



# Aberdeen Boat Club

## Opening Yacht Regatta 2023

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September

Supported by:



## **ABC Commodore's: Welcome Message**

This year's annual curtain raiser to Hong Kong's Sailing Year has once again been set for late Sept in the hope that the first blush of the NE Monsoon will by then present entrants with favourable racing conditions.

With Covid and the annual Summer Exodus to cooler climes now well behind us, the stage is set for a good and enthusiastic turn-out for the starting signals at 1055 both days. The established format is unchanged: W/L races on Saturday and Island courses on Sunday with the usual divisional splits; early applications are more than welcome.

ABC's Opening Regatta is an open event, so the skipper of any Keel Boat with a Racing handicap in HK that weekend is welcome, indeed encouraged, to join the fun on either or both days. Prizes are awarded for overall placings in the overall regatta results only.

Recent ABC races have seen a welcome increase in the number of new boats and sailors attracted to the water. Divisional splits, in the spirit of fair racing, cater to this range of demand.

Once again, our loyal sponsors will lend their support: Sky International catering to HK's sailing fraternity; Hepworth Craft Beer slaking thirsts with their tasty brews and rewards for prize-winners; and the ever-generous Fuegy Fuels - their valuable support is greatly appreciated.

All Entrants are advised, nay directed, to read and familiarise themselves with the NoR below and the ABC SSI's. Inevitably there are changes to note each year while Mardep is taking an ever-closer interest in the safe conduct of yacht racing around our shores, not least when it comes to safe-guarding commercial Traffic Zones. So, there are key points to hoist aboard.

As ever, Race Management is a critical factor governing the Regatta which could not be staged without the support of ABC's dedicated and cheerful Marine & Sailing Team and their range of equipment. They enjoy their role and as sailors we are grateful beneficiaries. Participants owe a big vote of thanks to them all.

So, there is much in store for sailors, afloat and ashore, on ABC's special introduction weekend to the season. On that note it is my pleasure to welcome all participants, on boats large or small, fast or sedate, long-term regulars and especially new boats and crews to make the most of the enjoyment to be had on the splendid waters around the islands to the South of HK.

I wish you all competitive, fun and a SAFE weekend's sailing and, with luck, ,favourable winds.



**Chris Pooley**  
**ABC Commodore**



# Aberdeen Boat Club Opening Yacht Regatta 2023

## Notice of Race

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

The Regatta Organising Authority is the Aberdeen Boat Club under the auspices of the Hong Kong Sailing Federation.

### **1. Rules**

- 1.1 The Regatta will be governed by the 'Rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2021 - 2024.
- 1.2 The Prescriptions of the Hong Kong Sailing Federation (HKSF) will apply, together with:
  - The IRC Rules, Parts A, B and C (IRC Rule 22.4 shall not apply). There will be no limitations on crew number or weight, except single handed, shorthanded yachts or keelboat entries without accommodation, are not acceptable;
  - the HKPN Handicap System, (including the PIPS – Performance Increase Penalty Scheme);
  - the World Sailing Special Regulations Category 4 - Appendix B, Inshore Racing plus VHF radio, except that the requirement to be self-righting will not apply to the Multihull Classes;
  - Class Association rules of competing classes – e.g. J – 80 etc.
  - this Notice of Race (NoR) and the ABC SSI's 2022 – Revised Edition.
- 1.3 In case of conflict between any of the above, succeeding items take precedence. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.4 For the purposes of IRC Rule 21.1.5 (d) & (e) the regatta is run on consecutive days. Replacement sails may be permitted during the regatta in exceptional circumstances with the permission of the Race Committee. A replacement sail will only be permitted if it is of similar cloth weight, area and design.
- 1.5 If the Protest Committee decides that a boat which is party to a protest has broken a rule and is not exonerated, it may impose a scoring penalty (which may be no penalty) at its discretion, as an alternative to disqualification. This changes RRS 64.1.
- 1.6 This NoR may be amended by the ABC SSI 2022 - Revised Edition and/or an Opening Regatta Notice to Competitors – (NTC # 1).

## **2. Advertising**

- 2.1 Boats may be required to display the regatta sponsor's advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.
- 2.2 World Sailing Regulation 20 will apply for Competitors boats/crew wear displayed during the event.

## **3 Eligibility and Entry**

- 3.1 The regatta is open to the following classes and boats:

### **3.1.1 Class or division of Class**

- Yacht IRC Class/divisions – Rating split – to be announced.
- Yacht HKPN Class/divisions – Rating – to be announced.
- Multihulls with accommodation.
- Day Keelboats with accommodation, such as J 80's, will race under HKPN.

- 3.2 Boats from other classes may also be considered by the Race Committee on application, by 1700 hrs on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 23.
- 3.3 The final regatta divisional splits will be allocated by the Race Committee in a Notice to Competitors (NTC # 1) subject to entries received and in the interests of fair racing, by 1700 hrs. on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 23.
- 3.4 A boat will be entered in one class only. The IRC and HKPN Classes will be divided into suitable rating bands depending on the number of entries received.
- 3.5 A class or division will consist of a three-boat minimum for all classes.
- 3.6 All boats must be in the vicinity of the starting line at its class warning signal to be eligible for the Regatta.
- 3.7 Eligible boats are yachts which have valid IRC Certificates or HKPN ratings and other seaworthy boats at the discretion of the Race Committee, including multihulls with or without accommodation.
- 3.8 Boats without valid IRC or HKPN ratings may be accepted by and have HKPN ratings allocated for the regatta by the HKPN Rating Committee at the discretion of the Race Committee. Any such allocation will not be subject to protest. Valid IRC & HKPN ratings will be listed as published on the current HKSF website by 1700 hrs on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 23.
- 3.9 Entry may be made by submitting a completed online entry form and Declaration of Skipper form before 1700 hrs on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 23. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee but will be subject to an additional late entry fee of \$250 HKD.
- 3.10 Class lists will be published on the event website no later than 1700 hrs on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 23.

## **4. Entry Fees**

The entry fees will be as follows:

- Yachts: \$600
- Multihulls (with accommodation): \$600
- Keelboats - J80s & Keelboats with accommodation: \$600

## **5. Schedule and Course Locations**

### **5.1 Saturday:**

- IRC Yacht divisions up to three Windward/leeward races; HKPN Yachts/keel boats & Multi-hulls divisions: up to two windward / leeward races in the Lamma sailing area.
- The actual number of races will be determined by the race committee and/or race officer considering the weather conditions.
- The scheduled time for the first warning signal will not be before: **1055 hrs.**

### **5.2 Sunday:**

- IRC Yachts, HKPN Yachts/keel boats, Multi-hulls - An Island course.
- The start area will be determined by the race committee and/or race officer considering the weather conditions and ABC's designated sailing areas.
- The start area for all divisions will be posted on the regatta website by 0900 hrs on the day of racing.
- The scheduled time for the first warning signal will not be before: **1055 hrs.**

## **6. Measurements**

6.1 IRC boats shall submit a copy of their current IRC Certificate to the Marine and Sailing Office no later than 1700 hrs on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 23, unless their IRC rating is listed on HKSF website. A scanned soft copy sent by email is acceptable. RRS 78.2 will also apply if a boats certificate cannot be produced.

6.2 No alteration to a boat's TCC will be permitted after this date, except because of a rating protest or to correct rating office errors.

6.3 HKPN boats which have had any recent performance enhancing changes shall submit a completed HKPN PIPS declaration form to the Marine and Sailing Office no later than 1700 hrs on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 23. HKPN PIPS forms can be found at: <https://sailing.org.hk/subpage/ocZh8aBGdCSoN3rLt?lang=eng>

## **7. Sailing Instructions**

The event will be sailed under the ABC SSI's 2022 – Revised Edition which can be downloaded at: [https://www.abclubhk.com/annual\\_events.aspx](https://www.abclubhk.com/annual_events.aspx)

## **8. Venue**

The ABC main club house and Middle Island club house will be used by the organising authority. Racing will take place to the South, East and West of Hong Kong Island.

## **9. Registration**

Registration will be completed by sending the signed Declaration Form (with IRC certificate and HKPN PIPS form, if appropriate) to the Marine and Sailing Office before 1700 hrs on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 23.

## **10. Penalty & Arbitration**

10.1 Prior to a protest hearing an Arbitration Hearing may be offered in accordance with Appendix T as modified in NoR 10.2. If an arbitration hearing is not available, a boat may nonetheless take a postrace penalty as defined in NoR 10.2. (This changes Appendix T2.)

10.2 A boat may take a penalty at the time of the incident as per RRS 44.1.

10.3 Provided that rule 44.1(b) does not apply, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident may take a Post-Race Penalty at any time after the race until the beginning of a protest hearing involving the incident, in accordance with Appendix T, as modified below:

- 10.4 (a) The Post-Race Penalty is a 20% Scoring Penalty except the minimum scoring penalty shall be 3 places. (This changes Appendix T1.b.).
- (b) A boat takes a Post-Race Penalty by notifying a member of the race committee, or for incidents resulting in a protest, an arbitrator or a member of the protest committee in writing that she accepts a scoring penalty. (This changes Appendix T1 (c) and Appendix A.5).
- (c) Arbitration Process of Appendix T2 - 4 may be offered for each incident resulting in a protest by a boat. (This changes Appendix T2).

10.5 The protest time limit for all boats is 90 minutes after the last boat finishes.

10.6 RRS rule Appendix A - Clause 5.3 will apply.

## **11. Scoring**

11.1 Boats will be scored according to their IRC or HKPN ratings, depending on the class entered.

11.2 Yachts and multi-hulls divisions: Scoring all races will count equally, with no discards.

## **12. Safety & Support Boats.**

12.1 While racing, no exposed anchors or large bow rollers shall be carried on deck forward of the bow, unless enclosed by the hull or a fixed bowsprit.

12.2 All boats shall carry adequate lifesaving equipment for all persons onboard.

12.3 ABC support boats may be suitably marked with the sponsors or event branding.

## **13. Berthing & Moorings**

Subject to availability, temporary moorings can be provided, in either Deepwater Bay or Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter for boats wishing to stay overnight before or after the race. Details may be obtained from the Club on 2552 8182 (Ext. 834) or by emailing to [marinecoord@abclubhk.com](mailto:marinecoord@abclubhk.com). Space booking is required but not guaranteed.

## **14. Minimum Safety Requirement**

Boats must comply with their class rules regarding safety requirements and Cruisers must comply with the World Sailing Special Regulation Category 4: Appendix B – Inshore Racing plus VHF Radio: <http://www.sailing.org/documents/offshorespecialregs/index.php>

## **15. Radio Communications**

15.1 Communications between the Race Committee and competitors will be on Marine VHF Channel 72. This applies to all competing boats in the regatta.

15.2 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

## **16. Prizes**

16.1 The Opening Yacht Regatta 2023 Trophies will be awarded to boats placed overall first, second and third places for each class, depending on the number of entries and class entered – e.g. either IRC or HKPN.

16.2 A Line Honours prize will be awarded to the first boat in each class to finish the Island Course on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 23.

## **17. Prize Giving**

Prizes will be awarded at the ABC Middle Island clubhouse on Sunday after racing, subject to any outstanding protest hearings.

## **18. Disclaimer of Liability**

- 18.1 The Aberdeen Boat Club, the Organising Committee, the Race Committee, Regatta Sponsors and their respective representatives, Officers, Members, Staff and Volunteers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss of life or property, personal injury and damage caused by, or arising out of the Regatta.
- 18.2 The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone. (RRS Fundamental Rule 3). In addition, competitor's attention is drawn to the World Sailing Special Regulations 1.02.1 (first point) which begins "Under RRS 3, the responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone. The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Person-in-charge..." Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk.
- 18.3 Owners and skippers are invited to co-operate with the Organising Authority, Race Committee and ABC Marine & Sailing Office in completing the formalities of their boat entries by submission of all required information, certificates, forms, etc. within the deadline dates quoted throughout this NoR. Failure to comply will result in a boat not entering the series correctly and will require supporting evidence to be presented to the race committee to comply.

## **19. Insurance**

Entered boats shall have third party liability insurance at least to the minimum cover required under Hong Kong SAR law.

## **20. Food and Beverage Arrangement**

A Breakfast buffet on both days will be available at the main clubhouse from 0800 hrs.

## **21. Further Information**

### **21.1 Car Parking**

Car parking is not available for visitors on race days. Other public car parks are opposite the main club above the bus station and the Jumbo Car Park on Welfare Road.

### **21.2 Club Signing Rights**

Visiting competitors from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Hebe Haven Yacht Club and Discovery Bay Yacht Club may sign chits on the race day on presentation of their club membership card.

### **21.3 Food and Beverage**

Non-member competitors may use Octopus Cards at the Coffee shop and at ABC MI, which are valid for use only on the designated race days and prize giving presentation.

### **21.4 Ships Stores & Fuel**

Drinks and ice are available from the Galley on the day of the race and the take away food requires pre-order the day before. Fuel is obtainable from Fuegy Fuel Barge located at the western entrance of the Aberdeen Harbour or the Aberdeen Marina Club fuel pier.

21.5 Event website: [http://www.abclubhk.com/opening\\_yachtregatta\\_2023.aspx](http://www.abclubhk.com/opening_yachtregatta_2023.aspx)

### **21.6 For Event enquiries:**

Alex Johnston – Marine Services Manager  
Email: [marine.services@abclubhk.com](mailto:marine.services@abclubhk.com)  
Tel: +852 2518 9523 - Ext: 835

### **21.7 For Entries & Mooring enquires:**

Jennifer Li – Assistant Marine & Sailing Manager  
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