subtle roundness, offers a beautiful harmony which with an airy finish.

	Chateau	Fontenil Fronsac 2	2008		and a state
	Region: Bo	rdeaux, France			and the second se
	750ML	AG90	Price : 348	Quantity (Bottle)	Sub-Total
		tred color with carmine h balate with soft tannins. L		brioche, gingerbread and black fi very beautiful harmony.	ruits aromas. Concentrate
1	La Bactic	le Saint Dominiqu	Chataaunauf d	u Pano AOP 2016	
			e—chateauneuru		
of antiparty	-	one Valley, France	D.1		
1 charles -	750ML	AG92	Price : 335	Quantity (Bottle)	1
	more compl		, pepper, cardamom and	my red fruits, kirsch liqueur and d resiny pine forest. Opulent atta ish with spices notes.	
	Oddero-	-Barolo Classico D	OCG 2015		
	Region: Pie	dmont, Italy			-
	750ML	AG92/WE95/RP93+	Price : 336	Quantity (Bottle)	Sub-Total
				r time. Unmistakable bouquet, ve ffles, liquorice and dried flowers.	
)—Vino Nobile di N	Aontepuciano DO	CG 2015	
	Region: Tus				and de
	750ML	JS92/WE92/WS91/ RP92	Price : 208	Quantity (Bottle)	Sub-Total
		red, with longevity and p e ancient bond between		e but not exaggerated, faithfully e.	expressive of deep, Tusca
Con Maria					
	Matias R	iccitelli—Vineyard	l Selection Malbeo	c 2014	
		endoza, Argentina			1 12 1
	- 750ML	JS95/RP91	Price : 269	Quantity (Bottle)	Sub-Total
	liquorice and		balanced with a great st	egant wine with aromas of wild b tructure, round and elegant finis	black berries, black cherrie
RDERING INFORMATIO	N				1
IEMBER'S NAME:			MEMBER'	'S NUMBER:	1.1.6126
EL (MOBILE):	3.00		TEL (HON	1E):	
ELIVERY ADDRESS:	tini≢÷.		```		
MAIL:			EXPECTED DEL	IVERY DATE:	14 P.S.
		/ (EMAIL) bar@ab		istomer's signature:	A A A

-The total bill will be charged to the member's account. Date: -Please allow 3 working days to process your order. -Delivery service will be available on Monday to Saturday between 12:00-18:00 (not applicable on Sunday and public holidays).

-Free delivery for purchases over HK\$1,200 to HK Island, Kowloon and New Territories. (For orders being delivered to the outlying islands, some delivery charges may apply.)

ABC Club Shop's Merchandise



ABC 50th Anniversary Polo Shirt @ \$120 100% Cotton; Vintage Polo; Italian Design; Various Sizes



ABC Ice Bag @\$90



ABC Belt @\$108



ABC Blue Cap @ \$58



ABC Can Insulator @\$188



ABC Collapsible-Water-Bottle @\$20





Giorgetti Store Hong Kong G/F, 43 Queen's Rd East, Wanchai, HK T/ 3102 0808 E/ info@viahk.biz www.viahk.biz Opening hours: Mon - Sat 10.00 > 19.00 - Sun 11.00 > 18.00







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