



2016/01-02

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HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB

The ABC's
Dinghy-Cruiser Challenge

The ABC's
2015 Southside Regatta

How Round Island Got Its Name



The spirit of conquest.



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- 2 From the Top:**
Club news from Commodore Chris Pooley, Rear Commodore – Sailing Alan Child, and General Manager Philippe de Manny
- 5 January and February food and beverage events and offerings**
- 10 The ABC's Dinghy-Cruiser Challenge 2015**
- 14 Who won what at the 2015 ABC Southside Regatta**
- 18 Knees up: Adults get stuck into Optimists**
- 22 Hong Kong maritime history: How Round Island got its name**

Cover photo by Kevin Lewis: Yann Cudennec and Philippe Grelon (R), in a Laser 2000 during the 2015 dinghy-cruiser challenge

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



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Commodore's Letter

After four very active years at the helm of the Club, John Berry stepped down at the AGM. The meeting handed the honour of the tiller on to me with large shoes to fill, an inspirational goal for the coming term.

The same meeting saw only one addition to the Flag Officer ranks, Alan Child, a long-time ABC member and veteran sailor who is my replacement as Rear Commodore – Sailing, a role he is ideally equipped to fill.

We also welcomed two new members to the General Committee, Tim Edmonds and Stuart Moran. As with all Committee members, each is a volunteer working on behalf of Members to maintain and improve upon ABC's standards and range of activities, so as to enhance our reputation for conviviality and active support of waterborne activities for all.

To introduce myself, I spent a career in international business, mostly shipping-related, and retired to live in Hong Kong; I have been a sailor since boyhood, later professionally, and am active in Club

affairs administratively and socially. Find me at the Club several times a week, sometimes at the Waglan bar where Members may join me for a chat anytime. I'm always open to new ideas.

So, what's on the horizon? Well, the range of marine activities and support goes from strength to strength, with more to come; membership too is steadily growing as keen demand continues from applicants who more than compensate for natural attrition; and much effort is directed to Middle Island development as the major priority. While many decisions must await Government approval, and major progress anyway depends on the installation of new power and water supplies from late 2016, improvements to existing facilities within present constraints are now underway. MI is not simply a sailors' post-race haven, it has long attracted families to weekend lunch gatherings and increasingly is seen as an ideal party venue: excellent catering in peaceful natural surroundings and no neighbours to disturb! And it's getting better.



With Christmas and the New Year past, we move on to the second half of the Waglan race series and then the ABC's unique annual Four Peaks race over 23-24 January. Anyone keen to learn more or help, please contact Marine Services Manager Alex Johnston.

And then another break for Chinese New Year to greet the arrival of the Monkey. I wish all members Kung Hei Fat Choi with luck and success in the coming year.

Chris Pooley
Commodore



Flag Officer's Report

Since SailCom's last report in the June *Horizons*, we have had a number of significant changes, including my appointment to this role at the AGM.

Since June, Chris Pooley and SailCom have been extremely active, in particular overseeing an expanded Summer Series supported by Simpson Marine with a record 34 boats. Calls for volunteers for race management saw welcome new faces though more are still needed. We draw encouragement from good attendance at the Club's November seminar.

Other highlights include successes of our young sailors at regattas in Europe and the Opening Regatta with as much wind early in the season as we are likely to get, indeed too much for the

first Waglan race, set for a March resail. Over 5 and 6 December, the increasingly popular Southside Regatta saw a record entry list.

As a lead-in to the Southside, the Dinghy team narrowly beat their Cruiser opponents on Lasers, more a reflection of young skills than any lack of ability amongst the elders!

Another major highlight was the Sports Institute's accolade of "elite" status awarded to sailing via HKSF. This is part of the Government's programme to provide added funding for training and coaching to develop the sport and to achieving increased participation in international events.

As a keen sailor and yacht owner I am delighted to take up this FO role and would like to thank Chris and his



colleagues on SailCom for all their efforts and contributions to raising the standard and profile of waterborne sport at ABC. I certainly hope to build on this very strong sailing and boating heritage through similar committee support. I wish you all enjoyable boating.

Alan Child
Rear Commodore – Sailing

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General Manager's Letter

The beautification of Middle Island continues:

You must have noticed its new decking and the refreshed look of our BBQ pits. If not, I invite you to make that 10-minute ferry ride to see what is happening in this lovely part of the Club. An upgraded BBQ menu (<http://www.abclubhk.com/upload/FnB/2015/Nov15/MI-Additional-Menu.JPG>) is also amongst the first part of MI improvements. Between 28 December and early February we will revamp the inside as we await the start of our greater development project in 2017. We must close the inside bar but will open a temporary bar outside. We will seek to limit the impact and remain open for BBQs and private parties.

Captain's Table: Our third evening is 22 January in the Waglan bar, where \$98 gains you a drink, plentiful snacks and a talk from Vital Alsar on *La Balsa's* longest raft voyage in history: 8,600 nautical miles from Guayaquil, Ecuador, to Australia. An epic journey needing wit and courage, some might say folly, to be left to the ocean's bounty. The 7:30 pm event follows the skippers' briefing on the annual Four Peaks sailing regatta, just as daring as *La Balsa's* journey.

Monthly subscriptions: On 1 January 2016, the full member monthly subscription increased from \$1,225 to \$1,285, and the weekday member monthly subscription rose from \$740 to \$780.

Staff gratuity and party: Some new Members have asked how to tip our staff. While the ABC and every club I know of forbids tipping, you may express your gratitude through the staff gratuity (and perhaps also a positive letter to me about individual staff). This gratuity, timed for year's end, and regularly reviewed by the General Committee, was for many years set at \$300. Many members at the 2014 AGM raised this topic, feeling our sum was too low (backed up by the most recent Club Managers Association survey revealing that many clubs charge an automatic extra subscription). A follow-

on GenCom meeting led to a 50-percent rise in our suggested contribution, to be seen in this year's statement as opposed to last. Let me make clear to all that this is voluntary, not compulsory, and as you wish can be waived, reduced or increased through an email to Cobo Liu at mbs@abclubhk.com. This is not a salary increase, it is not a new fee or increase of any sort, not even a request; just an indication of a voluntary contribution.

We collect funds for many uses for the staff. We first cover the obvious expenditure, the annual staff party when all staff gather together in a restaurant downtown for a night of excellent food, games, and awards, all complemented by a few sips. We also give a reasonable Chinese New Year bonus to all staff, where your tipping action comes in, in the form of your chosen contribution. All staff – the kitchen teams, wait staff, cleaners, management level and marine staff – get an equal share of your generosity for every worker involved through the year in working for you.

What is less known about this fund is what has been implemented over the past five years; the Staff Assistance Programme, designed to support the wellbeing and development of ABC staff. The programme's intent is to develop a caring working environment by assisting staff in identifying and achieving career targets, enjoying important moments in life and easing the burden of any financial crisis. Part of this programme also keeps a fund for immediate release for unexpected major family crises such as accidents in immediate families, death in the family (spouse, children and parents) and also to support much happier events such as marriage or the birth of a child or similar when we direct programme funds to a special staff party.

Closure for Chinese New Year: We will close at 3 pm on Sunday 7 January and reopen on Wednesday 9 February at 8:30 am. Unofficially I, with a select number of staff without family commitments that Sunday night, will run a very limited service with a "DIY" BBQ at the Waglan



“
The Staff Assistance Programme's intent is to develop a caring working environment by assisting staff in identifying and achieving career targets, enjoying important moments in life and easing the burden of any financial crisis.”

Bar and an Indian menu in the Galley with some food for children until 10 pm. The bar will close at midnight.

15 February closure for staff party:

That Monday at 3 pm, as happens every year, the staff will enjoy their own evening at the Treasure Lake restaurant in Central. The Club will reopen Tuesday at 8:30 am.

Any Member who wishes to tend bar the evening of 15 February may contact me; if so then we will keep the bar open with standard drinks and some nibbles.

Golf Society: We would have had five events this year; while we had to cancel

“ Chef de Manny will present a feast fit for the Emperor Napoléon at the Four Peaks restaurant.”

the March Deep Water Bay outing as an official competition, the six who were there had a ball (with many lost) on that gorgeous day. On 19 June we went to the airport's Sky City Golf Club just before it closed to make space for new development. This time we had 12 players and a great Thai lunch.

On 18 September we had our inaugural inter-club competition at Kau Sai Chau south course. The Hong Kong Cricket Club sent a team of 10 probably ex-PGA tour golfers to battle against

our 12 players in match play that sadly saw the victory of the HKCC. On 20 November, in Deep Water Bay, our second invitational match and last match of the year was against the Foreign Correspondents Club, with 27 players for an individual and team Stableford format. Eventually, Jim McKie and other ABC members won the individual competition and saved the ABC's honour, as the victorious team was again our opponent.

Lastly 2015 ended with the ABC participation in the WAGS annual charity event held at Kau Sai Chau east course, in support of Sailability Hong Kong, an organization ABC is very keen on and proud to support. Hence the committee's decision to send one sponsored team of top players and one non-sponsored team to defend ABC's colours and support Sailability. We are now planning 2016 matches and keeping the interesting invitational games format that seems to have created enthusiasm amongst golfing members. Check http://www.abclubhk.com/Golf_Society.aspx

Special events: On Saturday 16 January, Middle Island will host the clash of the oven titans, Chef Yadav v Win Kaaka, in a tandoori-hangi oven cooking challenge. The \$238 price includes a night cruise on *Shum Fung*, a welcome drink and a wide array of delicacies from the Indian and Polynesian oven-baking traditions. It'll be a big, fun night: enter the Bhangra and Tamoure dance-off, dress to compete for the best Indian or Polynesian costume and vote to elect the titan of the night. Book quickly.

On Saturday, 20 February, the GM will host "A Napoléonic Feast" at the Four Peaks restaurant. Chef de Manny will prepare baby lobster in white wine sauce, veal cheek stew with potato gratin and green salad, and mini choux pastries with three different flavours; a feast fit for an emperor at \$488.

Philippe de Manny
General Manager



Valentine's Dinner, the Four Peaks, Sunday, 14 February

6:30-11 pm

Experience a set dinner of five courses, accompanied by unlimited sparkling wine, surrounded by romantic music. All ladies will receive a special gift.

\$1,288 per couple
Children \$248 (ages 3-12, including a soft drink)

To reserve, please call Reception at 2552 8182



January F&B Events at the Club

Throughout the month of January, the Galley will feature fine warming stews and ragouts, whilst the Four Peaks restaurant will feature fresh salmon.

Every Friday evening, the Patio and Galley will host a curry night for members, families and guests.

January's featured wine from Australia

Geoff Merrill Pimpala Road

Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2012

By the glass, \$52, by the bottle \$245

Geoff Merrill Pimpala Road Shiraz 2012

By the glass, \$52, by the bottle \$245

January's featured beer from the Czech Republic

Pilsner Urquell

By the bottle \$35

January's featured cocktail

Apple Logan Tea

Julienne of dried logan, apple honey from New Zealand

\$40

January Events

Angus Beef Event with free wine tasting

The Patio and Galley, Saturday, 9 January

6:30-9:30 pm

Adults \$298, children \$198 (ages 3-12). Concessionary price for members over age 65, \$248

Hangi and Tandoor Show: Chef Yadav battles Win Kaaka

Middle Island, Saturday, 16 January

12:30-2:30 pm

Adults \$238, (includes welcome glass of sparkling wine), children \$148 (ages 3-12). Concessionary price for members over age 65, \$208

Highland Park Tasting Night

The Waglan Bar, Thursday, 28 January

6:30-9:30 pm

6:30 pm Canapés with cocktails featuring this fine single malt whisky from Orkney

7:30 pm tasting

Speaker: Ron Taylor

\$138 per person

Hot Pot Buffet

The Patio, Saturday, 30 January

6:30-9:30 pm

Adults \$250, children \$150 (ages 3-12).

Concessionary price for members over age 65, \$210



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



Home Wine Delivery January 2016

	\$/Bottle	Quantity	Amount
SPARKLING			
Villiera Tradition Brut N.V., South Africa A blend of 55% Chardonnay, 33% Pinot Noir, and 12% Pinotage. This wine displays the full, balanced yeasty complexity synonymous with a wine made in this style. It retains its fresh racy zestiness that results from crisp acidity and rich fruit.	\$160		
WHITES			
Matetic EQ Chardonnay 2010, Chile Aromas of tropical fruits, mango and papaya, with notes of honey, peaches and cream and caramel given by the barrel fermentation. A more full-bodied Chardonnay on the palate with firm acidity. The finish is elegant and persistent.	\$188		
Grove Mill Sauvignon Blanc 2014, New Zealand Aromas of fresh grapefruit and passion fruit follow through on the palate. There is the typical Marlborough acidity combined with pronounced fruit characters and a long, mouth-watering finish.	\$130		
Devil's Corner Pinot Grigio 2015, Australia Fragrant and enticing with highlights of pears and tropical fruit. Flavours of ripe, yellow pears and apples alongside some spice and savoury notes. Crisp and clean finish.	\$158		
Waimea Estate Gewürztraminer 2013, New Zealand Aromas of blood-red rose and sandalwood. The palate is tempered by a stony minerality and fine phenolic structure. Fresh acidity balances this off-dry style and draws the wine out to a lingering finish.	\$188		
REDS			
Finca Piedras Andinas Dark Label Malbec 2013, Argentina 100% Malbec. Intense purple-red colour with sweet and spiced aromas such as black pepper. On the palate, good body, with sweet tannins, well-balanced by acidity. A lingering and complex finish.	\$130		
Grove Mill Pinot Noir 2013, New Zealand This wine has a highly perfumed bouquet of truffle, plum and dark cherry. On the palate, the wine expresses flavours of mocha, liquorice and rich spices, and possesses a lingering, dense earthy mouthfeel.	\$165		
Xanadu Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2012, Australia Vibrant, characteristic aromas of cassis, mulberries and black plums are entwined with hints of bay leaf and mocha. The full-bodied palate is packed full of inky forest fruits and layered with blackcurrant pastilles and dark chocolate characters. A dense tannin structure supports the generous fruit, which lingers through to a persistent finish.	\$155		
Mt. Langi Ghiran Cliff Edge Shiraz 2013, Australia Aromas of black cherries, blueberries and mixed spices, with violet florals in the background. Hints of pepper and soft oak spice are well-integrated with the dark lush fruits. Blueberry, cherry and blackberry fruits are dominant with beautifully interwoven spice and pepper. Medium-bodied silky tannins balance well with the fruits and fine oak. Possessing a good length with a spicy savoury finish.	\$240		
Total			

**Free Wine Tasting at the Galley and Patio,
Saturday, 9 January, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Angus beef event.**

Remember to place your wine order together with your catering needs.
 *Minimum order – 12 bottles and mixed cases are allowed.

Member Name: _____ Membership Number: _____

Tel (Office): _____ Tel (Home): _____

Delivery Address: _____

Delivery Date: _____ Member Signature: _____

Total amount will be charged to Member's account. Orders accepted by post, fax or in person. Contact the Food & Beverage Department on 2555 6216 or Fax: 2873 2945
 Free delivery for orders of 12 bottles or above. Please allow three working days for delivery. All wines are subject to availability.





February F&B Events at the Club

Throughout the month of February, the Galley will highlight Chinese offerings, and the Four Peaks will offer goose liver served a variety of ways.

Every Friday evening, the Patio and Galley will host a curry night for members, families and guests.

February's featured wine from California

Canyon Road Chardonnay

By the glass, \$52, by the bottle \$245

Canyon Road Merlot

By the glass \$52, by the bottle \$245

Featured beer from Barcelona, Spain

Estrella Damm (pilsner)

By the bottle \$35

February featured cocktail

Born in Spring

Malibu rum, pineapple juice, Blue Curaçao, feijoa fruit

\$50

\$35 non-alcoholic

February Events

Chinese New Year's Eve Buffet

The Patio, Saturday, 6 February

6:30-9:30 pm

Adults \$258, including a glass of sparkling wine, children \$158 (ages 3-12, with a soft drink)

Concessionary price for members over age 65, \$218

Roasted Pig-on-a-Spit Evening

The Patio, Saturday, 13 February

6:30-9:30 pm

Adults \$238, children \$138 (ages 3-12)

Concessionary price for members over age 65, \$198

Valentine's Dinner

The Four Peaks, Sunday 14 February

6:30-11 pm

Enjoy a five-course set dinner with unlimited sparkling wine, surrounded by romantic music. All ladies will receive a special gift.

\$1,288 per couple, children \$248 (ages 3-12, including a soft drink)

A Feast for Napoléon (GM's Cooking)

The Four Peaks, Saturday, 20 February

6:30-9:30 pm

Adults \$488, children \$388 (aged 3-12)

Concessionary price for members over age 65, \$448

Grilled Seafood Buffet with free wine tasting

The Patio, 27 February

6:30-9:30 pm

Adults \$268, children \$168

Concessionary price for members over age 65, \$228



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



Home Wine Delivery February 2016

	\$/Bottle	Quantity	Amount
SPARKLING			
Bottega Prosecco N.V., Veneto, Italy A clean and bright yellow colour, with fine, numerous and persistent bubbles. The nose is flowery and herbaceous, with hints of apple and pear. On the palate, it is dry and crispy with light acidity. Good balance and length. Perfect match with any seafood, sushi and tempura. <i>Decanter Awards UK Commended 2007</i> <i>IWSC UK Bronze Award 2007</i>	\$140		
WHITES			
Double 8 Sauvignon Blanc 2014, Marlborough, New Zealand Lifted aromas of grapefruit, guava and nettles are complimented by concentrated fruit flavours, lively acidity and a lingering finish.	\$125		
Bottega Soave Classico DOC 2014, Veneto, Italy Brilliant straw-yellow in colour. On the nose, delicate with slightly mineral scents. On the palate, it is dry, partially full-bodied and slightly bitter.	\$125		
Eufhoria Aromatic Blend 2013, Washington state, U.S. The wine portrays abundant floral aromatics with flavours of pear, green apple and quince, balanced by bright acidity. <i>Wine Enthusiast - 89 pts</i>	\$135		
Jean-Baptiste Thibault Coteaux du Giennois "Diane de Galinière" 2014, Loire Valley, France Pale-yellow colour with some silver highlights. Expressive and intense nose with citrus fruits (grapefruit) and white flower (broom) notes. The mouth is fresh with a persistent finale. A very typical wine of the Sauvignon varietal and its production area.	\$195		
REDS			
Bottega Cabernet Sauvignon 2014, Veneto, Italy Limpid, intense ruby-red with light-orange nuances. Clear, characteristic, with hints of grass, small red fruits and spices. It is dry, medium-bodied, with the right amount of tannin; fresh, harmonious and with a quite persistent aftertaste.	\$125		
Calvet Reserve Bordeaux 2012, Bordeaux, France A lovely ruby colour. A complex nose of red berry fruits (raspberry, blackberry and blackcurrant), spicy aromas (cinnamon, liquorice and clove) and smoked notes (cocoa and caramel). The wine is round and well-balanced, full-bodied with silky tannins. Its finish is long and fruity with notes of gingerbread, caramel and black pepper.	\$165		
Francois Martenot Bourgogne Pinot Noir 2012, Burgundy, France Light ruby in colour. The bouquet reveals little red berries and liquorice aromas with underbrush notes. A fruity wine of real character, purity and freshness.	\$198		
Jean-Baptiste Thibault Chinon "Les Couldraies" 2014, Loire Valley, France Deep red in colour with purple flecks. The nose is fruity with aromas of black fruits (blackberries) and violets. Full and round on the palate with soft, delicate tannins and a beautiful structure.	\$195		
Total			

**Free Wine Tasting at the Galley and Patio,
Saturday, 27 February, 6:30-9:30 pm at the Grilled Seafood Buffet.**

Remember to place your wine order together with your catering needs.

***Minimum order – 12 bottles and mixed cases are allowed.**

Member Name: _____ Membership Number: _____

Tel (Office): _____ Tel (Home): _____

Delivery Address: _____

Delivery Date: _____ Member Signature: _____

Total amount will be charged to Member's account. Orders accepted by post, fax or in person. Contact the Food & Beverage Department on 2555 6216 or Fax: 2873 2945
Free delivery for orders of 12 bottles or above. Please allow three working days for delivery. All wines are subject to availability.





A close call for the Dinghy Section! The ABC's Annual Dinghy-Cruiser Challenge 2015

By Diana Bruce, photos by Kevin Lewis

Saturday, 28 November, was a beautiful sunny day with moderate easterly winds forecast for the day. A perfect setting for the annual dinghy-cruiser challenge, when the dinghy section challenges the cruiser section, to show us whether or not they are real sailors!

Most passed the first test, which was rigging a Laser 2000. One or two had a bit of outside help with the gennaker (honestly, I didn't spike it, contrary to a totally unfounded allegation by one of the cruiser team!).

And then we all set off for the race area, which had been set in Repulse Bay. Race Officer Tim Fuk set a windward/leeward course, and the first race got off to an exciting start with quite a bit of jostling for pole position. After the first mark, all the gennakers went up (some faster than others) and we had a good blast up to the leeward mark.

By this time Philippe Grelon and Yann Cudennec, sailing for the cruiser team, had consolidated their lead and finished first in Race 1. The rest of the fleet came in hot pursuit, and all boats finished within five minutes of Philippe and Yann.





Fluky winds

The start of Race 2 was a bit of a muddle, to be honest, but amazingly there were no collisions. The fleet divided to the west and east of the course, but actually there was little advantage to either side. The wind had turned decidedly fluky by this time and, at one stage, someone turned the fan off completely.

Once again Philippe and Yann led the fleet, with John Berry and Anatole Martin (for the dinghies) not far behind. Lewis Cerne and Charlie Stewart (cruiser team) weren't getting on too well with their boat and capsized twice, yet still managed not to come last. Despite losing his sunglasses during a tricky tack, James Veneau helmed the third dinghy team boat to fourth place.

By the third race, we all thought we were beginning to get the hang of the Laser 2000, but Yann and Philippe once again took line honours with minutes to spare. Michele Clark and Taylor Young (dinghy team) sailed a good, steady course and came in second this time. Tristan Stewart and Win Kaaka (cruisers) fought it out for last place again with James Veneau and Diana Bruce (dinghy). Hey, someone has to be last.






Series' line honours to Philippe and Yann

So, Philippe and Yann took the series' line honours, having crossed the line first in all three races. But, despite the valiant efforts of the cruiser section, the dinghy section managed to win the series overall by one point.

It was a very close call, much too close for comfort for the dinghy section. I think we are on notice for next year and are going to have to do a bit more practice beforehand (but don't tell the cruiser guys that!).

Many thanks to everyone who took part in this good-natured event, and thanks also go to Kevin Lewis and the ABC marine staff who always help us so cheerfully at these events. We would also like to thank then-SailCom chair and now Commodore Chris Pooley for coming to Middle Island to award the prizes, which we enjoyed drinking! 



Sailors

Cruiser team: Yann Cudennec and Philippe Grelon
Lewis Cerne and Charlie Stewart
Tristan Stewart and Win Kaaka

Dinghy team: Michele Clark and Taylor Young
John Berry and Anatole Martin
James Veneau and Diana Bruce

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16TH - 17TH

JANUARY 2016

Entry Deadline

Fri 8TH Jan 2016

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available at
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For further info please contact
sailingsecretary@abclubhk.com



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First 29er: Nathan Bradley and Yann D'Argenlieu

The Prize-giving for the ABC's 2015 Southside Regatta

Photos by Kevin Lewis



First 420: Ski Ka Chun

On 5 and 6 December, the ABC hosted a record turnout for the Southside Regatta, the ABC's premier annual dinghy event. This was the sixth staging of the event since its relaunch in 2010, after its beginnings in 1995.

Good winds featured on the regatta's first day followed by fickle winds the second day.

Enjoy our photomontage of the prize-giving ceremony, presided over by new Commodore Chris Pooley, SailCom chair Alan Child and SailCom stalwart Diana Bruce. H



First 470: Tse Sui Lun and Chik Ho Yin



First Division A: Tse Sui Lun and Chik Ho Yin



First Division B: Marian Williams



First Laser 2000: Kimberly Lorin and Yann Cudennec



First Optimist 10 and Under: Juliette Clot



First Place Optimist: Dolf Hendrikson



Second 29er: Cosmas Grelon and Christophe Hatterer



Second Division A: Siu Ka Chun and Yun Tsz Fung



Second Division B: Oscar Tullberg



Second Hobie 16: Roy Godman and George Burkett



Third 29er: Freya Darnton and Harriette Edmonds



Second Optimist: Duncan Gregor

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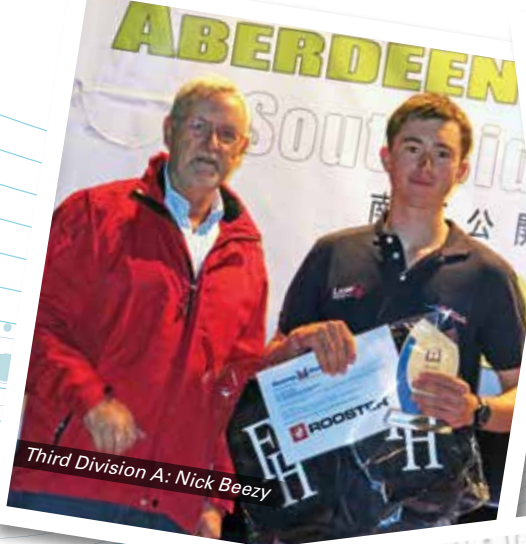
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Third Division A: Nick Beezy



Third Division B: Nancy Highfield



Third Optimist: Thorwen Uiterwaal



Master Prize Division A: Kit Tong and Jonathan Tou Ting



Quiz: Sailing Knowledge for Skippers

See page 23 for answers

Contributed by Stephen Hilton, ABC member

1. What is the name of the ABC's new rear commodore for sailing, and whom did he replace?
2. You are sailing at night on starboard tack and observe a single red light on your starboard bow on a collision course. You calculate that if you continue on your course you will likely collide with the vessel – what should you do?
3. What does the term "in irons" mean?
4. What is meant by "scandalising the mainsail" and why might a skipper undertake this action?
5. A heading of "One Eight Zero" will take you in which direction?
6. When would a yacht under sail have to give way to a power-driven vessel that is underway?
7. You are racing in a sailing race and cross the start line before the start signal – what must you do?
8. The parts of the standing rigging that exert sideways force in order to keep the mast vertical are called what?
9. A westerly cardinal mark indicates safe water is in which direction?
10. What is the meaning of "free board"?

“
The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.”

– William Arthur Ward, writer

ABC Members Take Part in the **HKODA** **Adult Optimist Race**

By Agnès Caër-Piras



Start line



Damon Kennish

On Saturday 14 November, the first adult Optimist Race took place, proving itself to be an event not to miss.

The adult Optimist race, quite a novel idea, was put together by HKODA and run from RHKYC's pontoon, seeing 17 brave parents (and one even braver grandfather) trying to find the least uncomfortable position in an Optimist, in which none had set foot in the last 30 years, if ever!

The "real" Optimist sailors, all far younger and headed by Thorwen Uiterwaal, were in charge of various race duties and roles, such as race officer, safety officer, judge-on-water, club coach, etc.

Sadly, the wind was not on our side this year, but despite this, sailors managed to have a fun race with a clear winner in Peter Davies, and a lot of "starboards!" and protest screams, though everyone knew that no protests were allowed ...

Adrenaline-fuelled advice

To spectators, the parents racing in Optimists were a fun sight.


But just as enjoyable to watch were the nervous supporters on the safety boats shouting, “Dad, do not sit like that, Dad, pull the main sheet, Mum, sit forward, Mum, do not stand on the boat, Dad, lift your daggerboard when going downwind” and so on.

It was actually a great pleasure to feel the adrenaline emanating from all these smaller and bigger sailors, though I’m not sure which side was more stressed?

The ABC team conducted a very honourable race; our first sailor was Eric Piras, earning fifth place overall. Our club was well-represented, by Michelle Clark (Karrie’s mother), Pascal Martin (Anatole and Penelope’s father), Damon Kennish (Malo’s father), Eric Piras (Antoine’s father) and François Caër (Antoine’s grandfather).

Funds raised for Sailability

Even more importantly, this race raised funds for Sailability, which received a cheque of more than HK\$10,000.

I am convinced that next year’s edition of the race will be even more successful and will be preceded by intense training in the Optimists of our adult sailors, trying hard to forget their bruised knees ...! 



Eric Piras



François Caër



Prize-giving ceremony



Pascal Martin



Michelle Clark



2016 ABC Easter Youth Sailing Programme

The Easter school holidays are just about the best time to sail with great wind! Apply early, as Easter tends to be our most popular time to sail, and courses quickly become full, especially our Optimist Junior activities. This year we offer three adult courses (seen below in **bold**) so that

parents can sail at the same time as their children Full details are on our website, www.abclubhk.com, and also are available from Angela at SailingSecretary@abclubhk.com.

We offer an "early bird" discount for those who book before 1 March.

Date and Time	Junior Course	Activity	Details/entry requirements	Discounted cost if booked before 1 December (Member / non-member) \$	\$ Cost (Member / Non-member)
Application Deadline Monday, 14 March					
Sat 26 – Weds 30 March AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim with water confidence	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Sat 26 – Weds 30 March PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Sat 26 – Weds 30 March PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Sat 26 – Weds 30 March PM		Adult HKSF Level 1	Adult (18 or over), can swim with water confidence	1,395 / 2,093	1,550 / 2,325
Sat 26 – Weds 30 March		HKSF Level 3 Improver Course	Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF Level 2 with one year's sailing experience since	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Sat 26 – Mon 28 March		RS Feva Introduction Course	Age 12 – 18, passed HKSF L2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388
Tues 29 – Thurs 31 March		Laser 1 Introduction Course	Age 12 – Adult, passed HKSF L2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388
Fri 1 – Tues 5 April AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim with water confidence	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Fri 1 – Tues 5 April AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Introduction	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 3	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Fri 1 – Tues 5 April PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Fri 1 – Tues 5 April PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11 passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Fri 1 – Tues 5 April		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18, can swim with water confidence	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Sat 2 – Mon 4		Adult Laser 2000 Course	Adult (18 or over) hold HKSF L2 or equivalent	1,674 / 2,511	1,860 / 2,790
Mon 4 April		Dinghy Sailing Trip (Youth and Adult)	Age 12 – Adult, hold HKSF L2 or RS Feva Introduction with additional sailing experience	477 / 717 (youth) 558 / 837 (adult)	530 / 796 (youth) 620 / 930 (adult)

Application Deadline Thursday, 24 March					
Weds 6 – Sun 10 April AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim with water confidence	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Weds 6 – Sun 10 April AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Race Introduction	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 3	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Weds 6 – Sun 10 April PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Weds 6 – Sun 10 April PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Fri 1 – Tues 5 April		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 11 – 18, can swim with water confidence	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Weds 6 – Sun 10 April PM		Adult HKSF Level 2	Adult (18 or over) hold HKSF L1	1,395 / 2,093	1,550 / 2,325
Weds 6 – Thurs 7 April		RS Feva Gennaker Introduction	Age 12 – 18, passed RS Feva Intro	954 / 1,433	1,060 / 1,592
Weds 6 – Sat 9 April		ABC 4 day Introduction to High-Performance Sailing	Age 13 – 18 Applicants must hold HKSF Level 3	1,908 / 2,866	2,120 / 3,184
Weds 6 – Sun 10 April		High-Performance Advanced Skills, HKSF Level 4	Age 13 – 18 Applicants must hold HKSF Level 3 and have one season of sailing since	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980



March and May 2016 Sailing Programme for the French International School

Date and Time	Junior Course	Activity	Details/entry requirements	Discounted cost if booked before 1 December (Member/non-member) \$	\$ Cost (Member/Non-member)
Application Deadline Friday, 11 March					
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Mar AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Mar AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Introduction to Racing	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 3	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Mar PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Mar PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11, passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1,791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 21 – Fri 25 Mar		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 12 – 18, basic entry level for teenagers, can swim	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Weds 23 – Fri 25 Mar		3 Day Pico/Feva Supervised Practice	Age 11 – 18, passed HKSF Level 2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388
Application Deadline Tuesday, 29 March					
Mon 9 – Fri 13 May AM	✓	Optimist Stage 1	Age 7 – 11, can swim	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 9 – Fri 13 May AM	✓	Optimist Stage 4 Introduction to Racing	Age 7 – 11 passed Optimist Stage 3	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 9 – Fri 13 May PM	✓	Optimist Stage 2	Age 7 – 11 passed Optimist Stage 1	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 9 – Fri 13 May PM	✓	Optimist Stage 3	Age 7 – 11 passed Optimist Stage 2	972 / 1791	1,080 / 1,990
Mon 9 – Fri 13 May		HKSF Level 1 & 2 Beginner Course	Age 12 – 18, basic entry level for teenagers, can swim	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 9 – Weds 11 May		3 Day Pico/Feva Supervised Practice	Age 12 – 18, passed HKSF Level 2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388
Mon 9 – Fri 13 May		Improver HKSF Level 3	Age 12 – 18, applicants need to have passed HKSF L2 1 year ago or longer	2,385 / 3,582	2,650 / 3,980
Mon 9 – Weds 11 May		RS Feva Introduction	Age 12 – 18, hold HKSF L2	1,431 / 2,150	1,590 / 2,388

Get Back in a Boat: Opportunities for Adult Dinghy Sailors

By Kevin Lewis

The ABC rightly focuses on the development of youth sailing, but still has a lot going on for adults. Here are a few activities to help you get back in a boat:

Adult HKSF Level 3 Course: At present we offer one weekend-based adult Level 3 course per year, this year on 23, 24, 30 and 31 January, with an evening lecture on the 25th. We use Laser 2000s and Laser 1s, and focus on seamanship skills. In January we hope for stronger wind and usually the Level 3 is a very rewarding activity. To be eligible, candidates must hold an HKSF Level 2 for more than a year, and have over 30 hours of sailing written into their logbooks. Cost: \$3,100 (members) and \$4,650 (non-members).

Supervised Sailing on Saturday afternoons: Our supervised sailing sessions are a great way for adults (and teenagers) who already hold an HKSF Level 2 or equivalent to keep sailing, and are open to non-members. We offer a discount for four sessions booked at once. For details see the website under "Course" and then "Supervised Sailing."

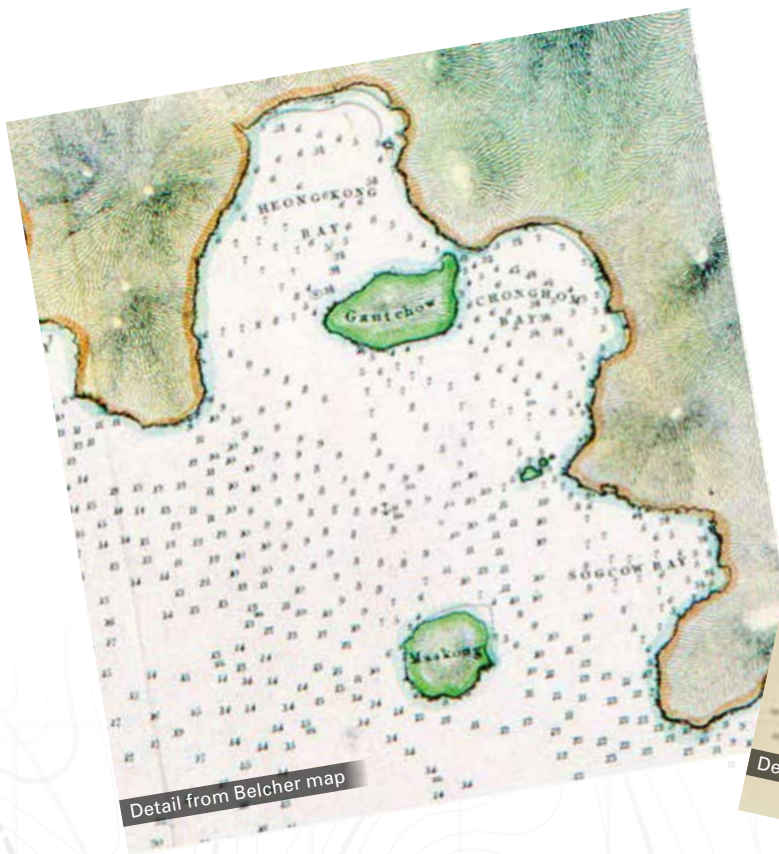
J/80 Sailing Trip: A great way to get out on the water for those who have attended a J/80 Competent Crew Course

or have existing keelboat experience. The next session is Saturday, 30 January. For details and to book see our website.

Adult Laser 2000 Course: Always popular. Ideal as a refresher or for those who have completed their beginner course and hope to perfect their skills. For the first time we will offer this three-day course over the Easter weekend, 2, 3 and 4 April. As that period is busy, we strictly limit numbers on the course – so apply early to ensure a space. See the ABC website under "Adult Intermediate Sailing Courses."

Dinghy Sailing Trip: A great way to spend a sociable day sailing to Stanley, Po Toi Island or Tai Tam. For those who have passed their Level 2 and have additional experience, but note a sailing trip is not for beginners. It's also an opportunity for a family to sail together – teens may join provided they hold their own HKSF Level 2. Details and booking forms on the ABC website under "Course" and "Application Forms."

Adult Beginner Courses: Our weekend-based beginner courses re-start in March. Details and booking forms on www.abclubhk.com Course dates follow: 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 March / 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 April



Detail from Belcher map



Detail from Collinson map

The naming of Round Island, Ngan Chau, 銀洲, Ma Kong

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

By Dr Stephen Davies

The toponymy of Hong Kong's coast is a wonderful field of enquiry. That's because it is weird. No one seems ever to have been entirely sure what anywhere was called ... supposing it actually had any sort of name until some nosy Western hydrographer began to ask.

When it had a local name, depending on the dialect spoken by whoever was providing an answer, and on what he thought he was being asked, what then appeared in western maps was something else.

In our local waters, Round Island is an interesting case in point. Whatever it was called before the British arrived in 1841 we don't know for sure. However, the first maps promptly appear to disagree.

Let's start with Edward Belcher's well-known 1841 chart of Hong Kong. Belcher gets a lot of names truly scrambled not just as far as spelling goes, but also as far as location is

concerned. How else did Tin Shui Wan (Repulse Bay) end up getting called Chong Hom Wan?

Belcher is very clear, however, about Round Island, known to many an ABC sailor. He calls it "Maskong." It is not clear where that came from or what on earth the original Chinese dialect term may have been.

Maskong certainly doesn't fit with what appears on Lt Thomas Bernard Collinson's wonderful 1846 ordnance map of Hong Kong. The Collinson map, a scant five years after Belcher's, calls the place Round Island, perhaps, as we'll see, because today's Chinese name can be translated as "Coin Island."

Collinson's name caught on in some circles. When one of the early telegraph cables was landed in Deepwater Bay in 1875, mariners were warned it would be laid north of "Round Island."

A couple of years earlier, Hong Kong's longest serving police chief, Walter Meredith Deane, had suggested the

establishment of a “lazarette on Round Island off Stanley, for the confinement of beggars.” The Superintendent of Police recalled that suggestion in 1894, and thought it a good idea. Life there would be so awful folk would stop begging and he’d have less of a problem. It wasn’t an idea that caught on.

A short-lived settlement

On charts, however, by the end of the 19th century, the Royal Navy’s variant had hung in and morphed into Ma Kong. More interesting yet, by that time another bit of government had made note of what may have been a settlement there. By 1894, Ma Kong was counted as a hamlet. In the 1906 census we learn that 12 people lived there – all male – though by 1911 the count was down to seven, and after that the settlement seems to have disappeared.

It was also around about this time that Government got hot under the collar because without its permission the Royal Navy had banged iron stakes into the western shoreline of Ma Kong to mark the north-western end of a measured two miles. (Older hands of the ABC may remember calibrating their logs using these marks as late as the early 1980s.)

In the early 1930s the name muddle seems to have been resolved in favour of the names we know today. The Public Works Department was referring to it as Ngan Chau, reserving Ma Kong for Ma Kong Bay – though it is not clear which bay “southeast of Repulse Bay” it meant. But as far as the island is

concerned, by just before World War II the name we use today took over, and Round Island has continued in use to the present.

Because Chinese characters were never used, we have no clue what Ma Kong may have been ... or even where. The data and Belcher’s tendency to muddle leave it open that Ma Kong was never in fact a name for Round Island but, possibly, only of a very small hamlet somewhere on the Chung Hom peninsula. Thus the name may have been some sort of a Belcher contraction of “island off Ma Kong Bay.” One possibility, hinted at by the late Ken Barnett, may be that it was a settlement of boat people, since they were often known as “Ma” or “Man” or “Mang,” written in Chinese with any one of three characters with one – improbably – 馬 (horse)!

Ngan Chau (銀洲), today’s (and perhaps yesterday’s) Chinese name means something like Coin or Silver Island. It’s a popular name in Hong Kong, popping up for a small, round island off the southeast corner of Peng Chau near Discovery Bay, and also for a long, flat island – Flat Island in English – separating Hoi Ha Wan in Sai Kung from what used to be called Jones’ Cove to the west.

These discrepancies give some support to Ken Barnett’s thought that a lot of Hong Kong coastal toponyms are phonetic Cantonese (or Hakka, or Chiu Chow) renderings of pre-Chinese Yao language names ... so who knows what they really meant.

Weirdly, if you google “Ma Kong Chau” you’ll get two hits ... and in the right place! ➡



Answers: Sailing Knowledge for Skippers

See page 17 for questions

1. The new rear commodore for sailing at the ABC is Alan Child. Alan replaced Chris Pooley, who has now taken up the position of commodore.
2. You are seeing the port light of a sailing vessel ahead, and you must turn hard to port to avoid a collision. If the crossing situation had been identified earlier you could have tacked early to pass Port to Port/Red to Red.
3. You are said to be “in irons” when you steer a yacht too close to the wind and lose all drive from the sail. There is a no-go area of about 45° on either side of the wind for a modern cruising yacht that is trying to beat to wind.
4. “Scandalising” is the action of reducing the drive from the main sail by lifting the boom with the topping lift to reduce the amount of sail area, and is a very effective way to control speed. A good example of when you would do this is to control your approach speed when sailing upwind onto a buoy. In reality, this is uncommon today, but a competent skipper should know how to do it.
5. You would be heading to the south. On a boat, the course and bearing are always stated as three individual figures to reduce the chance of confusion. Hence the One-Eight-Zero not One Eighty – east therefore would be stated as Zero-Nine-Zero.
6. If the yacht were the overtaking boat, especially in confined waters. In fact, any vessel that is overtaking another is the give-way vessel.
7. You must sail completely back across the starting line without impending anyone before starting the race. A sailing race is jokingly defined as when any two sailboats are sailing in the same direction and in sight of each other.
8. The shrouds. It is important to periodically check shroud tension as this is one of the main causes of dismasting.
9. A westerly cardinal would be placed on the western edge of the hazard so safe water would be to the west – you should not sail east of the Western Cardinal without first checking your charts.
10. Free board is the distance from the gunwale (pronounced “gun’l”, originally the gun ridge on a sailing warship) to the waterline, when the boat is at rest.

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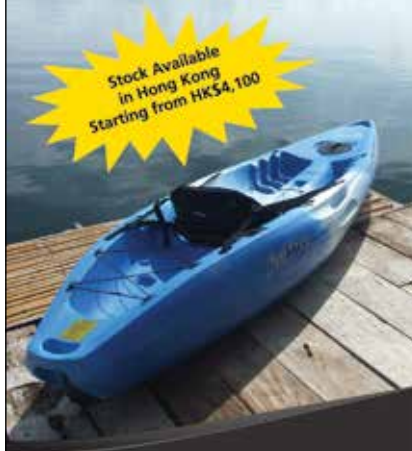
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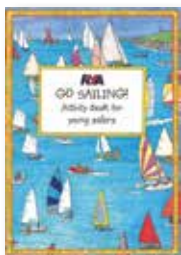


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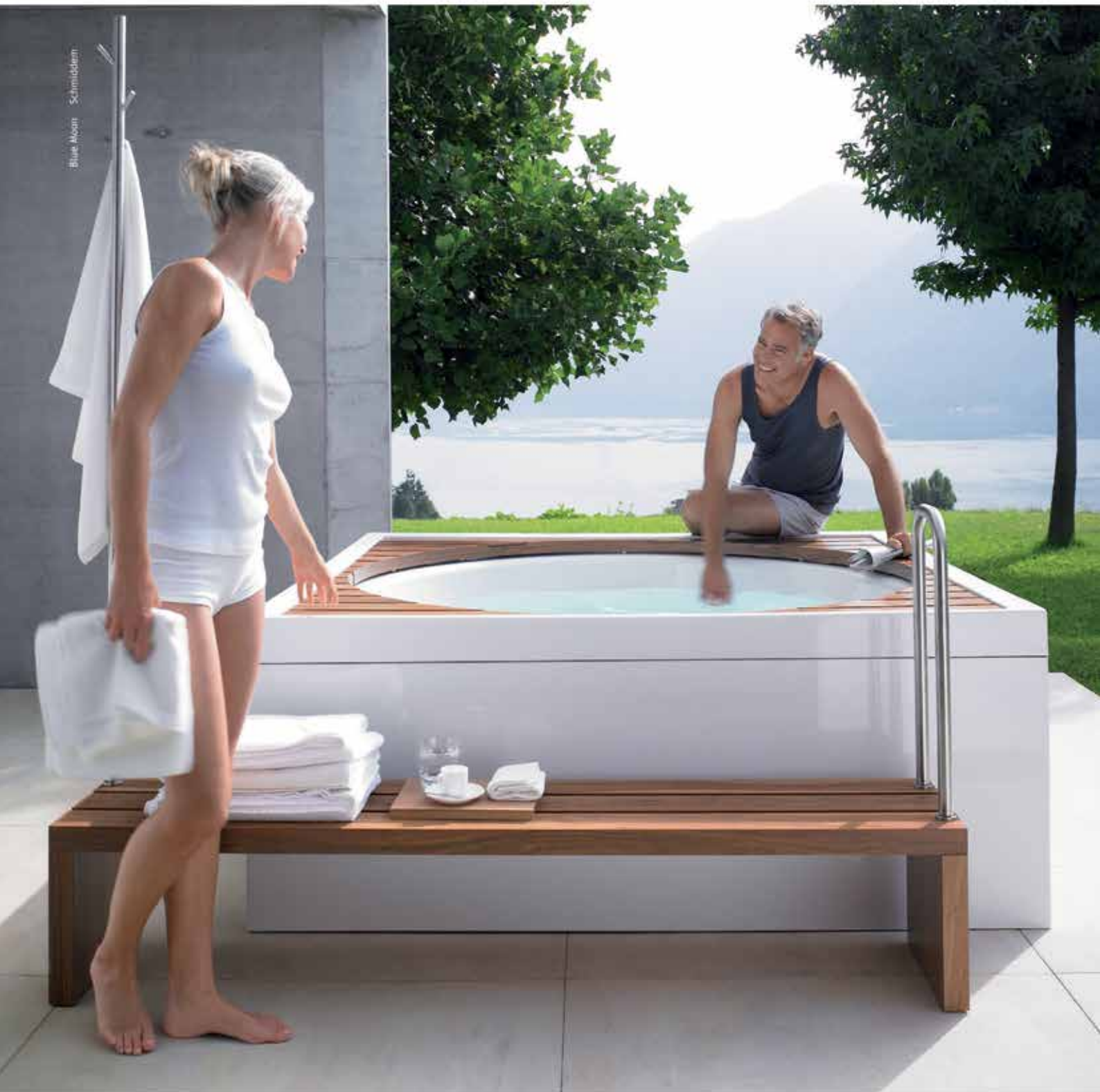
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