



2013/04

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# HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB

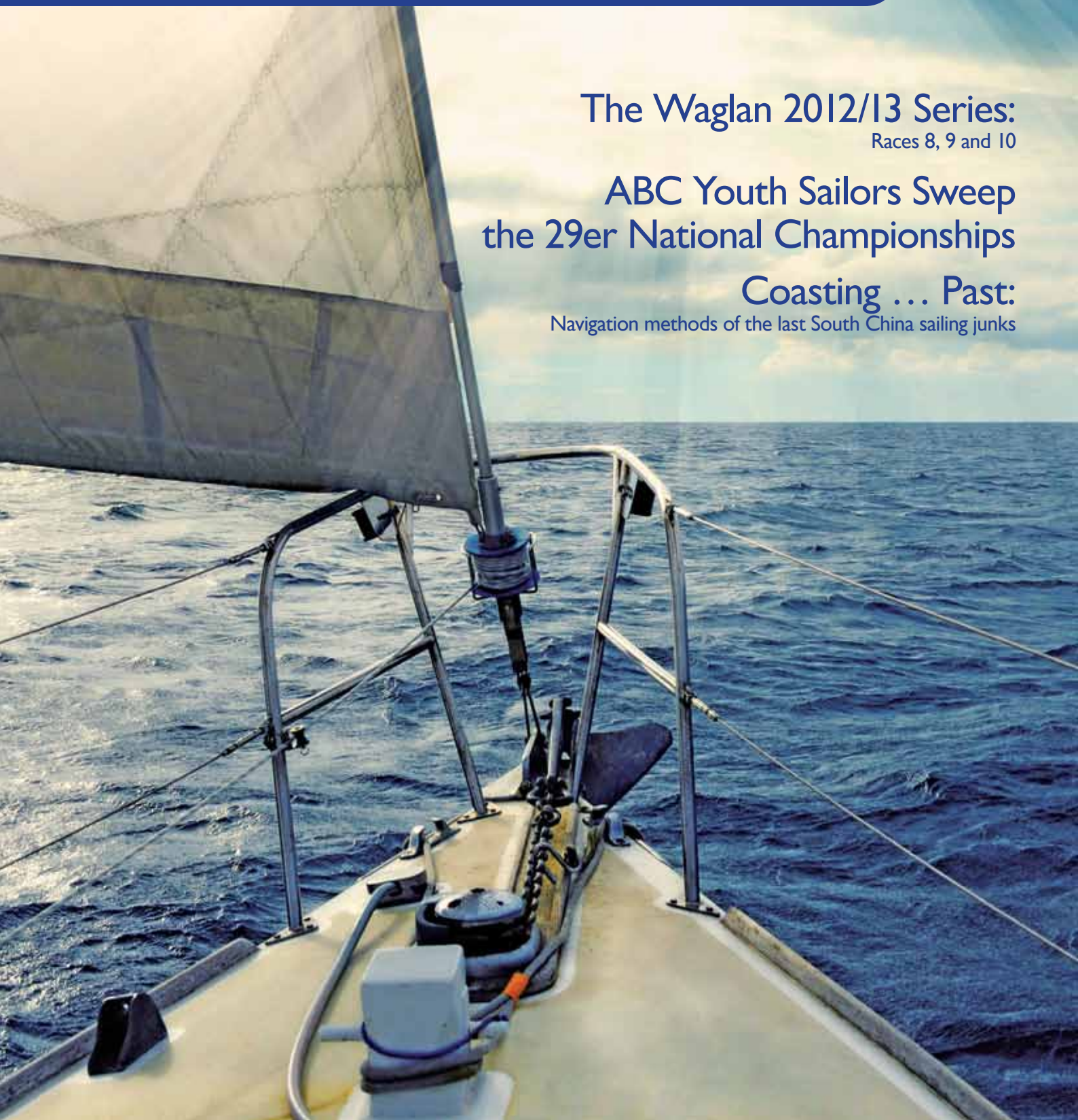
The Waglan 2012/13 Series:

Races 8, 9 and 10

ABC Youth Sailors Sweep  
the 29er National Championships

Coasting ... Past:

Navigation methods of the last South China sailing junks







## How to solve the Questions of Class

325    <sup>New</sup> 345    **385**    415    445    495    545    <sup>New</sup> 575    630e

*Hanse* 

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*Correction:* Division B boats Scintilla Team Leighton and White Crane finished the Four Peaks Race with respective HKPN times of 11:18:57 and 15:45:42.

Cover photo by William Heering, from *Coasting Past: the last South China coastal trading junks*, by Stephen Davies.

*Horizons* welcomes ABC member contributions of articles and photos.  
Please contact the editor at ann.white@ppp.com.hk



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Bruce Perkins • Rear Commodore – Sailing  
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Nick Bodnar-Horvath • Hon. Gen. Secretary

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## Commodore's Letter

Late February gave me the opportunity of attending the annual staff dinner and the honour of being able to thank our hardworking and cheerful staff for a diligent and successful year – well-done and thanks.

In continuation from the Vice Commodore's letter last month, the club now has some good news. On the Middle Island development front, an agreement now has been reached with Hong Kong Electric for laying substantial additional electricity capacity serving both the ABC and RHKYC. This will involve a new underwater cable running from Hong Kong Island to Middle Island, making landfall near the RHKYC rowing storage. A cable then will run along the back of the RHKYC hardstanding to join with the ABC. Capacity will increase from 40A to 440A for the ABC portion of this important power-upgrading work. As has been previously reported, this power upgrade is needed to improve services and also is a requirement from the Lands Department to establish a more permanent tenancy on Middle Island for the Club.

Secondly, I am pleased to announce that MAP Architecture and Planning Limited have been appointed as lead consultants for the Middle Island

development work. The selection process was rigorous and presentations from three different consultants were scrutinised over a three-month period. After deliberation it was felt that MAP could best provide the consultancy services needed. This covers master-planning of the whole development, approvals and reclamation work. Members will continue to be given the opportunity to comment on plans and proposals during the process through communication with the Development Committee at town hall and other meetings.

The Waglan Series finished on a successful note, with fleets built up to over 20, including the reintroduction of a Division B for boats not quite as fast as the newer, faster 40-50 footers. Congratulations to series winners – IRC: Elektra (with 9 bullets!), HKPN: Blackjack, and J/80s: FG3.

Prize-giving will be on Saturday, 25 May, when we can all share our favourite racing stories with crew and competitors over a beer and a dinner.

Thanks again to Jebsen Marine for sponsoring the series. We look forward to welcoming you back for the 2013-14 season.

For the cruisers, the gap in our



racing calendar for the Summer Series (apart from the popular Classic Yacht Rally over the first weekend of May) allows time for cruising – I trust that our cruisers voyaging enjoyed their Easter cruise to Double Haven. Dinghy sailors, however, have a pretty full calendar, as always do our motor boaters, and sport fishermen in the warmer weather.

Wishing all well for spring and summer.

**John Berry**  
Commodore

## Flag Officer's Report

- 1,116 full, 38 cadet and young, 11 weekday, 1,270 "absent," predominantly satisfied members,
- 36 front-line, 19 operations, 8 office, 6 marine, friendly staff (names and photos on the website),
- 42 dinghy and 22 keelboat open races annually, including some of Hong Kong's premier races and regattas,
- 78 sailing dinghies, 10 canoes, 2 keelboats, 102 moorings, and 11 working vessels,
- 115 dinghy and 9 keelboat courses annually, open to members and non-members,
- 40 reciprocal clubs (on the website),
- 498 seats in 8 outlets and venues,
- 53,000 bills in the year to 31 December 2012,
- Receipts of around \$50 million annually,
- 2,700 beer bottles, 60 kegs, 780 bottles of wine consumed monthly,
- 1,500 kgs of fruit and vegetables and 3,150 kgs of meat consumed monthly,
- \$43,000 largest monthly consumption billing in the last four months,
- 500 functions annually,
- Swimming pool, deck chairs, billiards, squash court, table tennis, playgrounds, gymnasium, barbecues, Middle Island walking trail, and more.



**Matthew Johnson**  
Honorary Treasurer





## Sausage Barbecue, Middle Island, Saturday, 6 April

6:30 pm – 8 pm  
Reservations required.

The famous ABC Sausage Night features a variety of sausages, coleslaw, potato salad, salad greens and desserts.

Adults: \$268 per person  
Children: \$138 (3-12 years old)

To reserve for your family and friends, call The Galley at 2554 9494



Middle Island opens over  
Easter school holidays:

Open 25<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> April,  
Monday – Friday, 10:30 am – 8.30 pm.  
Please note the last ferry leaves  
Middle Island at 8:45 pm.

# General Manager's Letter

**Staff party:** On Wednesday, 27 February, the Club took all staff to the annual spring dinner at the Treasure Lake Seafood Restaurant in Central. Over 70 staff and family members enjoyed a great Chinese dinner party, during which fabulous prizes were won, many songs sung and games played. But the best activity of the evening had to have been the consumption of alcoholic beverages. This would explain the slower service the next day as many heads must have been feeling a bit sore or possibly sorry for themselves.

I must thank all the members who have contributed to this event through the staff gratuity donation, without which it would not have been such a success.

**Car parking:** As I write this article, we are well into the last phase of repairs to the concrete and structure of the car park. After encountering a setback due to extensive drilling revealing new areas of concern, we are now back on track. We await delivery of the new playground surface and new games to reopen this popular area.

Once this car park repair is behind us there still is one major structural repair to do next year, the 70-foot long expansion joint and drainage between the Patio and the swimming pool. We plan to do this next winter around January and February. At this stage we forecast only a few days of Patio closure, which we certainly will keep as brief as possible. Once that is done, the whole Club structure will have been practically rebuilt over seven years.

**Middle Island slopes:** You may have noticed last month scaffolding and workers on the Middle Island, part of our obligation to maintain the registered slope. Water infiltration and nature working its way through a crack created a small cavity below the concreted surface that threatened collapse at some stage. Before such a thing could happen, we took no chances and rebuilt the slope surfacing. Things being what they are

in Hong Kong, this safety work must be done regularly, at least every five years.

**Unauthorised storage:** Over the last few months increasing numbers of items have been left in our car park without notice to the Club. Some things have been here for a long time and must be removed. If you have such items outside your locker area, then please remove them as soon as possible. The Club will tag each left item, and if it is not removed within a month, the club reserves the right to dispose of unclaimed items.

**St Baldrick's Day:** The 2012 St Baldrick's fundraiser to fight children's cancer at the ABC was a success again, with 16 heads shaved and \$232,058 raised. The record funds we raised were provided to the Children's Cancer Foundation for the sole purpose of funding childhood cancer research projects in Hong Kong.

Again this year, we offer our venue for another afternoon of fundraising on Saturday, 20 April, from 3 pm to 6 pm. As usual, some staff, including me, will shave their heads for this worthy cause. You may directly sponsor staff on the day or use the foundation's dedicated webpage for our ABC fundraising event, which allows members to easily sponsor staff: <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/abclubhk>

Every member is more than welcome to join to try to beat the ABC's record fundraising last year for St Baldrick's.

**Food and Beverage:** New menus for the Four Peaks Restaurant and the Galley soon will be available for members and guests. I hope by the time you receive this magazine the Four Peaks will have launched a totally new selection of dishes for summer and an extended grill section with Irish Angus beef, beef from Western Australia's Margaret River region, Wagyu beef and rack of lamb, along with the best of corn-fed aged Nebraska beef.

The new summer menu for the Galley coffee shop will have some Mexican dishes as requested by a few



members and other great salads for light lunches, to prepare figures for summer on the beach.

**Middle Island:** With what we hope is good weather coming up, our F&B team has reintroduced many activities on Middle Island: 6 April, the famous ABC grilled-sausage event; 13 April, Lamb-on-a-Spit; and 20 April, the chefs' rightly famous South Indian Curry Buffet.

Also, as usual, Middle Island will be open for the duration of the Easter school holidays from 25 March – 5 April, from 10:30 am – 8:30 pm. Barbecuing will very much be available at what quite often is an ideal time of the year. The last ferry leaves Middle Island at 8:45 pm. Weekend hours for Middle Island are as usual.

## **Bin sales of DVDs throughout April:**

The Club will sell around 200 of our DVDs at only \$10 each! Pop into Reception and pick up your favourite titles.

**Coming up:** The month of May will not be French at the Club but instead will be Spanish. F&B plans an exceptional Spanish month with a Mother's Day Spanish buffet, a Spanish fiesta on Middle Island with flamenco entertainment, and delicious products all through the month from Galicia, a Spanish region highly renowned for the quality of its food.

**Philippe de Manny**  
General Manager



## News from Food and Beverage Manager Giselle Isabella Gaggino

Dear Members,

Middle Island will be open for the duration of the school Easter holidays from 25 March – 5 April. Opening times are Monday – Friday, 10:30 am – 8.30 pm.

Weekend operations remain as usual on top of these special weekday opening hours over the Easter holidays.

Please note the last ferry leaves Middle Island at 8:45 pm.

In the Galley, the set-lunch fresh bread rolls and desserts from Maison Eric Kayser have been received very warmly by members.

Upstairs in the Four Peaks Restaurant, diners were treated to mini-financiers and macaroons for after-dinner petit fours. Diners were also served freshly baked exquisite bread from Maison Eric Kayser.

Last month, members enjoyed lemon tarts, Brazilian tarts, fresh pear and fig tarts and apricot pistachio tarts. Look forward to more from Maison Eric Kayser in April.

In addition, twice a week, Maison Eric Kayser will deliver its freshly made daily dessert for the set lunch at the Galley and the Four Peaks.



Photo by Matthew Tsui

Please place your orders for either Maison Eric Kayser's gourmet apple tartin or raspberry macaroon cake three days before your intended collection date by calling F&B Manager Gisele Isabella Gaggino at 2555 6261.



### April at a Glance at the Club

All month: French bakery promotion from Maison Eric Kayser

		Food and Beverage	Keelboat	Dinghy	Racing	Other Activities
1	Monday	Middle Island opens 10:30 to 8:30	J/80 Day Skipper Course	Easter Youth Sailing Programme		Public Holiday
2	Tuesday	Middle Island opens 10:30 to 8:30		Easter Youth Sailing Programme		Dragon Boat Training
3	Wednesday	Middle Island opens 10:30 to 8:30 Curry Night on the Patio		Opi Team Training Easter Youth Sailing Programme		Yoga with Higy Karate for Kids with Si Fu Tom
4	Thursday	Middle Island opens 10:30 to 8:30	J/80 Day Skipper Course	Easter Youth Sailing Programme		Public Holiday - Club open
5	Friday	Middle Island opens 10:30 to 8:30		Easter Youth Sailing Programme		
6	Saturday	Middle Island opens as usual Middle Island Special Sausage Night Family Buffet In The Four Peaks	J/80 Day Skipper Course	Opi Team Training a.m. High-Performance Training Teens and Adults Supervised Sailing Easter Youth Sailing Programme		
7	Sunday	Middle Island opens as usual Family Buffet In The Four Peaks	J/80 Day Skipper Course	Easter Youth Sailing Programme		Dragon Boat Training
8	Monday					Karate for Kids with Si Fu Tom
9	Tuesday					Dragon Boat Training
10	Wednesday			Opi Team Training		Yoga with Higy Karate for Kids with Si Fu Tom
11	Thursday					Dragon Boat Training
12	Friday	Satay Night on the Patio				
13	Saturday	Middle Island opens as usual Family Buffet In The Four Peaks		Opi Team Training a.m. High-Performance Training Teens and Adults Supervised Sailing Adult Beginner Course	RHKYC Dinghy Regatta RHKYC Dinghy Regatta	
14	Sunday	Middle Island opens as usual		Adult Beginner Course		Dragon Boat Training
15	Monday					Karate for Kids with Si Fu Tom
16	Tuesday					Dragon Boat Training
17	Wednesday			Opi Team Training		Yoga with Higy Karate for Kids with Si Fu Tom
18	Thursday					Dragon Boat Training
19	Friday					
20	Saturday	Middle Island opens as usual South Indian curries on Middle Island		Opi Team Training a.m. High-Performance Training Teens and Adults Supervised Sailing Adult Beginner Course		St Baldrick's Day Charity Fundraiser: Helping Kids Beat Cancer 3-6 p.m.
21	Sunday	Middle Island opens as usual Family Buffet in the Four Peaks		Adult Beginner Course	ABC Dinghy Spring Race 5 & 6	Dragon Boat Training
22	Monday			FIS Mid-Term Youth Sailing Programme		Karate for Kids with Si Fu Tom
23	Tuesday			FIS Mid-Term Youth Sailing Programme		Dragon Boat Training
24	Wednesday			Opi Team Training a.m. FIS Mid-Term Youth Sailing Programme		Yoga with Higy Karate for Kids with Si Fu Tom
25	Thursday			FIS Mid-Term Youth Sailing Programme		Dragon Boat Training
26	Friday			FIS Mid-Term Youth Sailing Programme		Golf Society Outing in Kau Sai Chau
27	Saturday	Middle Island opens as usual Seafood Extravaganza on the Patio		Opi Team Training a.m. Adult Beginner Course FIS Mid-Term Youth Sailing Programme	RHKYC Nations Cup	
28	Sunday	Middle Island opens as usual Family Buffet in the Four Peaks		High-Performance Training FIS Mid-Term Youth Sailing Programme	ABC Dinghy Spring Race 7 & 8	
29	Monday			Teens and Adults Supervised Sailing		Karate for Kids with Si Fu Tom
30	Tuesday			FIS Mid-Term Youth Sailing Programme		Dragon Boat Training



## Curry Night, the Patio, Wednesday, 3 April

The Patio  
6:30 – 9 pm

A MUST for curry lovers. All your favorites: samosas, onion bhaji, vegetable pakoras, with chicken, lamb, beef and fish curries. Tasty morsels from the tandoor oven.

Adults: \$188 per person  
Children: \$118 (3-12 years old)

To reserve for your family and friends, call The Galley at 2554 9494

### Clos Henri – Petit Clos Sauvignon Blanc

*The nose shows luscious ripe fruit while the mouth still shows fruit without overdoing it and a pleasant freshness. It keeps a lovely dry finish while showing a great mouthfeel. A wine made to enjoy – without being a fruit salad! Ageing potential: 2-3 years.*



### Clos Henri – Petit Clos Pinot Noir

*The fruit is harvested at optimum ripeness — defined by soft ripe tannins, fresh fruit and good level of acidity. This Pinot Noir is fermented and macerated in stainless steel tanks to maintain fruit aromas and 9% is aged in new French oak barrels to enrich the structure and gain complexity. This fine balance between fruit and oak softens the tannins and develops a vibrant and charismatic Pinot Noir with a chocolaty nose, deep black fruit and subtle smoky aromas. The mouth follows with luscious fruit with freshness and lithe tannins. A wine made to enjoy! Ageing potential: 2-3 years*

by the glass \$47  
by the bottle \$230



## Wines of the Month

Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會





## Lamb-on-a-Spit, Middle Island, Saturday, 13 April

6:30 pm – 8 pm  
Reservations required

**Lamb-on-a-Spit at Middle Island**  
*Served with baked potatoes,  
vegetables, salads and dessert.*

Adults: \$238 per person,  
Children: \$128 (3-12 years old).



To reserve for your family and friends, call The Galley at 2554 9494





## South Indian Curry Buffet, Middle Island, Saturday, 20 April

6:30 pm – 8 pm  
Reservations required

### South Indian Curry Buffet

*Enjoy the best of South Indian curries  
prepared by Chef Yadav and Chef Mirza  
in the ideal surroundings of Middle Island.*

Adults: \$188 per person,  
Children: \$118 (3-12 years old).

To reserve for your family and friends, call The Galley at 2554 9494





## Satay Night, the Patio, Friday, 12 April

### The Galley and The Patio

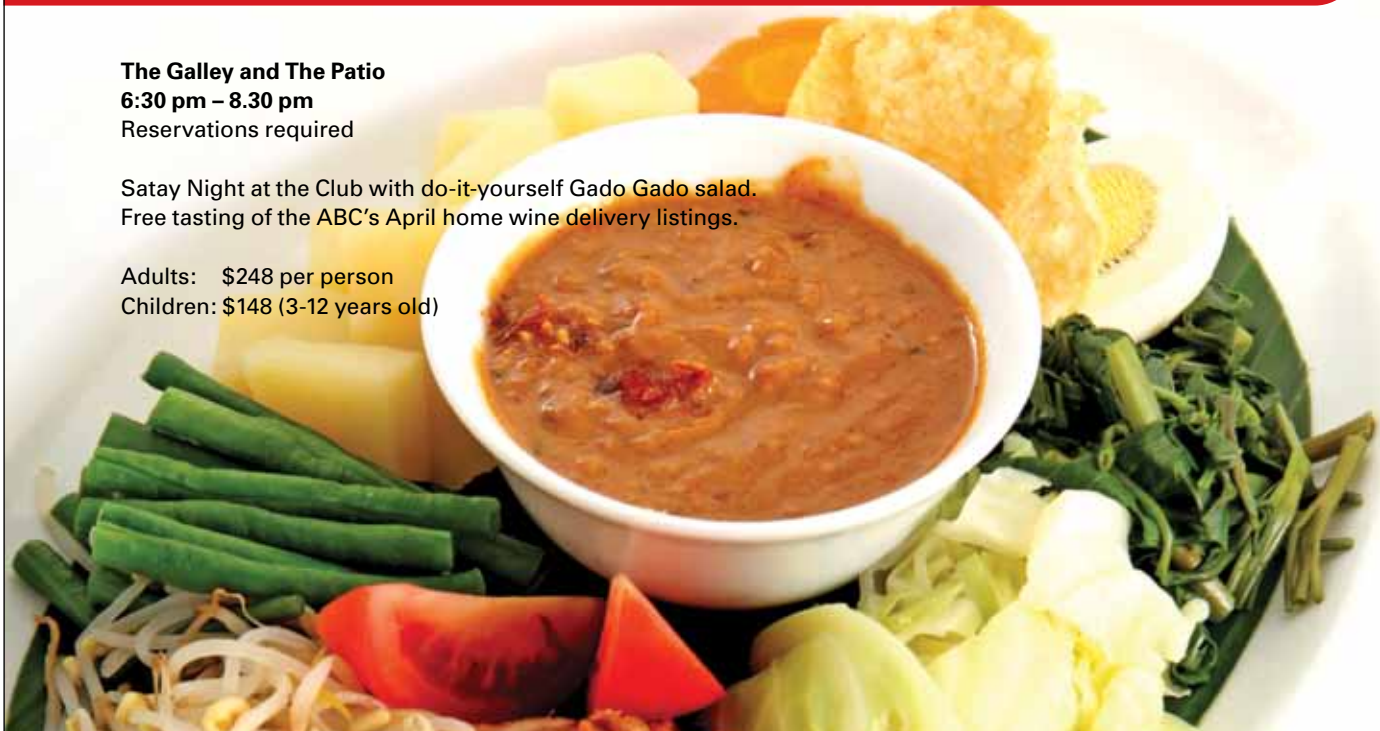
6:30 pm – 8.30 pm

Reservations required

Satay Night at the Club with do-it-yourself Gado Gado salad.  
Free tasting of the ABC's April home wine delivery listings.

Adults: \$248 per person

Children: \$148 (3-12 years old)



To reserve for your family and friends, call The Galley at 2554 9494



## Seafood Extravaganza, the Patio, Saturday, 27 April

### The Patio

6:30 – 9 pm

Reservations required

Seafood Extravaganza – Chef Paul Chong and the kitchen team will be grilling and barbecuing clams, prawns, fish fillet in foil ... crayfish, scallops ... to name but a few tasty items.

Adults: \$338 per person.

Children: \$168 (3-12 years old).



To reserve for your family and friends, call The Galley at 2554 9494



# Home Wine Delivery April 2013

	\$/Bottle	Quantity	Amount
<b>Sparkling Wines</b>			
<b>Bodega Norton Cosecha Especial NV – Mendoza Valley, Argentina</b> <i>Awards: 2012 Winemaker of the Year – Wine Enthusiast Magazine</i> Golden-yellow in colour with subtle greenish notes. Magnificently balanced, with rich ripe fruit aromas mingled with a round body, delicate texture and characteristic hints of yeast and vanilla. Refined and long finish. (100% Chardonnay)	\$115		
<b>White Wines</b>			
<b>Petit Bourgeois Sauvignon Blanc 2011 – Loire Valley, France</b> Characterized by a fruity and floral bouquet, this wine enters the family of the great Sauvignon Blanc as defined by this unique expression. Very aromatic with pleasant flower and fruit fragrances recalling the flower of the vine and the fruit of the Sauvignon. On the palate it reveals a freshness and vivacity typical of grapes harvested at good maturity.	\$130		
<b>Chateau Ste Michelle Riesling 2011 – Columbia Valley, USA</b> <i>Awards: Wine Enthusiast – 91 points</i> Refreshing and slightly sweet, the wine delivers sweet lime and peach character with subtle mineral notes. A pleasure to drink and easy to match with a variety of foods such as crab, chicken and cheese.	\$120		
<b>Viña Aquitania SOLdeSOL Chardonnay 2008 – Malleco Valley, Chile</b> <i>Awards: Robert Parker – 90 points</i> Always expressing its typical minerality, the nose features enticing aromas of citrus combined with brioche. On the palate, great varietal fruit intensity enhanced by excellent acidity. The aftertaste lingers with mineral and fruity notes mixed with hints of French oak. Excellent ageing potential until 2017.	\$285		
<b>Red Wines</b>			
<b>Nativa Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 – Maipo Valley, Chile</b> <i>Awards: Robert Parker – 90 points</i> It offers up an expressive nose of balsam wood, Asian spices, incense, violets and blackcurrant. This sets the stage for a medium-bodied, spicy, nicely proportioned wine with enough structure to evolve for 2-3 years.	\$140		
<b>Blason d'Aussieres Red 2009 AOC – Corbieres, France</b> Beautiful dark-red colour with hints of violet. The nose is already very intense, with dark fruit (blackberries) and garrigue combining with toasted notes. From the attack, notes of red fruit and the elegance of the tannins are immediately apparent. The palate then develops, with lots of roundness, to more complex notes of spices and garrigue.	\$160		
<b>Kim Crawford Marlborough Pinot Noir 2011 – Marlborough, New Zealand</b> Vibrant, fresh fruit flavours underpinned by nuances of sweet, smoky oak. Good firm tannins give the wine length and weight. You can savour the wine long after it has left your palate.	\$160		
<b>Michele Chiarlo Barbera d'Asti Le Orme 2009 – Piedmont, Italy</b> <i>Awards: Wine Spectator – 90 points</i> Ruby-red with purple highlights. Elegant aromas with fine intensity, hints of wild berries and mint leaves. The palate is dry, fruity and well-structured.	\$168		

**Free Wine Tasting** { All of the above wines will be available for free tasting at the Galley on **Friday, 12 April, 6:30-8:30 pm.** }

Member Name: _____	Membership Number: _____
Tel (Office): _____	Tel (Home): _____
Delivery Address: _____	
Delivery Date: _____	Member Signature: _____

Minimum order of 12 bottles. Mixed cases are available.  
 Total amount will be charged to Member's account. Orders accepted by mail, fax or in person. Contact the Food & Beverage Department at 2555 6216 or fax: 2873 2945  
 Deliveries free for order of 12 or more bottles. Please allow three working days for delivery.  
 All wines subject to availability.







### Carling Lager

**\$23 per bottle**

Alcohol 4% by volume

Carling has earned its place as Britain's best-selling lager for over three decades. Founded in 1818, Carling lager is made from 100% British barley to ensure great taste every sip of the way. Bringing together the flavour of ale with the pleasurable refreshment of continental lager, Carling is an all-round beer to be enjoyed by all.



## Beer of the Month

Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會



**Mango Julius** Vanilla ice cream and milk with fresh mango slices

**By the glass \$42**



## Children's summer drink

Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會



**Sweet and Sour Cooler**  
Passion fruit, peach, orange juice and yogurt

**By the glass \$40**



**Bailey's Shake**  
Bailey's Irish Cream, caramel liqueur, chocolate ice cream and fresh milk

**By the glass \$45**



## Cocktails of the Month

Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會



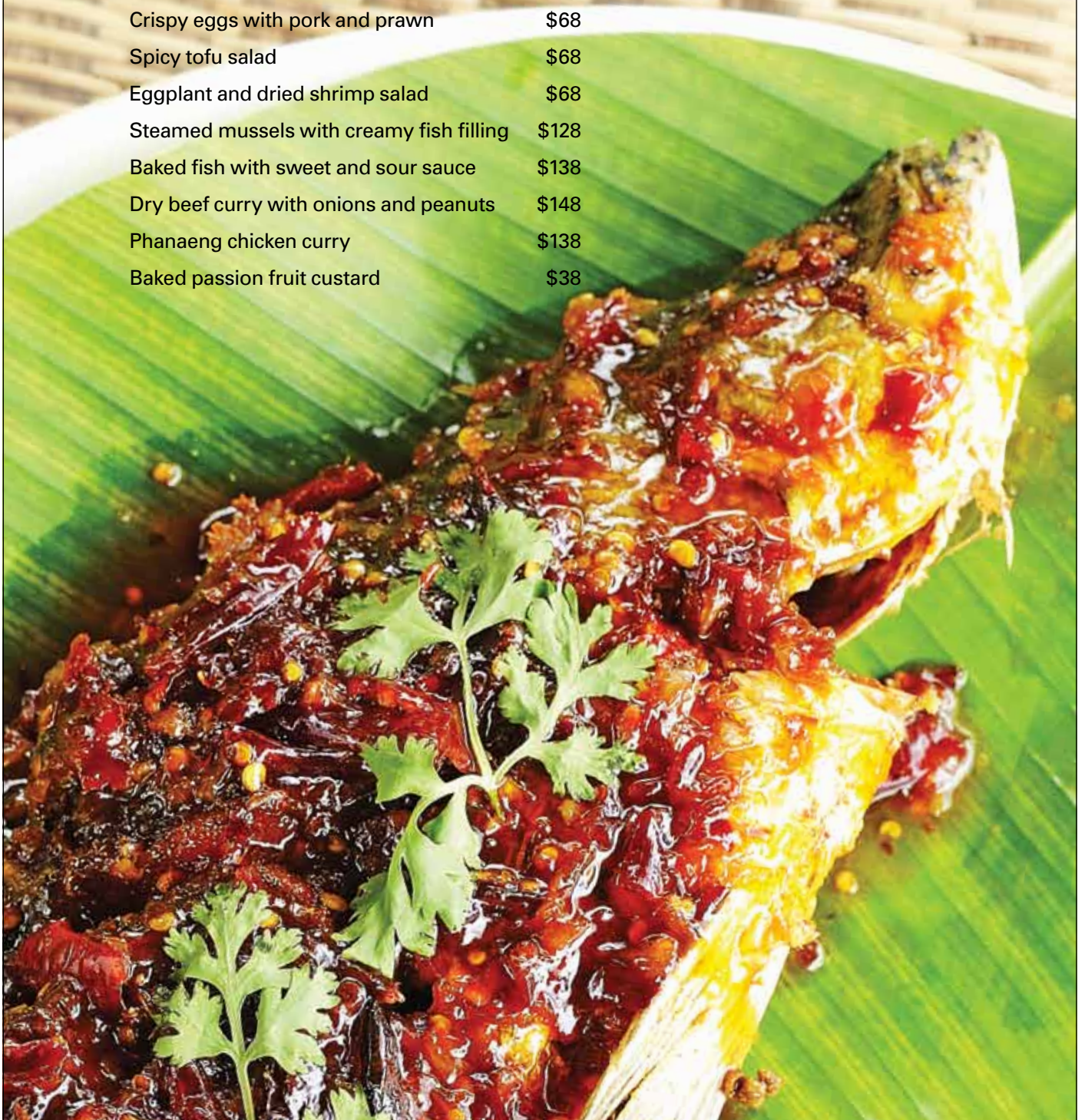


## April Thai Food Promotion

Thailand, with more than 510,000 square kilometers, has had many changes to the cuisine of its four major regions. While Europeans and Southeast Asian neighbours have had some influences on Thai cuisine, it remains a distinctively individualistic world cuisine.

**Come to the Club in April and enjoy our very special selection of Thai cuisine, available in both the Galley and Four Peaks throughout the month:**

Thai fish sticks with cucumber salad	\$48
Crispy eggs with pork and prawn	\$68
Spicy tofu salad	\$68
Eggplant and dried shrimp salad	\$68
Steamed mussels with creamy fish filling	\$128
Baked fish with sweet and sour sauce	\$138
Dry beef curry with onions and peanuts	\$148
Phanaeng chicken curry	\$138
Baked passion fruit custard	\$38





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Charter

Management

New Construction

Crew Placement

[northropandjohnson.com](http://northropandjohnson.com)



**EMERALD LADY** 114'10" (35m) :: Benetti :: 1983/2008 :: \$5,000,000  
Bart Kimman :: Hong Kong :: +852 2815 7712 :: [bart.kimman@northropandjohnson.com](mailto:bart.kimman@northropandjohnson.com)



**ELECTRA** 101' (31m) :: IAG Yachts :: 2012 :: \$6,000,000  
Steve Smith :: Hong Kong :: +852 2815 7712 :: [steve.smith@northropandjohnson.com](mailto:steve.smith@northropandjohnson.com)



**ARCHER STAR** 88'4" (26.92m) :: Majesty :: 2011 :: \$3,688,000  
Daniel Voorhees :: Singapore :: +65 8186 5101 :: [daniel.voorhees@northropandjohnson.com](mailto:daniel.voorhees@northropandjohnson.com)



**PACIFIC CONQUEST** 88'7" (27m) :: Sunseeker :: 2009 :: \$4,615,000  
Bart Kimman :: Hong Kong :: +852 2815 7712 :: [bart.kimman@northropandjohnson.com](mailto:bart.kimman@northropandjohnson.com)



**PURE** 62' (18.90m) :: Horizon :: 2008 :: \$1,390,000  
Daniel Voorhees :: Singapore :: +65 8186 5101 :: [daniel.voorhees@northropandjohnson.com](mailto:daniel.voorhees@northropandjohnson.com)



**B2** 62' (20.19m) :: Nordhavn :: 2006 :: \$2,200,000  
Bert Van Muywijk :: Thailand :: +66 89 289 4038 :: [bert.vanmuywijk@northropandjohnson.com](mailto:bert.vanmuywijk@northropandjohnson.com)



**EAGLES QUEST II** 58' (17.70m) :: Tayana Yachts :: 2008 :: \$549,000  
Sytske Kimman :: Hong Kong :: +852 2815 7712 :: [sytske.kimman@northropandjohnson.com](mailto:sytske.kimman@northropandjohnson.com)



**LANZAROTE 73** 74'6" (22.70m) :: Custom :: 2012 :: \$2,988,000  
Steve Smith :: Hong Kong :: +852 2815 7712 :: [steve.smith@northropandjohnson.com](mailto:steve.smith@northropandjohnson.com)



# Waglan 2013 Races 8 and 9

Words and photos by Philippe de Manny

*The start to Waglan 8*

On Sunday, 24 February, the Club ran the last two geometric races of the season under very promising weather conditions.

The wind direction at 9:30 am when the committee boat left the main Clubhouse indicated 60 degrees, while the anemometer gave a reading of 12 knots average, gusting up to 18 knots. The tide prediction was not an issue. However the two-metre swells from the east, every seven metres, became a real issue for the Race Officer who went from golden-hued to green around the gills as soon as the committee boat was anchored.

## “Contemptuous words hung in the air.”

It must have been obvious to the sailors passing by the committee boat. Contemptuous words such as “You look like you are tossing your cookies,” “Time to hug the porcelain, mate,” and “OUAH! Philippe, did you call for Ralph?,” all hung in the air.

At any rate, the two races took place as usual at the south of Lamma Island. They lasted about 90 minutes each, including small breaks in between transit to and from the racing area. The fleet returned to Middle Island around 3:30 pm for the prize-giving.

The timing element of this race seemed to go well. In fact, it could have been totally the opposite. On the way out to the racing area, the committee boat set course 190° towards the expected drop zone, as close as possible to the SAR boundary, leaving a safe sailing area for our fleet to round that windward mark.

While dropping the windward mark, bigger waves than expected – uncontrollable for seconds – hit the mark-setting boat. At the same time, the buoy rope got caught in the propeller, creating a situation that demanded swift action. As pulling the rope and using reverse power to untie the boat both proved unsuccessful, the last remaining solution was to cut the rope as close to the propeller as possible in the hope that it would free

both anchor and boat. Luckily this was managed but we were left with little time to set the course.

At the end, everything was under control, the RO’s breakfast went out faster than in, the windward, leeward, gibe marks and start line got set, the fleet was on the starting block and the first triangular race began.

Actually, both Waglan races 8 and 9 were sailed using the same triangular course, and as the wind remained stable the whole day, no changes in the buoy positions were necessary.

Two boats did not start on the first race. *Red Kite* had a spinnaker problem on reaching the start line and *Javelin* came late, taking on the wrong side of the committee boat, confusing the leeward mark with the start line.

*Elektra* as usual was the fastest boat on water for both races but found its match in HKPN with *The Farr Side* for Waglan 8 and *Blackjack* for Waglan 9. *Elektra* still was unbeatable under the IRC rating, though having a very close finish with *Blackjack* in Waglan 9. H





Salona 41 butting in



Elektra



Festive prize-giving at Middle Island



FG3 team receiving one of their multiple prizes





# Waglan 2012/13 Series

# RACE RESULTS

Sponsored by Jebsen Marine

Aberdeen Boat Club Waglan Series 8			Aberdeen Boat Club Waglan Series 9		
24-Feb-2013    Course Number 2					
IRC RACE RESULTS					
Start Time : 11:00			Start Time : 12:45		
Place	Yacht	Corrected Time	Place	Yacht	Corrected Time
1	<i>Elektra</i>	0:59:23	1	<i>Elektra</i>	1:02:53
2	<i>Intrigue</i>	1:03:25	2	<i>Blackjack</i>	1:07:41
3	<i>Kei Lun</i>	1:04:57	3	<i>Kei Lun</i>	1:09:26
4	<i>Blackjack</i>	1:05:30	4	<i>Intrigue</i>	1:10:03
5	<i>Salona 41</i>	1:06:16	5	<i>FG3</i>	1:11:17
6	<i>The Farr Side</i>	1:08:48	6	<i>Salona 41</i>	1:12:08
7	<i>FG3</i>	1:09:23	7	<i>JeNa PaBe</i>	1:17:44
8	<i>JeNa PaBe</i>	1:24:38	8	<i>The Farr Side</i>	1:18:08
9	<i>Red Kite</i>	DNS			



Kei Lun on the move

HKPN RACE RESULTS DIVISION A					
Start Time: 11:00			Start Time: 12:45		
Place	Yacht	Corrected Time	Place	Yacht	Corrected Time
1	The Farr Side	1:11:58	1	Blackjack	1:15:57
2	Kei Lun	1:13:00	2	FG3	1:16:04
3	Intrigue	1:13:28	3	Kei Lun	1:18:04
4	Blackjack	1:30:30	4	Elektra	1:18:16
5	Elektra	1:13:55	5	Intrigue	1:21:11
6	FG3	1:14:03	6	Salona 41	1:21:14
7	Salona 41	1:14:38	7	JeNa PaBe	1:21:28
8	Thea	1:14:43	8	The Farr Side	1:21:44
9	JeNa PaBe	1:28:42	9	Javelin	1:23:35
10	Jailbreaker	1:40:12	10	Thea	1:36:30
11	Javelin	DNS	11	Jailbreaker	1:33:20
12	Red Kite	DNS			



RACE RESULTS J/80					
Place	Yacht	Elapsed Time	Place	Yacht	Elapsed Time
1	FG3	1:12:25	1	FG3	1:14:24
2	JeNa PaBe	1:28:21	2	JeNa PaBe	1:21:08
3	Javelin	1:36:18	3	Javelin	1:22:20
4	Jailbreaker	DNS	4	Jailbreaker	1:29:42



Kei Lun and Salona 41 battle at the leeward mark



The start of Waglan 9

The Farr Side at the leeward mark, Waglan 8



Thea, Waglan 8





*Elektra, double IRC winner, at the leeward*



*Blackjack surfing at the finish of Waglan 9*



*FG3 pounding the waves*



*Kei Lun finishing Waglan 9*









## Race Reports

Close shave between Redeye and Andiamo  
(by Philippe de Manny)



Red alert for Redeye (by Eileen Sze)



# Waglan Race 10

By Philippe de Manny, photos by Philippe de Manny and Eileen Sze

On 10 March, the last race of the Waglan 2013 series took place, completing another great season of racing down south. Jebson Marine, our sponsor for the year, gave generous support to this ever-more popular sailing event. Jebson Marine certainly will carry on next year as sponsor of a new series of island and geometric races.

On this beautiful sunny March morning, 25 boats were on the entry list, with five potential division B boats. The weather forecast sadly predicted a day with no wind, which for a sailing race clearly is not ideal. After the habitual consultation of sailors during breakfast, two similar short courses for both divisions were chosen, taking the fleet from Deep Water Bay to south Lamma and back.

On the way out, wind checks proved the weather forecast right for once, and no wind was to be found within the normal starting area, making it obvious that if wind was to be found it would be outside Round Island. Even there, between 9:50 and 10:45, the

anemometer recorded a wind average of 3 knots, too little to start a race.

Race Officer Philippe de Manny and his newly appointed Assistant Race Officer Eileen Sze were pessimistic about having a race and had the postponement and cancelling flags ready. Suddenly, just before raising these flags, a light breeze was felt and 4-knot winds appeared on the screen of the wind-speed recorder.

Jumping the guns, so to speak, the decision to send the fleet was taken, flags changed and the fleet was "en route" for a long, hot and slow race.

On the way to Chesterman buoy, it was still a struggle for the fleet to get moving, and it took most of the fleet over one hour to round the buoy. After the start, the committee boat was stationed at the same mark, monitoring the wind and looking at shortening the race on the way back. A chase boat was sent to South Lamma to lay the ABC rounding mark and get ready to shorten the race there, if necessary. By noon the wind picked up slightly, getting the boats

moving and avoiding the shortening of the race at Lamma at least for the faster Division A yachts. RO Philippe on the chase boat off Lamma was constantly checking wind conditions with the committee boat at Chesterman. The RO decided to shorten the Division A boats there to ensure a full finish, while division B boats were set to finish at Lamma.

On the fun-fact file for the race, Philippe called the committee boat on channel 72 of the VHF, asking them to change to the Club channel in order to communicate. This was much-commented upon during the prize-giving by some sailors, who said that they were hoping for the committee boat to confirm the Channel and thus to reveal to the whole fleet this well-guarded secret. Unfortunately for them the secret channel remained undisclosed.

Results were swiftly produced by Eileen Sze and posted on the website the same evening, a great improvement from previous races, when sometimes it took a few days for uploading by the computer-illiterate Philippe. H





# Waglan 2012/13 Series

# RACE RESULTS

Sponsored by Jebsen Marine

## Aberdeen Boat Club Waglan Race 10

10 March Course: 30

### IRC RACE RESULTS

Start Time: 11:00

Place	Yacht	Corrected Time
1	FG3	1:50:22
2	Kei Lun	1:51:42
3	JeNa PaBe (Ben Chong)	1:51:59
4	Salona 41	1:52:23
5	Elektra	1:52:55
6	Andiamo	1:54:05
7	Blackjack	1:55:02
8	Intrigue	1:56:47
9	Redeye	1:59:26
10	Avant Garde	2:03:24
11	The Farr Side	2:09:57

### HKPN RACE RESULTS DIVISION A

Start Time: 11:00

Place	Yacht	Corrected Time
1	JeNa PaBe (Ben Chong)	1:54:50
2	FG3	1:57:26
3	Jailbreaker (Michael Tsui)	1:59:57
4	Salona 41	2:04:23
5	Kei Lun	2:05:52
6	Andiamo	2:06:17
7	Blackjack	2:09:44
8	May 13th (Lonny Chan)	2:10:56
9	Avant Garde	2:11:35
10	Redeye	2:12:17
11	Chasse Spleen	2:13:28
12	Intrigue	2:14:38
13	White Crane	2:14:47
14	The Farr Side	2:16:22
15	Javelin (Kenny Yim)	2:16:32
16	Elektra	2:20:33

### RACE RESULTS J/80

Place	Yacht	Elapsed Time
1	FG3	1:55:12
2	JeNa PaBe (Ben Chong)	1:56:54
3	Jailbreaker (Michael Tsui)	1:58:45
4	Javelin (Kenny Yim)	2:06:59
5	May 13th (Lonny Chan)	2:09:06

### HKPN RACE RESULTS DIVISION B

Course: 45

Start Time: 11:10

Place	Yacht	Corrected Time
1	Nervous Breakdown	1:41:44
2	Zephyr	1:55:52
3	Aquarius	DNF
4	Vega	DNF

The slow start (by Philippe de Manny)



FG3 (by Eileen Sze)



Close encounter between Elektra and Red Eye (by Eileen Sze)



# 29ers Nationals: ABC Champions Again

*The start of the race*

By Cosmas Grelon, photos by Nick Hollis

**T**he 29er National Championships this year saw its largest fleet yet. With an impressive 11 29ers on the water, the waters were set for a challenging weekend. The ABC entered three boats, all coached by dinghy coach Rory Godman.

Nathan Bradley and I were out to defend our title of Hong Kong National Champions!

Nathan and I have a tradition of never having a very good first race. Although it is not intentional, it seems inevitable. This regatta was no different, even though weather conditions were average for us all. Some 10 seconds after the start gun went, we were upside down, swimming with the fishes, struggling to bring the boat upright.

Eventually we got her up and were off again. Since the wind was rather strong (12 – 15 knots) we were able to catch the pack up quickly. With a few boats capsizing on the way to the top mark we managed to creep back into third place. By the bottom mark we were second, and by the time we reached the next windward mark, we were back to where we wanted to be; first.

After this comeback we were feeling confident and to our delight, we took all bullets with us, finishing the last race with a comfortable lead. The ABC's Nagisa Sakai and Akira Sakai scored well, finishing

second of the 11 boats. The ABC's Yann D'Argenlieu and Andy Service scored impressively, garnering some top threes to finish the first day in third. ABC results after Day 1 were first, second and third.

## Day 2

On the second day of racing, we were in it to win it but the conditions had worsened overnight so the pressure was still on. Bad luck forced Yann D'Argenlieu to miss the first two races due to gear breakages.


Anything could happen between equipment failure, injury or just capsizing during the race. We adjusted our forestay tension to the stronger conditions and tuned our sails accordingly. With winds gusting up to 25 knots and a fair bit of swell, the first start involved many boats not on the start line, and some, although on the start line, inverted.

Fortunately for us, we were upright and shot off the line with speed when the gun went. We fought hard against the competitors but more so against the conditions as they were brutal and pushed our limits further. We took the first two bullets of the second day, but as the conditions softened Nagisa and Akira Sakai were hot on our heels. So hot, in fact, that they beat us in the last

two races, always overtaking us on the downwind and beating us both times by a little more than a few boat lengths!

Nevertheless, since Nathan and I had accumulated the fewest amount of points overall we successfully managed to defend our title of National Champions! Nathan and I won the regatta with one race to go, and were pleased with our scorecard over the weekend. Yann recovered from being forced to sit out the first two races and earned a top-three result at the end of the day. Gigi Sakai and Akira Sakai had a better day, scoring two firsts to help them safely confirm second place.

All in all, the 29er Nationals this year were very successful with conditions suitable to finding the competitors' limits, and then pushing them a little bit further. With our next target being the 29er Worlds in Denmark in summer, this weekend served as great practice in stronger conditions as well as getting us all some larger fleet start practice.

However, there is still much room for improvement if we want to reach our target at the Worlds, so hopefully the training with Rory leading up to the Worlds will allow Nathan and me and Gigi and Akira and Yann to all achieve more strong results for the ABC. 

Provisional results follow and also can be found on

<http://www.rhkyc.org.hk/upload/Sailing/Classes/Dinghy/2013-29er-Nationals-Provisional-Results-after-Day-2.pdf>



29er Class Championships 2013  
Saturday 22 and Sunday, 23 February, 2013

Provisional Results After Day 2 (8 Races)

Helm	Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Net	Discard	Total	Rank
Cosmas Grelon	Nathan Bradley	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	10	2	8	1
Nagisa Sakai	Akira Sakai	2	2	3	4	12	3	1	1	28	12	16	2
Calum Gregor	Peter Backe	6	7	4	2	3	2	3	6	33	7	26	3
Florrie Manzoni	Isabell Tulloch	3	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	36	5	31	4
Henry Salmon	Aymeric Gillard	4	4	6	6	2	12	4	7	45	12	33	5
Yann Thierry d' Argenlieu	Andy Service	7	3	2	3	12	12	7	3	49	12	37	6
Wilhelm Christensson	Samuel McDonald	5	6	8	8	12	12	6	4	61	12	49	7
Chi Wai	Sui Lun	8	8	7	7	5	5	12	12	64	12	52	8
Aidan Long	Leonardo Giustiniani	12	9	9	10	12	12	12	12	88	12	76	9
William Chan	Antonio Franco	12	10	12	9	12	12	12	12	91	12	79	10
Mei Han	Rita Yau	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	96	12	84	11






# Ericsson Inter-School Sailing Festival 2013

Words by Kevin Lewis, photos by Kevin Lewis and Michele Felder

The annual Inter-schools Sailing Festival is one of the highlights of youth dinghy sailing in Hong Kong. The event, which has grown every year since 2003, is sponsored by Ericsson and supported by the ABC and NeilPryde.

This March 9 and 10 saw 24 teams from schools across Hong Kong and Macau racing in predominantly light winds, starting from RHKYC Middle Island. The event takes the form of team racing, with each school entering teams of six sailors in the Feva, Pico or Q'ba dinghies. Sailors need to work together and use team-race tactics to slow down opponent teams, as each race is only a few minutes long, and a "win" is calculated on points.

The Inter-schools Festival has grown in both stature and numbers over the years. This time over 150 youth sailors were involved. A tremendous amount of organization and calculation goes on, and big thanks are due to both Sofia Mascia (Race Officer) and Richard Knight (organizer). With food, music, live commentary, umpires and a huge team of volunteers, the 2013 event proved almost the best yet – only lacking in wind! We look forward to an even more competitive event next year! 



## Congratulations to the winning teams!

- 1st: South Island School
- 2nd: Kellett School (A team)
- 3rd: KGV
- 4th: HK School Sailing Assn (A team)
- 5th: HK Sea School (A team)
- 6th: French International (A team)



(L): ABC sailor Juliette Martin



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# ABC Adds Morning Sessions to Saturday Supervised Dinghy Sailing

## Open to Youths and Adults

The ABC Supervised Sailing initiative continues on most Saturdays.  
The ABC dinghy sailing instructor team has now added morning sessions for younger sailors.

### Saturday Afternoons:

#### Adults and teenagers

Open to both youth and adults, supervised sailing sessions continue most Saturday afternoons. They are designed to offer a reduced-cost opportunity to get more practice on the water after a student has completed a sailing course.

Supervised sailing sessions are also ideal for members who may want to go for a sail, but may not have the confidence to do so alone, or may have forgotten some of the key techniques – or even may feel unsure of how to properly rig their boat.

The sessions are open to members and non-members. A qualified instructor will supervise and will tailor each session around those taking part. Help with rigging and launching, a leisurely sail, setting out some buoys or even an introduction to basic racing will all be possible, depending on those taking part.

To be eligible to attend, adults and teenagers need to have passed an HKSF Level 2 course or equivalent, or have similar experience. Numbers for each session are limited. Advance booking is essential.

The booking deadline is normally the Thursday preceding the session. Those interested should apply to Angela at [SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com](mailto:SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com). Full details also are available on our website, [www.abclubhk.com](http://www.abclubhk.com) (under the “courses” section).

### Saturday Morning Supervised Sailing:

#### Junior Optimist Sailors age 8 - 12

ABC is relaunching our Saturday morning sessions, designed for younger Optimist sailors. To be eligible, applicants need to have passed the ABC Optimist Stage 3 course.

Applications for Saturday mornings are made on a monthly basis. The Saturday morning sessions end at 12:30 pm.

For after-school sailing on Wednesdays, sailors need to be able to arrive on or before 4 pm. The focus of activities will be racing and general boat-handling.

The sessions are an ideal step for those interested in joining our Club Optimist Race Team. Further details are available on our website or from Kevin Lewis at [DinghySailing@abclubhk.com](mailto:DinghySailing@abclubhk.com)





## 2013 ABC Easter Youth Sailing Programme

Our Easter youth sailing programme is now well underway. We still have opportunities to join in as below, while many courses are full. Details are on our website, [www.abclubhk.com](http://www.abclubhk.com), and also from Angela at [SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com](mailto:SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com)

Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	HKS (Member)	HKS (Non-member)
Mon 1 April		Dinghy Sailing Trip	Age 11 – Adult Pass HKSF Level 2	504 <i>youth</i> 590 <i>adult</i>	730 <i>youth</i> 855 <i>adult</i>
Tue 2 April – Sat 6 April am	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11	840	1,215
Tue 2 April – Sat 6 April am	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 1	840	1,215
Tue 2 April – Sat 6 April am	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 2	840	1,215
Tue 2 April – Sat 6 April am	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Supervised Practice	Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 3	840	1,215
Tue 2 April – Sat 6 April		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 - 18	2,520	3,650
Tue 2 April – Sat 6 April		HKSF Level 3 Improver Course	Age 11 – 18 Pass HKSF level 2 with 1 year sailing experience since	2,520	3,650
Tue 2 April – Thurs 4 April		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 11 – 18, Pass HKSF Level 2	1,512	2,190
Fri 5 April – Sun 7 April		Laser 1 Introduction Course	Age 11 – Adult, Pass HKSF Level 2	1,512	2,190

## French International School Mid-term break programme

Date & Time	Junior Course	Activity	Eligibility	HKS (Member)	HKS (Non-member)
Mon 22 – Fri 26 April am	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11	840	1,215
Mon 22 – Fri 26 April am	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 1	840	1,215
Mon 22 – Fri 26 April am	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 2	840	1,215
Mon 22 – Fri 26 April am	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Racing Course	Age 7 – 11 Pass Optimist Stage 3	840	1,215
Mon 22 – Fri 26 April		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 - 18	2,520	3,650
Wed 24 – Fri 26 April		3 Day Topper / Pico / RS Feva Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18 Pass HKSF Level 2	1,512	2,190
Sat 27 – Weds 1 May		HKSF Level 3 Improver Course	Age 11 – 18 Pass HKSF level 2 with 1 year sailing experience since	2,520	3,650
Sat 27 – Mon 29 April		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 11 – 18, Pass HKSF Level 2	1,512	2,190

## RHKYC Middle Island Regatta

Every year the ABC supports the RHKYC with its premier Middle Island Regatta, this year set for 13 & 14 April. The ABC hopes to send a strong team of both youth *and* adult sailors. You need not be on our formal training squads; it would be great to see some adult members racing in some of our Laser 2000s and Laser 1s. Please get in touch with Kevin Lewis at [DinghySailing@abclubhk.com](mailto:DinghySailing@abclubhk.com) first to arrange to reserve a dinghy, and then enter via [www.rhkyc.org.hk](http://www.rhkyc.org.hk).

## Macau International Regatta 2013

The ABC again will send a team to what is one of the “most fun” and family-focused events of the year. We expect more entries than ever. Although primarily a youth event, we also need adult sailors to represent our Club. This year the regatta takes place on 22 & 23 June with sailing out of the AVM Sailing Centre on Hac Sa Beach. With limited spaces, the ABC will accept entries on a first-come first-served basis. A block of rooms at the Luxury Westin Hotel has been reserved so the Westin is open for booking! Please contact Kevin Lewis very soon at [DinghySailing@abclubhk.com](mailto:DinghySailing@abclubhk.com)

## Sailing Diary

### » ABC - RHKYC Joint Dinghy Racing

**Sun 21 April: Spring 5 and 6**

**Sun 28 April: Spring 7 and 8**





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at the Aberdeen Boat Club

**Saturday, 20 April, 3 - 6 pm**

**Doors open at 3 pm for first shearing**

Free canapés

Lucky draws throughout the event

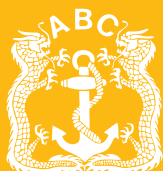
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For more information on St. Baldrick's mission, goals and the ABC event,  
contact Richard at [rkligler@netivigator.com](mailto:rkligler@netivigator.com) or see

[www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org)



ABC sponsorship and donation webpage:  
<http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/abclubhk>



# The ABC Golf Society's Fourth Foray

Words and photos by Philippe de Manny

On Friday 8 March, the ABC Golf Society went for its fourth tournament at the Deep Water Bay Golf Club. Twenty players registered for the game, which was blessed with a gorgeous sunny day.

A round of 18 holes was played followed by a wonderful set lunch. Stableford rules were used to select the winners for the day. Other prizes were given for closest to the pin, longest drive and most golf played.

Winners of the tournament were Sue Clift for the ladies and John Berry for the men with respective scores of 34 and 31. Closest to the pin was Rowena Faerch on hole 12, Rob Olsen on hole 1 and David McConnell on the 12th hole. Longest drive was Mona Chau on hole 8 and Rowena Faerch on hole 18, while on the men's side it was David McConnell again on hole 8 and John Currie on hole 18.

It was a great day for all, full of laughter and camaraderie, supported by many members who otherwise would not have met.

A big thank you is due to Scoring and Handicap Secretary Rowena Faerch and Assistant Handicap Secretary Warren Humphreys for making the results known on the spot and for Golf Society Convenor David McConnell for taking on the role of rule master.

The next ABC Golf Society outing, planned for 26 April, will be the last of the season. It will be played at Kai Sai Chau. H



John Berry, men's overall winner, practicing before winning men's overall



Sue Clift (C), overall ladies' winner, with Philippe de Manny and Rowena Faerch



Relaxing over lunch

If you have not yet joined the Society and wish to start playing or reinforcing the group with your expertise, please visit our webpage:  
<http://www.abclubhk.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=198>





# Coasting ... Past

By Stephen Davies, photos by William Heering

Junk in Hong Kong's Western Anchorage

Stephen Davies has been a member of ABC since 1974. The former director of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum and now its consultant research fellow, he is a specialist in maritime history, with a career closely connected to the sea and Hong Kong.

**T**he Hong Kong Maritime Museum and Hans-Michael Jebsen recently published my new book, *"Coasting past: the last South China coastal trading junks photographed by William Heering."* Through 143 stunning photographs, the book tells the story of these traditional Chinese craft.

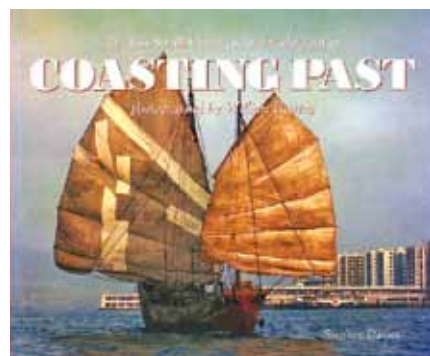
Only a generation ago, junks were sailing through our waters on a route that goes back millennia. This was the "Eastern Passage" between the river up to Guangzhou and the eastern coast of Guangdong Province.

China's last coastal trading junks ignored the hustle and bustle of the fast-changing maritime world around them. They were indifferent to the container

revolution that was changing the global economy. Then one day we all woke up to see they had disappeared. This book is a photographic record of those last days and a visual comment on a navigational world that goes back millennia.

The book is on sale at the brilliantly located new premises of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum in Central – can you think of a better location for a maritime museum than on a pier bang in the middle of one of the most beautiful and historic harbours in the world?

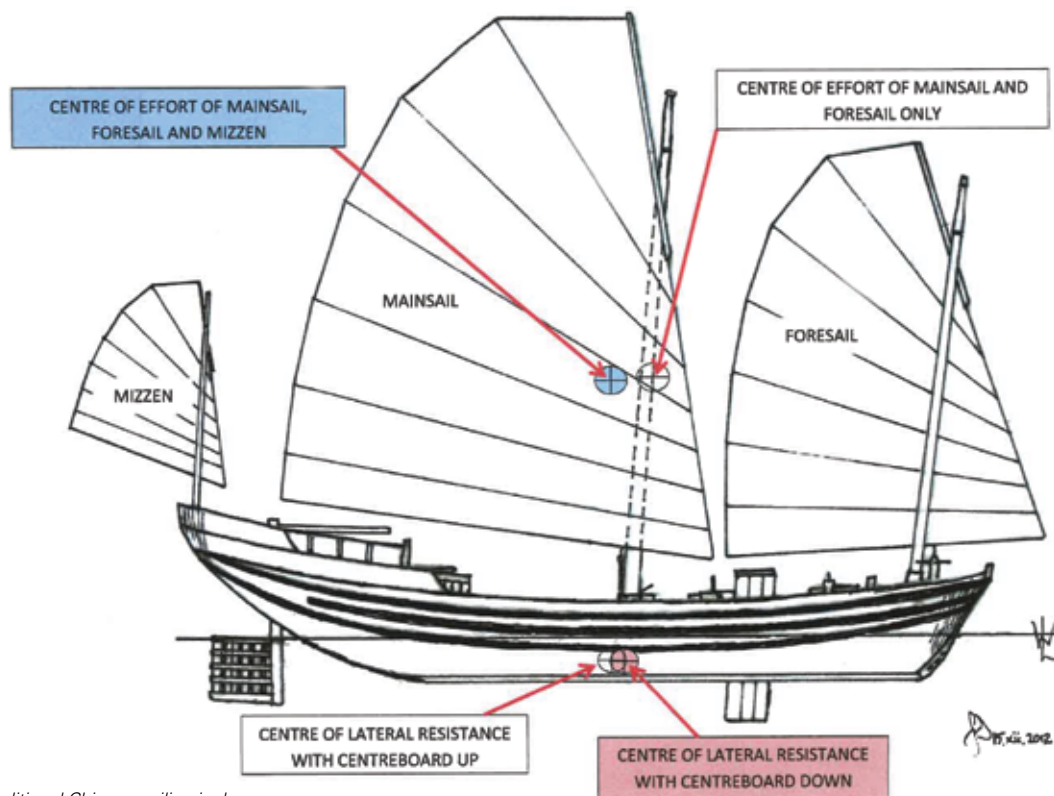
Work on navigation I've done recently as the museum's CSSC Maritime Heritage Research Fellow compares the routes and navigational techniques shown in Chinese route guides from the



late 16th through the mid-19th centuries. They show a stunning similarity. What had worked in the Ming Dynasty was still working more or less exactly the same way as the Qing Dynasty faced its epochal clash with western imperialism.

From the Bohai Gulf to the southern tip of Vietnam, a grand trunk route ran





Plan of a traditional Chinese sailing junk

down China's eastern coast, around Hainan Island and beyond, clear of all dangers, traced out by what were called *zhēnlù* (針路, needle paths). Each leg of one of these – recorded in memory, in chants, in route books and on rough route maps – inherited a simple formula. The formula ran "from A, steer direction"; after *y gēng* (更, or traditional 2.4 hour watch), the ship reaches B".

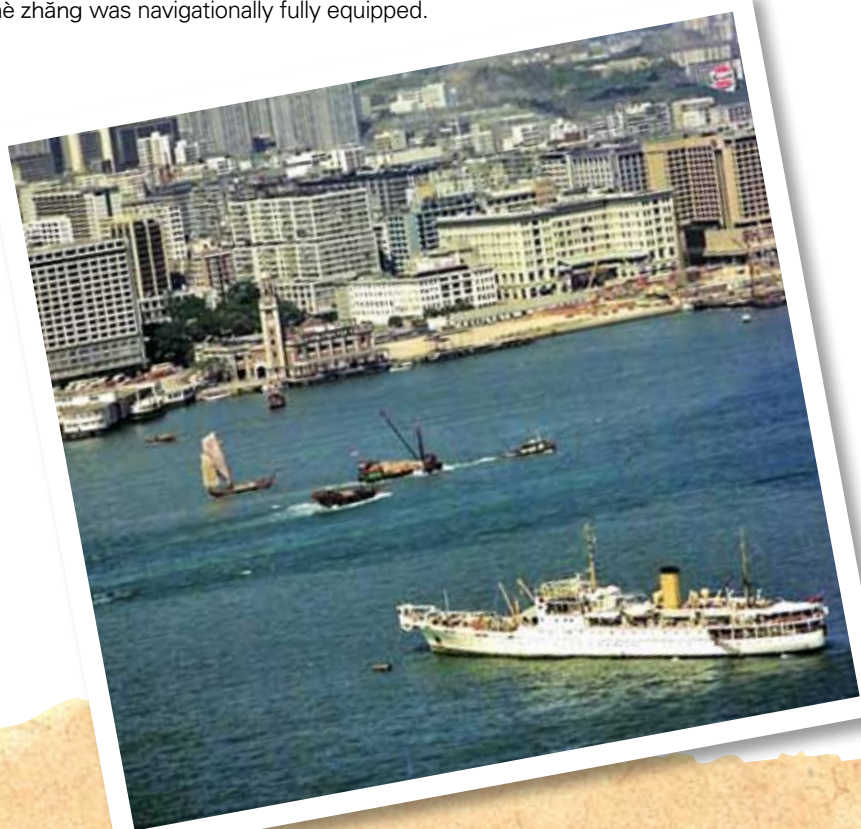
By following the sequence of such instructions – the directions on any one of the 48 on a Chinese compass card, like *dīngwèi* (丁未 = 202.5°) – a junk could be sailed safely down the coast to its destination clear of all danger.

From all along this trunk route a vast network spread out. The *zhēnlù* ran from navigational waypoint to navigational waypoint, each marking turning points for the next leg and often also marking the point where one turned towards the coast into ports and navigable rivers. Other waypoints might mark a branch route that led for offshore destinations from Japan to Jakarta. From other waypoints the mariner would be guided to an island or bay where good shelter could be found for a night at anchor.

The junks of *Coasting Past* very likely used the same navigational techniques. After all, there's nowhere on a sailing junk to put a radar, an echo sounder, a chart table and charts and so on. Even

supposing there had been the money to buy such things, why would a traditional navigator, the *hè zhǎng* (荷長), have bothered? Like the yottigators most of us are in our home waters, he knew where he was and how to get where he was going because he'd been doing it half a lifetime and more. The Mk I eyeball, a prodigious memory, a lead line in case of doubt and maybe a rutter (route book); the *hè zhǎng* was navigationally fully equipped.

From what scholars have found, not all coastal junks would have carried written navigational materials even in the last half of the 20th century. Instead many – almost certainly the smaller ones that plied shorter, local routes as those through Hong Kong waters – were navigated down their traditional routes from memorized data. This was





learned as a child, often in the form of chanted songs – a common, age-old feature of vernacular navigation. There are indications of route songs in classical Greek epics (think of *The Odyssey*), in Viking sagas, in 15<sup>th</sup>-century Arab navigational sources and in the world of Polynesian navigators. But, given the low status of China's mariners, few if any of these route songs appear to have been recorded, and the last junkmasters who knew them are today long gone.

How were the routes the *hè zhāng* sailed and recorded, when they were? We do not know for sure. China's maritime world was always something of a Cinderella despite its amazing reach throughout Asian waters. That meant that its massive practical database did not leave behind it the huge printed record that we see beginning to accumulate in the western world in the 15th century, first growing slowly and then, in the 18th century, beginning its mad acceleration to the millions

of written and printed records extant by the end of the 19th century.

We know that junkmasters kept personal rutters that recorded their knowledge and experience in the set of *zhēnlù* that represented the network of their home port's traditional trade. Almost none have survived.

We have examples in the beautiful Yale maps in the Sterling Memorial Library of Yale University, and in wonderful compendia like the *Máo Yuányí's* (茅元儀, [1594–1640?]) *Mao Kun Map* (more properly the 鄭和航海圖 [Zhèng Hé hánghǎi tú], Zhenghe navigation map) and in Xiè Zhāng's (張燮), *Dōngxī Yáng Kǎo* (An investigation of the East and West Oceans). And in the newly restored Selden Map (東西洋航海圖, *Dōngxī Yáng Hángǎi Tú*), contemporary with Xiè Zhāng's work. Taken altogether, the many individual or home port route patterns coalesced into the core route network that centuries of coastal and overseas trading had created, including the Eastern Passage our Guangdong junks sailed.

Today even yottigation, the last link to a traditional world of sailing and navigating, is going. A world this author grew up in – one not so far-removed from the last of



*Tongjiang map, courtesy of the Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University*

the junk sailors – is fast dying. No need now for long-honed seamanship skills and a good visuo-spatial memory storing mental route maps of headlands and channels, islands and hazards, roadsteads and havens. We have our iPads and iPhones with built-in GPS systems and apps with all the charts to take us from here to Australia. And with the app to the Hong Kong Observatory, Predict Wind or Windguru, the tides and the weather literally are at our fingertips.

Do we have the same experience as the old *hè zhāng* as his junk dipped, curtsied and creaked its way through the D'Aguiar Channel and out into the Eastern Approaches? Maybe not. ㄏ



*Stephen Davies with Graham Aldrich at the ABC book launch*

*Junks in Central Harbour*





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




# ABC Staff Celebrate the Year of the Snake

Photos by Wong Yee Kar

*Cheers all around from the office staff*

On Wednesday, 27 February, the staff of the ABC closed the Club and escaped to the annual spring dinner, this time at Treasure Lake Seafood Restaurant in Central. More than 70 members of staff, with some family members and committee members, enjoyed a delicious Chinese meal to welcome the year of the snake. The dinner was rounded out with songs sung, games played and fabulous prizes won. 



*Hon. Gen. Secretary Nick Bodnar-Horvath in drinking competition round two*



*Cheers from the kitchen team*



*Promotions for Ian Lau and Harry Lee*



*Mrs Bodnar-Horvath presents lucky draw prize to Kevin Lewis*





Steven Ng, Leslie Chan, Philippe de Manny, Cobo Liu and Clara Kong



Commodore John Berry awards 15-year long-service pin to Steven Ng



Shek Chi Keung receives 20-year long service award from Commodore John Berry



2013 Employees of the Year Wong Tim Fuk, Kathy Hui, Shek Chi Keung, Thomas Lao and Leung Yau Hoi with GM de Manny and Commodore John Berry



Mrs Johnson presents Po Hung Pui with his prize



Winners of song-guessing game, Ngai Chor Keung and Cheung Chi Wo, with GM de Manny



Mrs Berry presents Chef Paul with his lucky draw prize



Bingo winner Henry Lam with Natalie Berry and Steven Ng



Wong Kam, grand-prize winner, with Commodore John Berry



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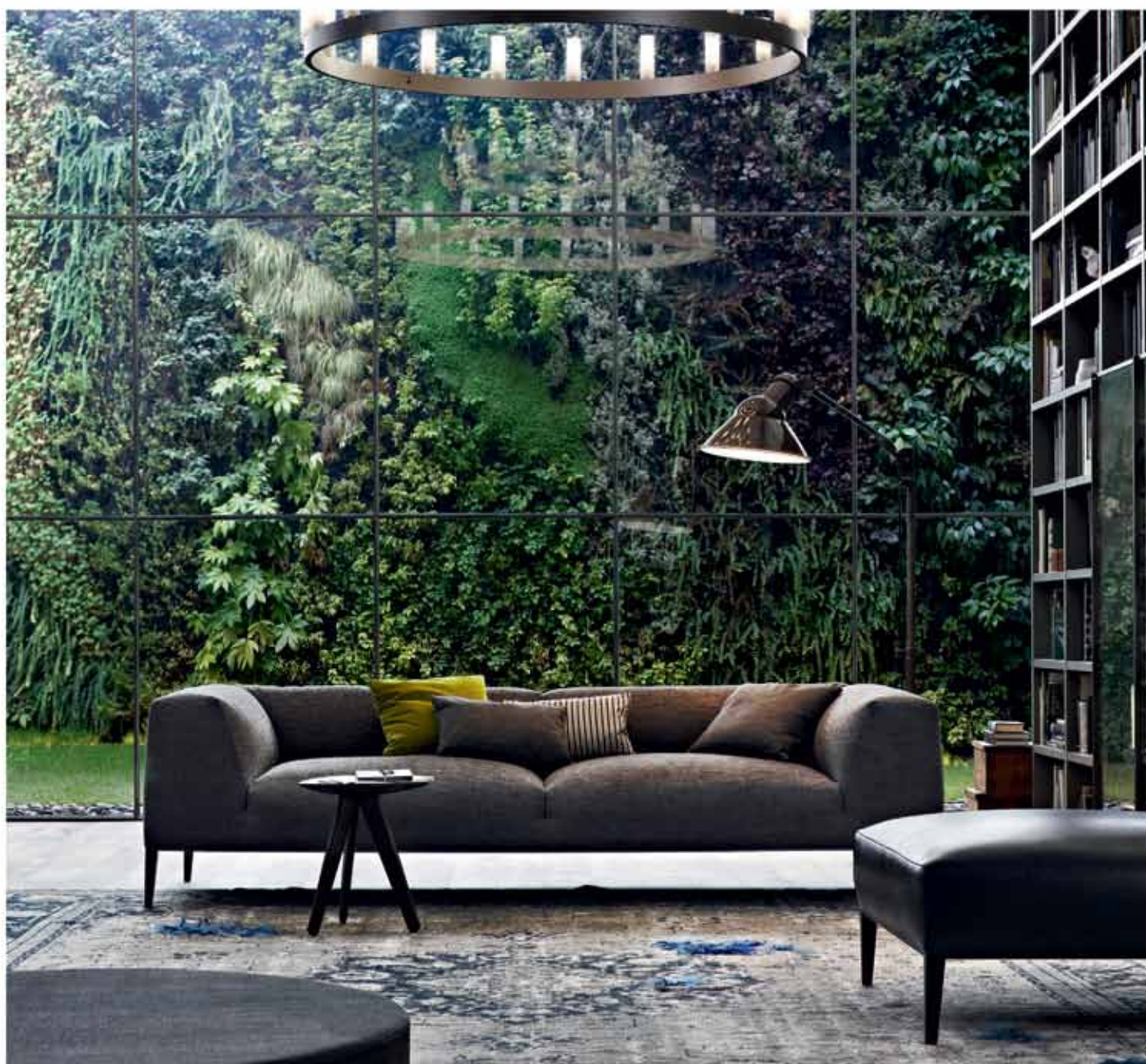
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