

January-February 2024

# HORIZONS

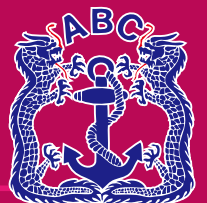
The Magazine of the Aberdeen Boat Club



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR



YEAR OF THE DRAGON





## November 2023 – February 2024

Dates		Holidays	ABC - Yacht Races	Dinghies	Others
November 2023					
Sat	4			29er - GP 3 - Middle Island Regatta, National Team Trials	RHKYC Lipton Trophy / COA Autumn Speed Cruise / DBYC Sokos under the Stars / HHYC Monsoon Winter 1
Sun	5		Waglan Series Race 3 & Race 4 (WL - Lamma)	29er - GP 3 - Middle Island Regatta, National Team Trials	DBYC Sokos under the Stars
Sat	11			RHKYC Around Middle Island Race	
Sun	12			29er - GP 4 - ARTI Race	RHKYC Around the Island Race - Sailing
Sat	18				HHYC Monsoon Winter 2
Sun	19		Waglan Series Race 5		
Sat	25				HHYC Monsoon Winter 3
Sun	26			ABC Tong Po Chau Autumn Race 3	
December 2023					
Sat	2			ABC Southside Regatta / 29er - GP 5: Southside	RHKYC CR3: Coastal Race / HHYC Monsoon Winter 4
Sun	3			ABC Southside Regatta / 29er - GP 5: Southside	RHKYC CR3: Coastal Race
Sat	9				COA Christmas Cup / HHYC Monsoon Winter 5 (Final)
Sun	10		Waglan Series Race 6		
Sat	16				HHYC Monsoon Winter (Resall)
Sun	17			ABC Tong Po Chau Autumn Race 4	RHKYC YMC Alma Mater Race
Mon	25	Christmas Day			
Tues	26	Boxing Day			HHYC Boxing Day Cruise
January 2024					
Mon	1	New Year's Day			HHYC New Year's Day Sailaway
Sat	6				RHKYC Monsoon Spring Cup / COA New Year Crew Helm Rally
Sun	7				RHKYC Monsoon Spring Cup
Sat	13				RHKYC HKRNV Memorial Pursuit Race / HHYC Kowloon Cup
Sun	14		Waglan Series Race 7		HHYC Kowloon Cup
Sat	20				RHKYC CR4: Coastal Race
Sun	21				RHKYC CR4: Coastal Race
Sat	27		Four Peaks Race		
Sun	28		Four Peaks Race	Hong Kong Race Week - 30 Jan to 4 Feb	
February 2024					
Sat	3			29er - HKRW / Asians, GP 6	
Sun	4		Valentines Day / Ladies Helm		
Sat	10	CNY			COA CNY Macau Race or Long Distance Coastal Rally
Sun	11	CNY			COA CNY Macau Race or Long Distance Coastal Rally
Mon	12	CNY			COA CNY Macau Race or Long Distance Coastal Rally
Tues	13	CNY			COA CNY Macau Race or Long Distance Coastal Rally
Sun	18		Waglan Series Race 8 & Race 9 (WL - Lamma)		
Sat	24			29er - GP 7 - MI	RHKYC CR5: Coastal Race / HHYC Monsoon Spring D1
Sun	25			29er - GP 7 - MI	RHKYC CR5: Coastal Race





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Horizons welcomes ABC member contributions of articles and photos.  
Please contact the editor at [martin@drmartinwilliams.com](mailto:martin@drmartinwilliams.com)



## COMMODORE'S LETTER



Chris Pooley  
Commodore



*Each Age has deemed the new-born year,  
the fittest time for festal cheer!*

*[Sir Walter Scott]*

Indeed, the annual changeover from the Old to the New Year around the time of the N. Hemisphere Winter Solstice has long been a cause for celebration and hope for a better future. But it took the Scots to raise that to exuberant heights with Hogmanay!.

ABC of course also rises to the occasion with the ever popular and acclaimed NYE party, the after-effects of which may still linger when members attempt to read this edition! The festive season then pauses until Chinese New Year brings more celebrations as Spring beckons and the two old years have finally been laid to rest.

My thanks to all members who attended or sent in proxies for their confidence in the team which was re-elected at the AGM. My thanks too, to the two new members who stood unsuccessfully for election. Both have been encouraged to join a sub-Committee to become known and to obtain an understanding of the workings of The Club before standing again for Gencom.

As is customary at ABC the Club will be closed for the first two days of the CNY holiday--- over the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of Feb---but volunteers are again welcome to help out with bar sales on an honesty system, Robin Sherchan being the point of contact.

That holiday heralds in the Wood Dragon Year, traditionally one signifying Strength, Power and Good Fortune –we could all do with some of that! Single Pisceans may care to note that the Dragon often brings with it Romantic Luck. If so, celebrate your new find in the Four Peaks Restaurant!

The last big event of the Rabbit Year is ABC's annual unique, combined yachting and mountain running event, the Four Peaks Race over the coldest weekend of the year on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Jan; sponsored, as it was last year, by the Italian Yacht Builders **Solaris**. Their enthusiastic generous support is greatly appreciated: the prize-giving party on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb will be a lot of Italian-flavoured fun.

For other F&B events watch out for E-flyers there being two particular evenings of Note: another Cigar and Rum event and a South African Wine dinner; plus, at some point winter Hot-Pot.

Renovations in the Main Club House continue apace with work commencing shortly on the Front entrance, Reception lobby, staircase and Coffee Shop Patio tiles all set to complete in mid-2024 with the minimum disruption aforethought.

A final thank you to members for their contributions to come to the Staff Lai See Fund at a recommended increased level which will be put to very good use –in part at the annual Staff Party on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March when the Club will be closed.

With that I wish all members an improved healthy and happy year to come and Kung Hai Fat Choi to welcome in the Dragon. In the words of Shakespeare: *Come Gentlemen I hope we shall drink down all unkindness.....*

# ABC Junk for Hire

Available for Parties, Day Trips and Water Sports



Picture by Fragrant Harbour

Pick-up at ABC, Central pier, Causeway Bay or TST public pier. The ABC can provide food and beverages including a range of hot and cold dishes, desserts and drinks.

Email [fnb@abclubhk.com](mailto:fnb@abclubhk.com)

Rental of speedboats, banana boats and water ski can be arranged via Freely Marine Services at 9276 2932.

Daytime: 9am – 5pm

Night-time: 6pm – 11pm

Monday – Friday: \$6,000

Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: \$7,000

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## 2024 Boat Label Application Form

By applying for the Aberdeen Boat Club label, members agree to the following terms & conditions:

- Boat labels are for Members only. The boat label fee charged will be according to the Boat Label fee table on the Club website, the fee is for 1 year.
- The boat label is valid until 31 December 2024.
- All boat owners must display a boat label when using the Aberdeen Boat Club pontoons both at Main clubhouse and at Middle Island clubhouse. Each owner will be given x2 labels per boat to display on each side of the boat.
- Abide by the Club by-laws Annex 3 Sailing & Marine – Pontoons.

Please supply a copy of the following together with this application form:

1. Certificate of Ownership
2. Valid Operating License; and
3. Valid Certificate of Insurance

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat label collection method: ☐ By collection at Club reception  
☐ By post to the following address:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **BOAT DETAILS**

Boat Registration No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of the Boat: \_\_\_\_\_



20 Shum Wan Road  
Aberdeen, Hong Kong



2552 8182



marinecoord@abclubhk.com

# HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE:

By Graham Price, Chairman, House and Building Committee

## Back to the Future – as Club Refit Continues

“Back to the Future”, the theme of our successful and innovative New Year Party, might well be a fitting epitaph for the Refit Committee. As we have now made a start on the Refit of our ABC Ship, also known as our Main Club Building, we had to go back into the original drawings and structure of the building in order to plan the improvements and upgrades needed for the future.

Although out of sight, we have completed the replacement of the piping “backbone”, new main water pipes and drainage, which are so fundamental to operation of the building. Whilst you may not see the new pipes, you will doubtless admire the refurbished toilets on the 3rd and 4th floors.

During the spring months, we must according to government rules drain and refill our swimming pool. We do this during the cooler months; and at the same time inspect and maintain the pool and associated pumps. The “carpet” surrounding the pool will also be replaced, as it is showing signs of wear and damage. This year, we will be using a new, improved material for the pool surround – which is more resistant to UV light and should be more comfortable underfoot.

Meanwhile, our team together with the architects and designers have focused their attention on the main

entrance and ground floor, including the Galley and Patio. The Galley is the venue everyone either uses or passes through, and so we want to make it more attractive, make operations easier and more efficient, and make it more enjoyable to use. As always, we strive to keep the features that members know and love, while refreshing the venue and making it suitable for the future.

Over the coming months, we are also preparing to provide a better changing room for our female staff. We will make some improvements to the Bridge Room, to improve its ambience and use as a multi-function venue.

We will also be starting to think about the future needs of our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, including the Waglan Bar & Four Peaks Restaurant.

Refit of our well-loved and well used Club house continues “compartment by compartment”, just as in a ship, and we trust and hope that members enjoy the improvements that we make. As always, we love to hear suggestions and comments from You – as it is “Your Club”!

*Note: The lower car park is at the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor; Coffee Shop 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Waglan Bar 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor and function rooms 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.*





27 & 28  
JANUARY 2024



# SOLARIS FOUR PEAKS RACE 2024

A 95 NM OVERNIGHT  
YACHT RACE  
RUNNING ACROSS  
4 ICONIC PEAKS  
AROUND HONG KONG



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FOR INFO OR REGISTRATION



# Welcome to the New Members

## June 2023

Daniel Fung  
Dora Li  
Alvin Poon  
Jian Pan  
Vincent Li  
Yvonne Tsang  
Sasha Wong  
Timonthy Kaiser  
Sivanand Ray  
Nathan Sun  
Alice Wan  
Louie Buckland  
Leah Lau  
Benjamin Chen

## July 2023

Juliana Wong  
Law Ting Kai, Mark  
  
**August 2023**  
Cheung Chun Hong  
Alexander Lui  
Anise Piper Walker  
Harvey Benedict Walker  
Cathy Ho  
Anthony Huen  
Kevin Wan  
Khem Rai  
Benjamin Bulmer

## September 2023

Mathias Ogier  
Vincent Ho  
Alan Law  
Jeffrey Fong  
Vincent Yung  
David Turnbull  
Paul Zhu  
Guillaume Chauville

## October 2023

Bradly Wilkins  
Roselle Fung  
Bower Yu  
Alix Nguyen-Minh

Rohan Maliah  
Lai Yuk Fai  
Michael Joergensen

## November 2023

Barry Michell  
Ryle Shih  
Kyle Shih  
Lucas Heumez  
Callum Joseph Szekely  
Lau Yu Pin Alexandra

# Farewell for the Leaving Members

## June 2023

Helena Smith  
Patrick Kwong  
Lim Merng Phong  
Michael Law  
Chenming Song  
Julienne Lin  
Simon Walton  
David Wong  
Jane Camblin  
Vikram Dhingra  
David Turnbull

Ronald Leung  
Antonio Wu  
Alexandra Kalb  
Yim Man Huen, Helen  
Di Salvo Maddalena

## August 2023

Raymond Cheng  
Tse Yat Pun Eddie  
Raymond Pierce  
Deanna Chan  
Yeung Yuen

## September 2023

Rob Aylsworth  
Christopher Howarth  
Rohit Honawar  
Christine Lin  
Liu Cheuk Yin, Joe

Alan Ferrier  
Suen Chi Wai  
Fiona Kaaka  
Marcus Yau  
Dylan Wong  
David Perry  
Steve Yin  
Girish Jhunjnuwala

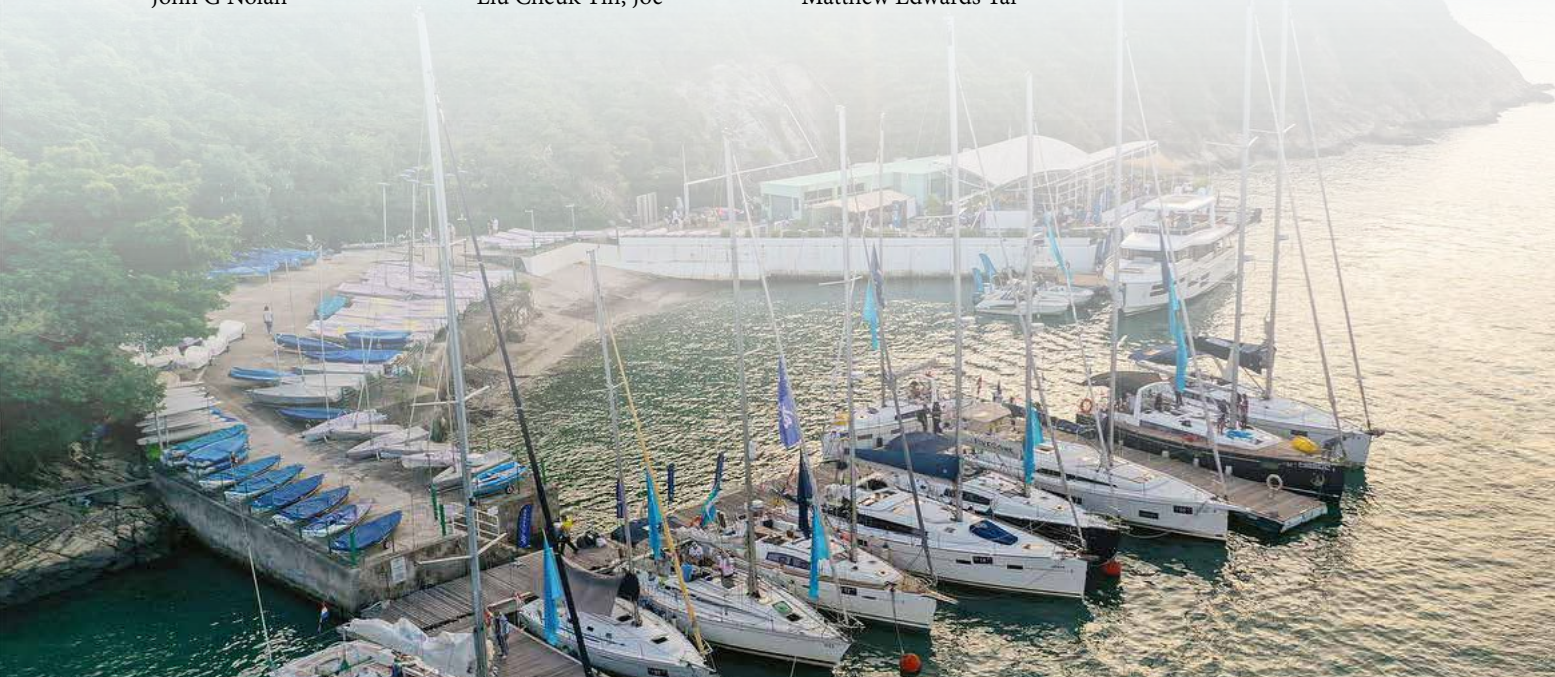
## October 2023

Joe Poon  
Michael Ng  
Wilson Yee  
Alice Wong  
Tse Wang Cheung, Angus  
Yuen Wai Keung  
Andrea Pheasant  
Noah Rigden Green  
Matthew Edwards Tai

Storey Kei  
Charie Yip  
Jon Casson  
Stephen Loggie  
Thomas Cheung

## November 2023

Vincent Chan  
Simon Edgar  
Aaron Cheung  
Vicci Lau  
Daan Van Rees  
Samuel Badenach  
Jaynee Ip  
Jake Kwong  
Marisa Chau  
Soham Mangaraj  
Ethan Liam Westbrook







*Middle Island hosts deer, elves,  
feasting crazy dancing, and a moonlit finale  
The ABC Cruisers Christmas Party*



*- By David Rees -*

9 December saw another joyful ABC Cruisers Christmas Party at Middle Island, with 16 decorated boats on the pontoons as the highlight.

The 2023 event grew bigger than all past events, with some 85 people attending. The Cruisers took over the pontoon in the afternoon, with most staying on board overnight, including kids (ie future Club members and aspiring boat owners). Our arrivals and docking were assisted this year by the capable Marine staff, who also ran a late ferry to let the celebrations continue into the night.

Mulled wine, music and an excellent buffet were again on offer this year; same-same, but better. Let's start off with the deer and elf costumes for the light hearted adults, and all the kids with festive spirit in overdrive. Howard Yuen once again brought the special family recipe for mulled wine, and cooked it on-site with several boats contributing to the wine. Adrian Lynch and Tim Jones prepared and performed a seasonal set of favourite songs dockside. And finally, Sunil Talwar was DJ for several hours, with an excellent playlist that had all the dancers on their feet. The wild and crazy dance award has to go to Tyron Truong and







his entire family, especially to Amy Hau, who had to patiently settle "all" her boys down later.

The buffet was a hit, with both beef brisket and vegetarian options on offer. The kids tucked in early, on the special burgers, sausages and fries, but nobody missed the specials. As a sign of the diners' club satisfaction: it was often suggested that the brisket and vegetarian lasagne should be on the other ABC menus more frequently.

For the technically minded, Middle Island pontoons were well arranged, with an array of sail and power boats ranging from 25 to 60 feet; this success is due our main party planner Andres Hernandez. There was good news on Sunday morning as well; a few of our intrepid sailors managed to rise early as planned and make way

for Club instructions for sailors on use of the pontoon, as we promised! As readers may guess, some others did not get up quite so early... and, it needs to be said, the "deer" and "elves" were still running around until noon.

Usually the evening showers are full, but this year a giant pile up of kids and dads appeared on the dock in the later hours, as they watched a seasonal favourite to round out the evening. All ended well, with quiet illumination by moonlight and boat decorations.

For those who couldn't join this year, a belated Happy Holiday wish. Rest assured, the ABC Cruisers planning has already commenced for 7-Dec-2024 followed by Commodore's Cup on the 8th for another 2-day festival of fun.





# FISH SCIENCE CENTRAL

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## Part II

WORDS BY STEPHEN DAVIES

### Some of life's gripes

This was meant to be Fish Science Central Part II, but when I was looking at examples of what I wanted to write about – how one side of the fish scientists' activities revolutionised the vessels with which our fish were caught – I got distracted. So, what follows is not entirely off message. It is about science – well, OK, technology – and it is about fishing vessels. It is also about vessels in Aberdeen harbour, so it presses the most important buttons. It's still a bit of a diversion though.

What distracted me is one of those weird details that you don't notice until you do, which I noticed a while back and that has now been bugging me for a few years...

To those less devoted to the charming arcana of naval architectural terms – cant frames, horn timbers or spirketting anyone? – to whom "gripe" is synonymous with "whinge", "bleat", "complaint", etc, and "cutwater" a mad quest to make money watering water, such issues are probably a big yawn. But what set me off on a voyage of discovery that has revealed a gaping void in the literature, hadn't initially got anything to do with

the whys and wherefores per se of what had caught my attention.

Now if you're a devotee of such things, like the Norwegians (*et lobeit*) or the Dutch (*een loefbijter*), you have a proper term. On the other hand, if like the Brits (a gripe... or maybe a cutwater... or perhaps a bow skag) or the French (*une fausse étrave* or maybe *un éperon*), neither of whom ever seem to have developed any enthusiasm for such fripperies, then you fumble a bit for the word you need and end up co-opting something. (We'll get to a possible Chinese term later.)

The problem is naval architectural English. That's because the ways the Norwegian and Dutch terms are normally translated into English – gripe – seem to have a core meaning that is not what *lobeit* or *loefbijter* seem to say. If you look at standard naval architectural dictionaries of the days of wooden ships, a gripe is just a reinforcement of the stem area at the forefoot, variously placed, to protect and reinforce the stem's junction with the keel, as the apron does from behind the stem (Figure 1):

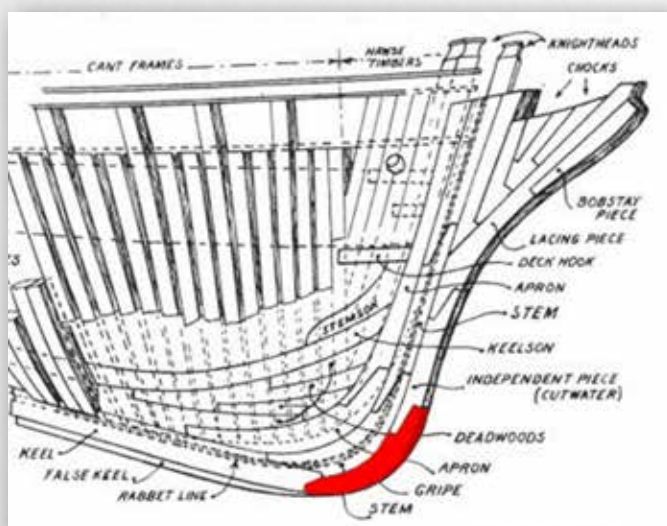


Figure 1: Structure of a 19<sup>th</sup> century wooden clipper's bow



What the Norwegian and Dutch did was extend the gripe forwards, and sometimes downwards. Their terms are the giveaway to what such an extension was about. It was intended to enhance the weatherliness and tacking efficiency of slow, shoal draft, normal bowed sailing vessels by extending the waterline, pulling the centre of lateral resistance forwards (Figure 2). Such devices seem to shimmy out of the woodwork at some point in early medieval Europe, though there's hot debate amongst academic anoraks like me as to whether earlier Phoenician, Greek and Roman "cutwaters" – forerunners of rams – count as gripes. On my side of the fence, we don't think they do.

The theory is that a gripe acts to stop the bow being pushed off to leeward as a boat works upwind. When the boat tacks, the gripe also helps ensure, once through the wind, that the bow doesn't rapidly fall off to leeward before enough way has been gathered to have the rudder back in action. That's why the ancient Mediterranean reverse or inverted bows, aka cutwaters, aren't thought to count. It's because they're for "power boats" – i.e. oar driven galleys – and acted more like a late 20<sup>th</sup> century bulbous bow, improving speed and seakeeping and, when tipped with something hard and spikey, good for sinking enemy ships.



**Figure 2: Loefbijter on a Dutch sailing tjalk**

What I'd noticed on various boats in the typhoon shelter were two things. One was that what appear to be something like extended gripes can be seen on some – but not all – modern style motorised HK fishing vessels. Even weirder, the same fitment appears on a few pleasure junks as well (Figure 3). That posed a real puzzle. How come?



**Figure 3: What look like gripes on a late 20<sup>th</sup> century trawler (Top) and pleasure junk (Bottom) in Aberdeen**



After all, if the attachment I was seeing was all about enhancing a sailing boat's performance, what's with the gripes on HK motor trawlers and pleasure junks?

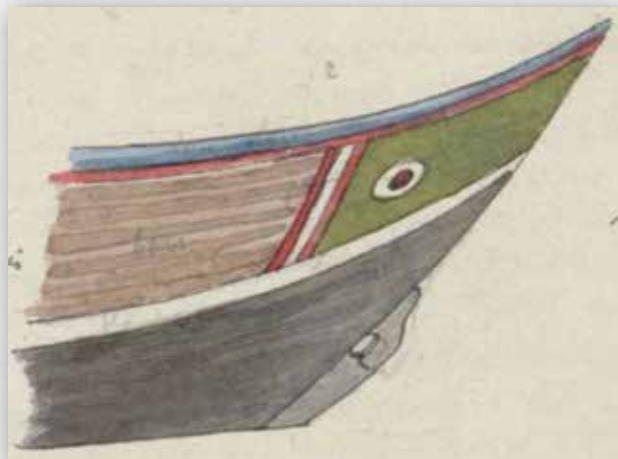
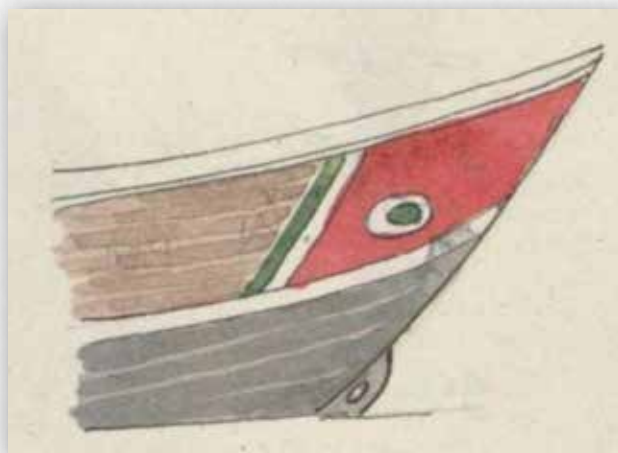
Let's leave the question there for the nonce. Because an obvious problem to deal with first is whether anything like a gripe or reverse bow ever pops up in the back story of China's traditional vessels. That's actually a tricky question because the iconography (pictorial record, OK?) of traditional Chinese naval architecture at this level of detail is more or less non-existent before the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Written records are similar. But once the records do begin, two interesting things emerge.

One is a gripe-ish sort of feature on a few traditional designs that may go back centuries. However, it turns out on inspection to be a fitting to carry the rudder bowing lines down and around the bow from the tensioning windlass on the foredeck. Long story short, because of its origin in a stern steering oar and the useful feature of being adjustable in how far it went below the keel, the Chinese stern hung rudder had chronically weak attachments and needed something to hold it in place. That's what the bowing lines were for. An image of a Ningbo junk, from the wonderful drawings by French naval officer and junk enthusiast Commandant Louis Audemard (1865-1955) (Figure 4), shows how that worked... and, as we shall see, how it might have led to a relict bow fitting that a westerner like me would see as a gripe.



**Figure 4: Louis Audemard notebooks, 1900-1913, forefoot of a Ningbo junk**

However, in a few of Audemard's drawings (Figure 5), in one or two of those of his Shanghai based, near contemporary Frenchman, Etienne Sigaut (1887-1983) (Figure 6), and of their younger British contemporary, Lt. Cmdr. David Waters (1911-2012) (Figure 7), something is identified that isn't obviously helping control the rudder. Audemard features such a thing only a couple of times for variants of a seagoing junk from Penang, though he doesn't comment on the whys and wherefores. Sigaut shows an example from a Zhejiang fishing boat, but just labels it "fausse étrave" – false stem piece – and also on an unlabelled example from Xiamen. It's with Waters that we get the unequivocal claim, with respect to two Singaporean vessels, the Fujianese derived *twaqo* and the Malay-Chinese hybrid *tongkang*, that they were fitted with a gripe.



**Figure 5: Louis Audemard notebooks, 1900-1913, bows of two seagoing junks from Penang**



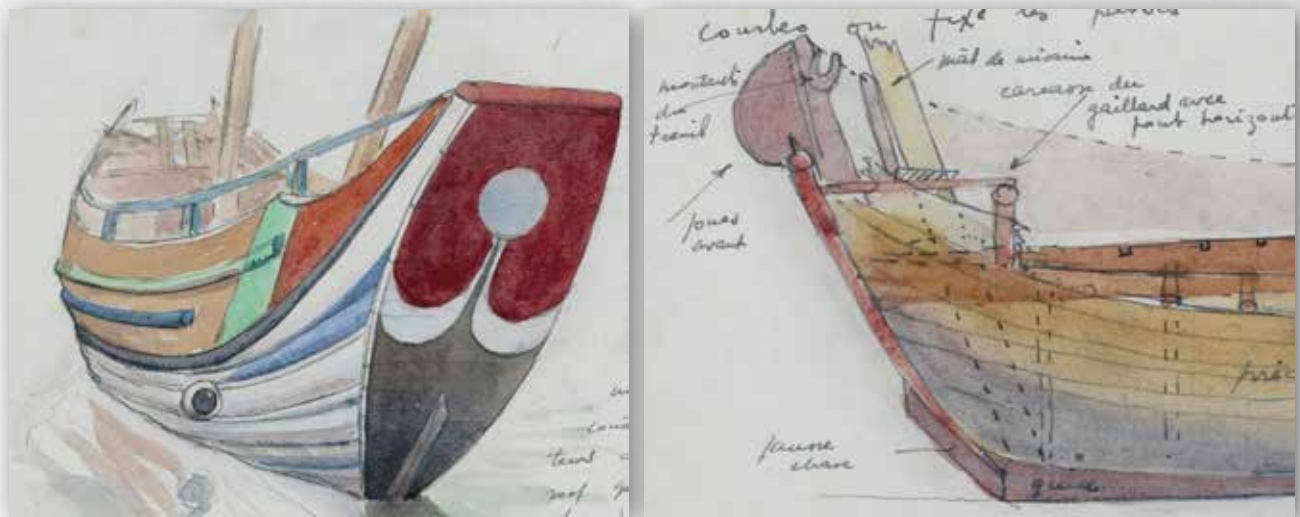


Figure 6: Etienne Sigaut notebooks, 1943-1947, forefoot of a Xiamen junk (left) and bow of a large fishing boat from southern Zhejiang (with label "fausse etrave") (right)

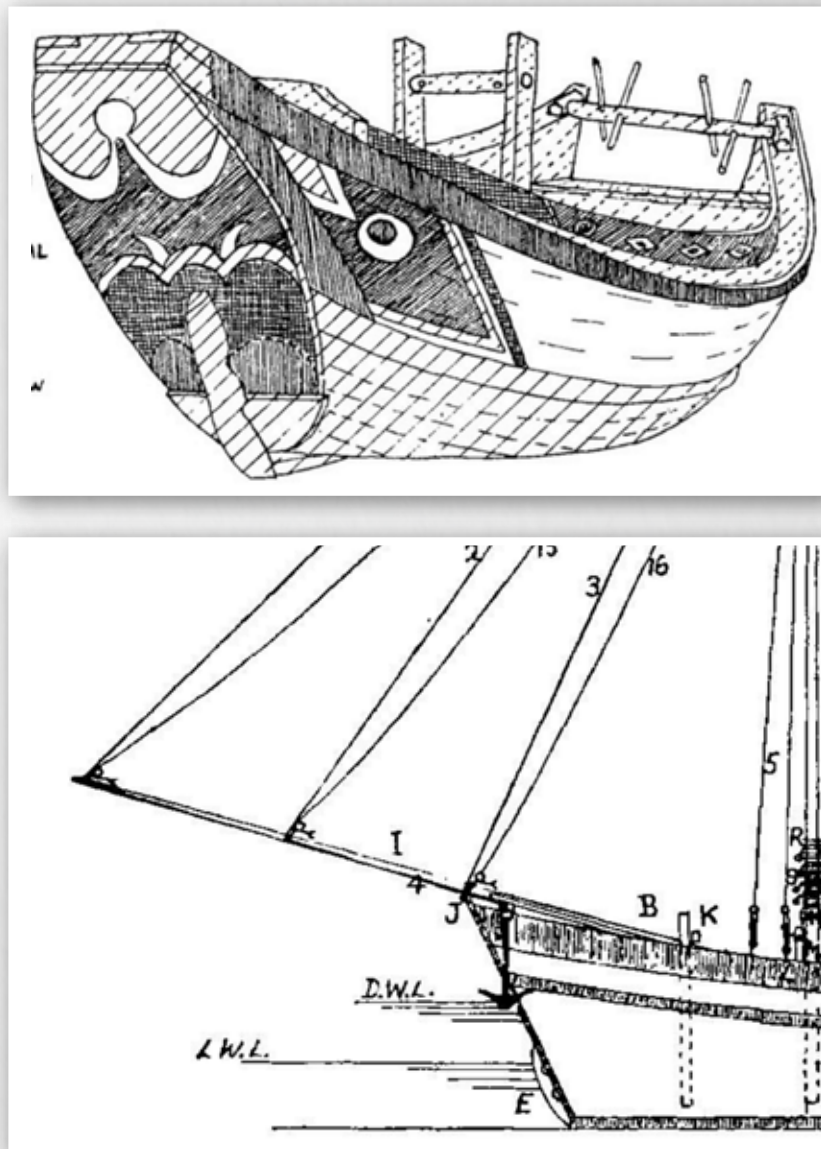
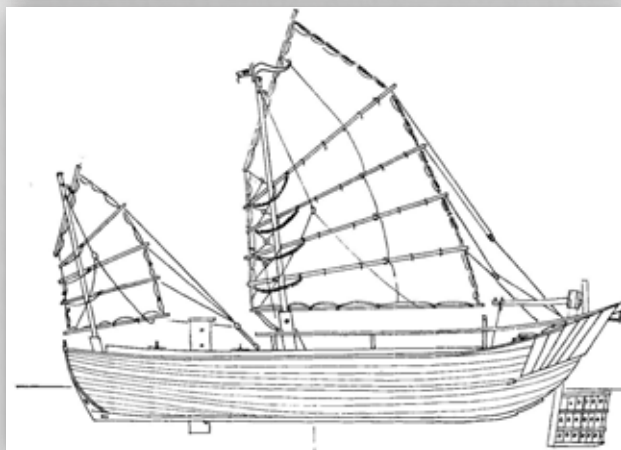


Figure 7: D.W. Waters, a Singapore twaqo, (Top) and the bow of a tongkang (Bottom), both c.1937



So, there were at least some early 20<sup>th</sup> century indigenous Chinese craft with something that, whatever they actually were, looked like gripes or were taken as such by early western marine ethnographers.

Were they found in Hong Kong too? Well, none of the above three sources show anything of the sort, but their well-known contemporary, G.R.G. Worcester (1890-1969) does via his commentary on some models of Chinese indigenous vessels presented to London's Science Museum in 1938. Worcester describes a lovely model of a 1930s' Hainan Trader that, as you can see (Figure 8), has a very clear, fenestrated bow fitting that seems to be something like a gripe... though of course it could also be understood as being useful for rudder securing duties. That the rudder line of thinking is plausible is revealed by another of Worcester's drawings of a local Pearl River fishing boat, the centreboard *tsat pong por* (Worcester's Romanisation for 七棚拖 or 七傍拖) (Figure 8), because it has the fenestrated gripe-ish feature and a whopping,



**Figure 8: Model of a Hainan Trader and of a Hong Kong and *tsat tong por*, both c.1930, from GRG Worcester**



**Figure 8: Traditional hulled fishing junk under construction at Castle Peak, c.1960**

barn door fenestrated rudder, the toe of which seems entirely unsupported. Sadly, as with so much about traditional Chinese vessels, vital analytical detail is entirely lacking!

It's that Hainan Trader model and the drawing of the *tsat tong por* (七棚拖 or 七傍拖) that take us to HK. Because all the images and line drawings of the larger HK sailing fishing vessels from pre-modernisation days that I have come across show most of them sporting the same feature... as do images of 1960s traditional hulls that were beginning to be motorised (Figure 9).

Now this takes us back to one of the functions of the gripe. That's its role in helping keep a traditional sailing ship's bow from falling off rapidly once the bow is through the wind. It isn't rocket science to suppose that if, for rudder securing purposes, there was a gizmo on a junk's forefoot to help handle the bowing lines, it might also have actually acted in a gripe-ish sort of way. China's fishermen would undoubtedly have been smart enough to appreciate getting two goodies for the price of one. And perhaps, as cross-fertilisation from other boatbuilding technology dealt with the chronic weakness of traditional junk rudder fastenings, the old function of the bow fitting fell into desuetude whilst the gripe function, helping boat handling especially for drifters and seiners working nets, hung in.

Mind you, it obviously didn't work brilliantly because, as you can see in Figure 8, additional lateral control was needed that was provided by a dagger board located between fore and main masts.



But let's get back to the oddity we began with; the gripey appendage on some of today's motor trawlers and pleasure junks. In the case of the trawlers, it's certainly not original since none of the early examples in the mid-to-late 1960s have them. Indeed, when Stanley S.S. Yuan of the Engineering Society of Hong Kong made his recommendations for cleaning up traditional HK fishing junk design for motorisation in 1956, we can see that he got rid of the gripe. Perhaps as interesting, in his brief discussion of the design and performance of the original hull, he ignored the gripe altogether, which suggests that maybe by the post-war period, in functional terms it didn't loom big in local fishing boat operating circles.

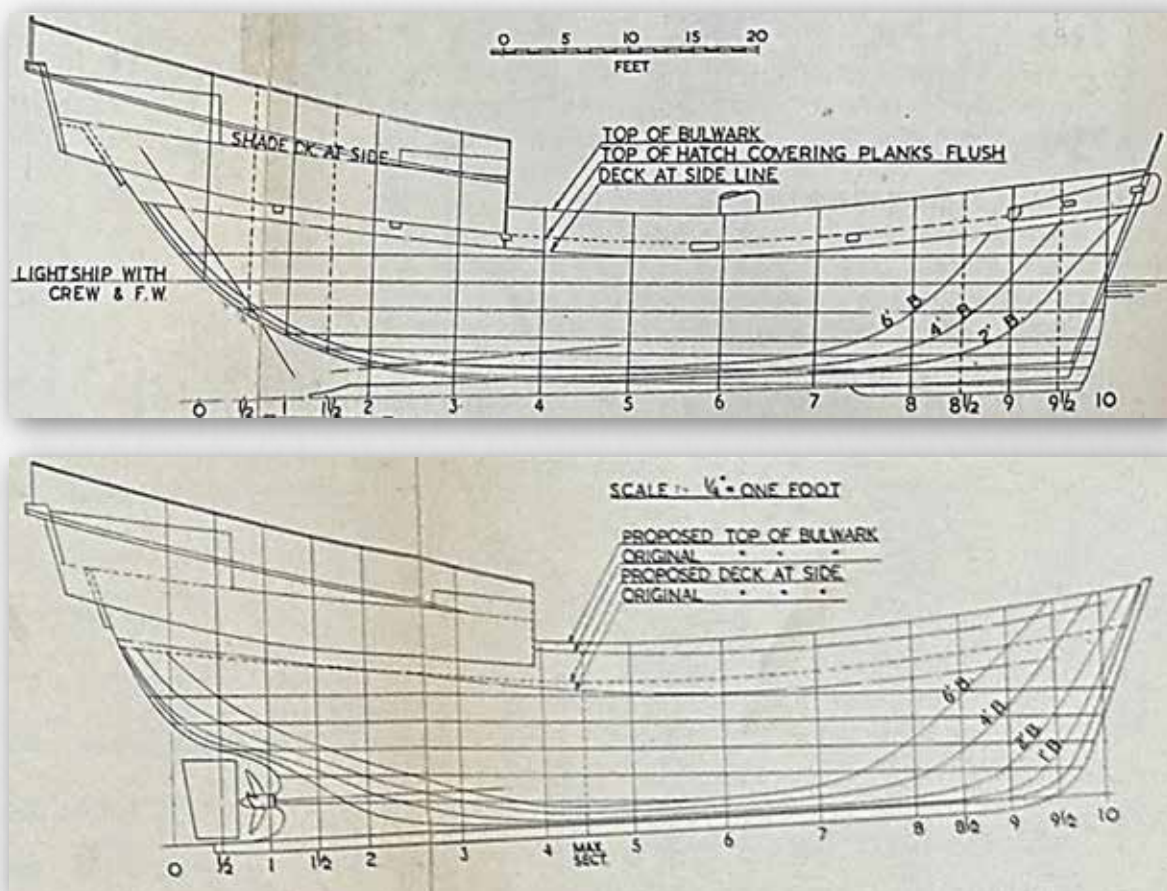
So why did it hang in?

I haven't a clue. Two possibilities offer themselves. One is that even despite Mr Yuan's views, having something that helped a motorised vessel's slow speed manoeuvring made sense, so eventually the old gizmo that new-fangled designs did away with made its

way back. The other, of course, is that in some way the appendage had become part of the mystique of a "proper" fishing junk – part of its *feng shui* equivalents if you like – so the builders felt obliged to adapt the new to fit old expectations. Maybe it was a bit of both.

I did ask my friend Chloe Lai, who knows lots of HK fishing families, whether there was a term for the appendage in Chinese. She only got one hit, from a friend of hers from an old Causeway Bay fishing family. Supposing my images rang the right bells, the gripey gizmo was apparently called 頭竹 (tau zuk) – ([ship's] head bamboo... or perhaps, given the fenestration on some, [ship's] head flute). Nice and poetic, though it doesn't tell us anything about the appendage's purpose, which may have become lost in the mists of time.

It's amazing the things one spots by looking closely at the details of boats. Next time you're out around the typhoon shelter, have a look to see how many gripes you can spot... while closing your ears to the other sort.



**Figure 9: Stanley S.S. Yuan's 1956 recommendation for improving the traditional HK fishing junk hull lines... and get rid of the gripe.**





Zesst passes the committee boat

# WAGLAN SERIES 2023-24

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY FRAGRANT HARBOUR

Supported by: 

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## RACE 2

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The skies were overcast but the wind was encouraging as seven IRC and seven PHS boats prepared for Race 2 of the Aberdeen Boat Club's Waglan Series 2023-24. The committee boat dropped anchor between Ocean Park and Round Island – a favoured area for club starts with plenty of space to lay windward marks.

The 12-race Waglan Series ends on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March next year and consists of four windward

leewards and eight islands races, providing a balanced format and generally consistent winds thanks to the northeast monsoon. The series is popular among the more serious sailors and, in past years, some of the duels in the ever-competitive IRC 2 Division have been intense.

The club has introduced the PHS handicapping system (replacing HKPN) which promises to stir things up in the 'cruiser' section of the fleet.



Race officer, Alex Johnston, selected Course 17 (L) for IRC and Course 17 (S) for PHS. This would take the faster boats out to Shek O Rock and back to the Tai Tam Club Mark before finishing off at Round Island – a distance of 20 nautical miles. The farthest mark of PHS A and PHS B would be Fury Rocks, before a return past the Tai Tam Club Mark and a finish at Round Island – a little more than 14 nautical miles. This would give everyone the opportunity to finish within minutes of each other. Fortunately, that's how it turned out.

A windward mark, to be left to starboard, was laid at 055 degrees and 0.4 nautical miles distant. The characteristically long start line was laid at 030 degrees, giving it a bias, and setting the stage for some lively manoeuvring in 12 to 15 knots of breeze.

Johnston was expecting 19 boats but some stayed away in preparation for the Round the Island Race the following weekend. He welcomed everyone at 1040 and announced that, because of some administrative issues, the traditional ABC gun would be replaced by a

horn! In case of emergency, boats should ask for help on Channel 72 and the safety boat, ABC14, would be sent to offer assistance.

The two IRC divisions got away at 1100 and were soon rounding the windward mark. The PHS divisions started, somewhat slower than usual, but nevertheless without anyone being called OCS.

But after the windward mark, all four divisions ground to a halt. It took a while for the wind to return but, when it did, the boats were soon bowling along, past the Cheshire Home and out wide, away from the shore.

IRC sped to the Tai Tam Club Mark and on their way to Shek O Rock. What a pity Eddy Lee's *Next* wasn't there to challenge Sefan Phillip's *Neo One*. Same with Glenn Smith's *Wild Card*. Ah well, there are always the scheduled two windward / leewards coming up on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, racing south of Lamma Island. Let's hope all 20 boats entered for the Waglan Series 2023-24 show up.



PHS boats approach the start line

Winds blew fairly consistently around both courses and it wasn't long before PHS speedster, *DBX2*, *Boss*, and regular campaigner, *Five O One*, had rounded Fury Rocks and were exiting the Beaufort Channel. With the finish line in sight, the leaders sheeted in their kites and some even resorted to headsail and main.

First to finish at 13:42:56 was *DBX2*. On handicap, though, *Boss* claimed victory in PHS A with *Five O One* in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and *JeNa PaBe* 3<sup>rd</sup>. Alfred Lau's *Easy Breezy II* won PHS B with the French boat, *Muxu*, in 2<sup>nd</sup> and determined Japanese entry, *Water Rabbit*, in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

At about this, the leaders of IRC Division 1, *Neo One* and *Arcturus+*, burst out of the Beaufort Channel and sprinted to the Round Island finish. *Neo One* took line and handicap honours with Sunny Leung's *Manbude* in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dennis Chien's *Arcturus+* in 3<sup>rd</sup>. In IRC 2, Tiger Mok, helming 2 *Easy*, claimed handicap honours with Hennig Mueller's *Zesst* in 2<sup>nd</sup> and *Intrigue* (with the 90-year-old Doc Nicholson on board) filled 3<sup>rd</sup> slot.



Easy Breezy II, 1<sup>st</sup> in PHS B



Neo One approaches the finish





Intrigue chases Arcturus+



2 Easy and Zesst off Tai Tam



Zesst, 2<sup>nd</sup> in IRC 2

## RACE 3 & 4

The series takes its name from the iconic lighthouse on Waglan Island, which commenced operation in 1893. Although now automated – and despite the widespread use of GPS – the light still offers a warm welcome to seafarers sailing through Hong Kong's eastern approaches.

Inaugurated during the 2004-05 sailing season, the series was the brainchild of Aberdeen Boat Club rear commodore sailing at the time, Barry Hill. It quickly gained popularity and now regularly attracts 20 competitive entries who do battle in the challenging southeastern waters of Hong Kong. Not surprisingly, many of the courses used in the series include the enigmatic Waglan (*Wang Lan*) Island as a mark of the course.

Incidentally, in 2000 the Waglan Lighthouse was declared a national monument. It is one of five surviving pre-war lighthouses in the territory and has a beam of 24 nautical miles. The light itself is housed in a distinctive red and white, 16-metre-high cast iron tower while the surrounding buildings have had many functions over the years. Waglan has been used as a radar station, an aviation traffic control point, a base to collect weather information for the Observatory, while Cable & Wireless has maintained and serviced all radio equipment in the facility. In August 1989, the light became fully automated.

Waglan – both the island and the installation – have played an important part in Hong Kong's maritime story and it is fitting that the Aberdeen Boat Club uses the name for one of its signature yacht racing events. In short, Waglan is a great choice of name for a great, club series.



2 Easy, a Jeanneau Sun Fast 3600



Intrigue and Wild Card start





And, on Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, Races 3 & 4 of the Waglan Series 2023-24 got going with an address by the race officer, Alex Johnston, at 1040. There would be two windward / leewards for the six IRC and five PHS entries, starting at 1100. Johnston reminded the sailors again at 1050 that, due to technical reasons, sound signals would be made with a horn, not a gun.

In glorious conditions, IRC got away cleanly to be followed five minutes later by the PHS boats. *Five O One* and *Shun Fung* had issues on the line with *Five O One* ending up doing two 360s before setting off in hot pursuit of the other boats.

Glenn Smith's *Wild Card* led the IRC boats and, after two laps, scored a 1<sup>st</sup> on handicap ahead of Stefan Fillip's *Neo One*. In the IRC 2 fleet, *2 Easy* (ex-*Arcturus*) put in a convincing performance to win on handicap ahead of *Zesst* and *Intrigue*. Incidentally, the 90-year-old owner of *Intrigue*, Dr Ian Nicholson, was on board to give moral support.



Intrigue chases Neo One

The two PHS divisions started at 1105 and there were some spirited duels as the boats approached the top mark in the lumpy seas. Winds ranged from 8 to 12 knots and it wasn't long before *Boss* finished at 12:42:01 to claim line and handicap honours in PHS A. In 2<sup>nd</sup> was John Berry's *Five O One*.

In PHS B, Felix Mak did well to take line and handicap honours in *Shun Shui*, followed by the French boat, *Muxu*, and last but not least, *Water Rabbit*.



3<sup>rd</sup> in PHS B, Muxu



Persistent campaigner, Water Rabbit, gets away



In the second start, for Race 4, the wind died and it took a while for the two fleets to get going. But, once again, *Wild Card* showed its competition a clean pair of heels to win line and handicap honours in IRC A. *Neo One* placed 2<sup>nd</sup>.

IRC 2 saw a change of fortunes with *Intrigue* claiming top spot and 2 *Easy* relegated to 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Zesst* placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.

PHS A was won, again, by *Boss* with *Five O One* in 2<sup>nd</sup>. In PHS B, *Water Rabbit* (surprisingly) came 1<sup>st</sup> ahead of *Shun Shui* and *Muxu*.

The Waglan Series comprises 12 races over 10 Sundays, including two mini series between October and December 2023, and February and April 2024.



Juice glides to the finish



Wild Card follows Juice



Neo One pulls away from Intrigue



Zesst hoisting its kite





Boss, 2<sup>nd</sup> in PHS A

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## RACE 5

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Although Race 5 was held on Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, it was only the fourth race held in the Waglan Series to date, as Race 1 was postponed. But what benign conditions the latest race enjoyed – winds of 7 to 8 knots, clear blue skies and an incoming tide.

The committee boat was on station at 0945 with the race officer, Alex Johnston, and his assistant Jennifer Li, considering the options and choosing courses that would have the 'faster' and 'slower' boats finishing at roughly the same time. They came up with Course 15 (L) for the two IRC divisions, and Course 15 (S) for PHS A and PHS B.

That meant IRC 1 and 2 would be covering some 18.7 nautical miles while the PHS boats would leave out TCS2, round Beaufort Island to port, and cover approximately 14.2 nautical miles.

At 1040, Johnston welcomed all boats and announced the courses. He warned sailors not to stray into the traffic separation scheme and reminded everyone that, again, due to technical hitches there would be no guns, only horn signals. He finished by saying he was looking forward to seeing everyone back at the club, in the Waglan Bar for the prize-giving.





At 1055, the IRC countdown began and, at 1100, four IRC 1 and four IRC 2 boats crossed the line in a clean start, and headed for a windward mark in towards Repulse Bay. But on the way – drama. About 30 paddlers came from Round Island and crossed the course in front of the advancing IRC fleets. The RO made repeated warnings over the VHF and there were, fortunately, no collisions due largely to the awareness of the crews.

The two PHS divisions started at 1105 and they, too, had to pick their way carefully, through the line of paddlers. In fact, it was of enough concern to the assistant race officer that she called Marine Department to ask why the paddlers had not advertised their outing.

Ah well, these things happen when everyone wants to enjoy Hong Kong's glorious November weather.

After rounding the windward mark to port, the various fleets sheeted in and headed for Castle Rock – no need to go through Chesterman Gate. After that it was the Tai Tam Club Mark before the IRC boats turned left at Cape d'Aguilar and headed for TCS2, while PHS sailed on the right side of the course and went through the gap between Beaufort and Po Toi Islands.



Eddy Lee's Next starts





Parnassus finishes



High achiever, JeNa PaBe

At about this time, *Kingsman* requested assistance. One of its crew had been injured and support staff, Sai Fuk, was soon on his way to collect the unfortunate sailor and whisk him back to the club.

The committee boat, *Shun Fung*, had been loitering off Castle Rock but it soon became apparent that the PHS boats were moving fast with the incoming tide and that, if it didn't get a move on, it would be beaten to the finish by the front runners, namely *JeNa PaBe*, *DBX2* and *Boss*!



DBX2 passes Castle Rock





Wild Card leads Next to the finish



Easy Breezy II passes Chung Hom Kok



Concorde tacks early



Wild Card rounding the Tai Tam Club Mark



Paddlers cross the course

First boat home was, indeed, *JeNa PaBe* at 13:52:05. Ben Chong and crew also took handicap honours in PHS A ahead of Boss and John Berry's *Five O One*. In PHS B, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to *Easy Breezy II*, ahead of *Shun Shui* and *Muxu*.

But not before the speedsters, *Wild Card*, *Next* and *Neo One*, finished in that order in IRC 1. IRC 2 was won by Ian Nicholson's *Intrigue*, ahead of *Jinn* and 2 *Easy*.

Throughout the day, the wind had held at a steady 7 knots and all finished (excluding *Kingsman* which retired) by 1507. 2 *Easy* was the last boat home.

# RACE 6

The Observatory forecast rain all weekend but they got it wrong. On Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, it was a beautiful morning and, as the committee boat came to a rest off Middle Island, there was 10 knots blowing from the east, or 65 degrees to be exact. And, to be fair, the forecasters did predict Force 4, which was close enough.

Already in the starting area were *Jinn* and *Generations*, eager to start racing. For a change, Eddy Lee was sailing on *Generations*, entered in PHS A. His faster, racing machine, *Next*, a Neo 430, was entered in IRC 1 and was facing some stiff competition from Stefan Phillip's *Neo One*.

Race officer of the day, Jennifer Li, ably assisted by the club's assistant general manager, Robin Sherchan, welcomed everyone at 1045 and announced the courses. IRC 1 & 2 would sail Course 22 (L) and PHS A & B would sail Course 21 (S). This meant the faster boats would be sailing around Shek O Rock and covering a distance of 23.6 nautical miles. The cruisers would sail a shorter route around Fury Rocks and cover a distance of 12.9 nautical miles.

Both IRC and PHS fleets would be rounding the Tai Tam Club Mark at some point and a cutoff was provided for in both courses (Castle Rock) but the chances of having to shorten were slim.

At 1055, the countdown for IRC began and at 1100, right on schedule, 10 boats crossed the long start line with *Kingsman by Simplicity* to the fore. In an increased wind speed of 12 knots, they tacked for the windward mark positioned in towards Repulse Bay. Surprisingly, Ian Nicholson's *Intrigue* was not among the starters and neither was Andy Pidden's *Juice*.



Classic lines of Bowline



Jinn rounds the Tai Tam Club Mark



Easy Breezy II heads for Castle Rock





Generations, Eddy Lee on board



Next, 4<sup>th</sup> in IRC 1





Ben Chong helms JeNa PaBe

Next came the 13 entries in the two PHS classes. *JeNa PaBe* and *DBX2* were among the frontrunners and it wasn't long before the PHS division had rounded the windward mark, too. From there, it was a glorious reach between Chung Hom Kok and Round Island, past the satellite dishes on Bluff Head to Castle Rock.

After rounding Castle Rock, the IRC fleet came back to the Tai Tam Club Mark, then east past Cape d'Aguilar and north to Shek O Rock. After that, their course took in Sung Kong, Waglan and Po Toi Islands before returning to Castle Rock. A sprint to the finish off Round Island ended their day's racing.

The cruisers, having rounded Castle Rock, left Beaufort Island to port and rounded Fury Rocks before returning to the Tai Tam Club Mark. A much shorter course than IRC and one that was reflected clearly in the finishing times.

First PHS boat home was Thomas Wong's *DBX2* at 13:15:58. It was a good half an hour before *Kikukie's Dream II* took line honours among the IRC boats.



DBX2, 4<sup>th</sup> in PHS A





2 Easy heads for the Tai Tam Club Mark



Newcomer, Concorde, off Bluff Head



Skywalker approaches the finish

On handicap, *Five O One* claimed victory in PHS A ahead of *Generations* and *JeNa PaBe*. In PHS B, the winner was Gilles Detanger and his happy crew on *Muxu*. *Easy Breezy II* placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and *MoHan* 3<sup>rd</sup>. Regular contender, *Water Rabbit*, was surprisingly absent from the race.

IRC 1 saw *Kikukie's Dream II* take 1<sup>st</sup> position followed by *Kingsman* and *Neo One*. In IRC 2, 2 *Easy* won the day with *Zesst* in 2<sup>nd</sup> and *Jinn*, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The next race in the Waglan Series will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.



BENETEAU  
**CUP**  
2023

# Hong Kong Celebrates its Third Edition with 19 Yachts Competing

*Words & Photos by Simpson Marine*







October 28<sup>th</sup> welcomed the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Beneteau Cup Hong Kong – and what a spectacular event it was with 19 Beneteau's taking part with their owners, families and friends supported by generous partners who sponsored this thrilling one-of-a-kind event.

The prestigious regatta, created exclusively for Beneteau owners, is Asia's biggest Beneteau event and is established as a key annual event in the city's sailing calendar. Celebrating the Beneteau community in Hong Kong and its love for sailing, a fun day of competitive sailing was celebrated with a chic French Riviera themed awards dinner at the picturesque setting of Middle Island, Hong Kong.

Hailed a huge success, the line-up of Beneteau yachts was organized by Simpson Marine in conjunction with the title sponsor Beneteau Asia-Pacific and with the support of Aberdeen Boat Club (ABC). "It was a pleasure to see 19 Beneteau's with their owners and crews taking part in the 2023 Beneteau Cup. We were blessed with perfect sailing conditions, a good easterly breeze and sunshine sailing. The racing was close and competitive as usual and the Beneteau Cup lived up to its reputation as one of the best fun sailing regattas in Hong Kong. With great on the water sailing and a spectacular après sail party with prizes galore. Thanks to all the teams and sponsors taking part, we all at Simpson Marine and Beneteau love this event and look forward to next year's edition", shared Richard Allen, Group General Manager, Simpson Marine.







The intention is to grow the event into an international regatta with owners from China, Taiwan and South-East Asia in attendance – this year certainly helped chart the way forward. The line-up of 19 yachts reflected Beneteau's universally popular fleet of sailing yacht models. Yachts in attendance ranged from a Beneteau First 265, *WATER RABBIT* all the way up to a Sense 51, *TRACY*.

The event was raced in two divisions A & B, with a ratio of 70% of local Hong Kong crews, which is a significant indication of the rising popularity of sailing among local crews. The team spirit and vibrancy of the crews was a further testament to the growing popularity of the regatta. The winning teams *TRACY* and *EASY BREEZY II* won in their respective divisions, with the overall championship awarded to *EASY BREEZY II* for a second consecutive year.

"We are thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of the Beneteau Cup, marking another remarkable event that brought together

Beneteau owners and friends from the region. This 3<sup>rd</sup> edition took place in a vibrant atmosphere where sailors enjoyed racing and partying all day long. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants, sponsors, the Simpson Marine team, and the Aberdeen Boat Club team for their contributions in making this event a great success. We look forward to future editions of the Beneteau Cup, where we will continue to celebrate the joy of sailing and the enduring spirit of the Beneteau community." Shared Erwan Her, Beneteau APAC Sales Director.

The regatta was made possible by the long-standing support of the Aberdeen Boat Club. Graeme Brechin, Rear Commodore, Sailing and Marine, shared the club's pride in being part of the regatta: "Aberdeen Boat Club was as ever delighted to assist Beneteau and Simpson Marine in delivering their annual showpiece regatta event. Success is hard work alongside a world-class product, this is where we all sail together. We very much looking forward to many more years of delivering success together"



The event was supported by notable local and international partners. The Cup's 5G Communications partner, China Mobile Hong Kong enabled the crews to experience the future of maritime communication with 'SailaWave 5G' and Marine Partners; ePropulsion shared their innovations, empowering people with clean and sustainable technology. Other Marine partners included Aon, helping navigate better decisions with financial services and solutions, and Raymarine, allowing owners to set their course into the unknown with the tools to navigate with reliable marine electronics. The fourth Marine partner this year, Peters & May, celebrates 50 years as a world leading provider of international logistic services across the globe – from air, sea, road and rail.

A whole host of luxury lifestyle brands made up this year's award partners, each and every one adding a sense of style and indulgence to the winners and their guests. From Devialet's Mania chic portable speaker to Frette's finest Italian fabric designs, to DeLonghi's coffee appliances and Fortnum & Masons much loved hampers to Hong Kong Golf & Tennis Academy a hidden treasure in Sai Kung – each of the 20+ award partners shone bright.







Regatta Course Summary: On 28<sup>th</sup> October all yachts gathered at the Round Island start line and set off racing at 10:30am on Eastern Course number 7, which ran through Chesterman Gate, passing Castle Rock then to the Tai Tam Club Mark, then back to Castle Rock and through Chesterman Gate before finishing off nearby Round Island (12.29NM total). After a beautiful morning sailing with Northeasterly winds up to 15 knots all the teams were back at Middle Island ABC Dock by early afternoon to enjoy a relaxed time on the docks with some of the fleet berthed on the ABC pontoon in Middle Island and others mooring close by.

The winner of division A, Gary Cheung, yacht owner of TRACY shared his joy of winning: "Team Tracy had a fantastic time at the Beneteau Cup. We were truly impressed by the sportsmanship displayed by all the sailors and the staff at Simpson Marine, who went above and beyond to make the event successful. It was a fantastic family day for us, and our children were thrilled. We are grateful to everyone who made it possible. This year was our second time participating in the Beneteau Cup and it was lucky for us to win the first prize in my boat's division. It took me a few years, mostly because of my laziness! to become familiar with and apply the boat's performance and stability. We absolutely loved our Sense 51, and it was an incredible sailing experience for my family too."

Alfred Lau, Co-Owner of *EASY BREEZY II*, Division B Winner and Overall Winner of the Beneteau Cup Hong Kong proudly shared: "It was a good day of sailing with steady northerly breeze. The start was a bit hectic as we turned on the radio late and thought there was a windward mark, ended up sailing too high. Fortunately, the crew were more focused than usual and the constant trimming and balancing contributed significantly to boat speed and we moved up the fleet. This 90s Beneteau is like a vintage Ferrari! On the last broad reach leg we took the gamble to hoist the brand new spinnaker, there was a bit of fiddling, but with the extra power we managed to keep up with the bigger boats. After the finish we knew it would be close, and we were very pleasantly surprised to be awarded the win by a small margin. **We will be back to defend the title again next year!**"





Simpson Marine were delighted to support and welcome long term charity partner Splash Foundation to the regatta and continue to play its part in helping raise funds and awareness to give more people from under-resourced communities the opportunity to swim. By connecting those who can swim with those who want to learn, Splash has taught over 6000 adults and children how to swim and be water safe and helped foster a deeper appreciation for the environment and the protection of Hong Kong's iconic coastline and water resources. Libby Alexander, CEO &

Co-Founder of Splash Foundation & fellow Co-Founder and marathon swimmer Simon Holliday shared in the regatta celebrations adding even more meaningful purpose and ambition to the regatta's community.

The celebrations lasted until after sunset, which was a spectacular reward for the busy weekend at sea. The crews left for their respective homeports in the evening and kept sharing their enthusiasm for the race and the time spent together long afterwards.







# Friendly Banter and Scarily Good Snooker on Halloween Eve



By Dave Hilling

On 30 October 2023, there was the year's second three-cornered snooker tournament, kindly arranged by Nick Horvath as the venue is the amazing snooker facilities at the Hong Kong Club. The "three-cornered snooker tournament" is when three of Hong Kong's main sailing clubs – Aberdeen Boat Club (ABC), Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) and Hebe Haven Yacht Club (HHYC) – put sailing aside for a night of snooker instead. The tournament is one of the highlights of the snooker calendar, which is why we have it once in March and then again in October each year.

The format of the tournament is: each sailing club puts forward a team of four players for

round robin singles games and doubles games against their respective peers in the other two clubs. Thereby, each player has x2 singles games and x2 doubles games on the evening, which totals 12 singles games and 6 doubles games across all the teams. Back in March, there was a narrow overall victory by RHKYC, and therefore there was plenty of friendly banter at the start of the night regarding who would be taking home the trophy this time.

With there being there snooker tables in the Hong Kong Club, we can have three singles matches running simultaneously, and it takes a fair amount of co-ordination to ensure the



players are at the right table and at the right time.

The ABC team consisted of Nick Horvath, Wayne Robinson and Johnson Wong under captain Dave Hilling. On the other teams there were some familiar faces and some similar patterns to March's three-cornered tournament. HHYC had Steve So, who yet again won all of his matches (both singles and doubles) for the evening and RHKYC had Alfred Lau, who also yet again had the highest break of the evening. Slightly scary is the fact that Alfred's high break of 27 was the exact high break he had last time.

It is fair to say the ABC struggled in the singles matches, with only Nick winning both his; and the game against Robert Matheson for RHKYC went down to the black ball. Dave also managed to chalk up a game against his HHYC counterpart Di Williams, but couldn't match the potting of Alfred Lau of RHKYC. So after all the singles matches were completed, the scores were: RHKYC with 5 games, HHYC with 4 and ABC with just 3.

In a slightly different format than previous years, Nick had opted for a buffet dinner inside the snooker room instead of the original sit down meal in the restaurant. This was really worked out because we were able to finish most the singles matches before the dinner, and more importantly were able to start the doubles matches a little bit earlier. Not that this initially helped the ABC, as the pairing of Nick and Dave couldn't reel in HHYC captain CK Chan and Steve So, with Steve just making break after break in very impressive fashion.

Then some great news from the other table, where the pairing of Wayne and Johnson for ABC had a narrow victory over the fancied pairing of Robert Matheson and their captain Gordon Robinson for RHKYC. So the comeback was on, and it was now up to Nick and Dave to see if they could stop break maker Alfred Lau and his partner Louis Kwong. This was first three-cornered snooker tournament for Louis, but he had already won one of his singles matches and was looking comfortable at the tables. Dave finally found the same form that

allowed his earlier singles victory and was matching Alfred for the breaks, allowing Nick to pressure Louis into taking some difficult shots including getting out of snookers. In the end, the game was won on the pink ball by the ABC and that brought our games tally to 5.

There were now just two doubles games left to play for the evening, which in itself was amazing as it looked like, for only the second time in the last 15 years, all 18 games could be completed. However, and more importantly, it suddenly became apparent that if HHYC beat RHKYC on table one and ABC beat HHYC on table two, then all the clubs would have the exact same points of 6 games each. So no pressure then... but actually a lot of pressure, with no players wanting to leave before the conclusion despite it getting pretty late in the evening.

Steve So managed to get his doubles pairing across the line against RHKYC, so it was now all down to the ABC's Wayne and Johnson vs Gareth Williams and Di Williams. What a game with some good pots, a few misses under the pressure and a springle of good fortune on occasion. So down to the final colour balls and the ABC just had that final quality to bring the all-important pots. What a performance from Wayne and Johnson – winning both their doubles games and really turning around the evening!

Final scores: RHKYC with 6 games, HHYC with 6 and ABC with 6, which resulted in a three-way tie. This is the very first time there has ever been a three-way tie, which is incredible and despite there being a few comments of "Shall we have a penalty shoot out?", it was decided by the three captains that the draw should and would be the final result. Well, with it almost clicking over midnight to 31 October, the score line of 666 sounded about right for Halloween anyway. Can't wait until March next year, for the next edition of the three-cornered snooker match, and it certainly can't be any closer than tonight with nothing separating the teams.





# ABC Rematch with Cricketers: Balls that Wobbled Without Going in

By Dave Hilling

On 13 December, Hong Kong Cricket Club (HKCC) invited the ABC for the return 2023 match, which was to be the last ABC match before the Christmas holidays. This year had been the first year since 2019 that we had managed to get through all the season's snooker calendar in full, which has been great to have all these nights to enjoy.

With there being two tables at HKCC, the start time can be a little more casual as games can be played simultaneously, which saves an enormous amount of waiting time. So on to the first couple of matches: we had Andy Chan for the ABC vs Barry for HKCC on one table, and Tim Jones for ABC vs Kieran for HKCC on the other table. This was Tim's first ABC match after joining the ABC snooker team earlier this year; it's so great to have new blood on the team. Kieran was not going to make it easy for Tim

on his debut, and was using his experience and local knowledge of the table to good use. It is fair to say that HKCC pockets are significantly tighter than the ABC's more forgiving pockets, and so despite a really good effort by Tim and a few nice pots, it was 1:0 to HKCC.

Andy, on the other hand, was straight up to speed on his table, and was masterfully putting together a series of impressive breaks. So, by the time there were only the colour balls left, snookers were well and truly required. To Barry's credit he battled on and did try to get a couple of the required snookers, but after a some more great potting by Andy there was no way back.

1:1, so far; however, there was a bit of an issue. One of the HKCC players had been caught up in work and was going to be quite late. Thereby, we would either hold up proceedings



or Mukesh (the HKCC snooker convener) would need to step in to help his team out. In the end it was decided to press on, and ABC captain Dave Hilling drew the short straw to play Mukesh. The problem is Mukesh is an excellent snooker player and is a regular participant of the snooker league, which is why he only plays the social snooker matches if they are short of players. Right from the off Mukesh potted a long red, followed by a black, then another red with a green ball to follow. Even Tim, who was stood by to support Dave, gave a grimace with the prospects looking bleak. Dave did get a 4-ball break of his own to provide some respectability to the scoreline, but this game was unfortunately over before it started.

Over on the second table, with the last singles game of the evening, there was Adrian Lynch for ABC vs Simon for the HKCC. Adrian has had a very solid season and the ABC regularly counted on him to pick up points for us. However, it was not looking Adrian's night, as the balls just would not drop for him and the amount of balls that wobbled without going in was getting beyond a joke. Simon was glad to pot what Adrian was missing, so had a good lead heading into the colours. Adrian was eventually put out of his misery with a fine pot of the pink by Simon, to make it 3:1 to HKCC.

We still had plenty of time on the clock, so it was decided to play on with the two doubles matches, then head to the dinner afterwards. The final HKCC player had now arrived, so Mukesh was back to his position of supervising and there was a sense that the ABC could mount a comeback. On the first table, we had Dave and Adrian for the ABC vs Kieran and David for the HKCC. Unfortunately, Adrian's night wasn't getting any better and those unforgiving pockets were giving no change at all. Even Dave's safety play was now beginning to falter, so it was not surprising that a costly miss on the blue was punished by Kieran and the game was over.

Tim and Andy paired up for the ABC on the other table against Simon and Barry, with this expected to be a close fought game. Andy, who was so assured in the singles match,

suddenly looked vulnerable and where shots were previously going straight in they now were rattling in jaws and sitting over the pockets. As the game progressed to the colour balls, the ABC were some distance behind and after another couple of misses and some good fortune on some positioning for HKCC, they wrapped up the convincing 5:1 victory.

Congratulation to the HKCC players were in order for their first match victory over us, and in such an impressive manner as well. At least we still had the dinner to look forward to, and there was certainly no shortage of food. In fact, there must have been a mistake on the order because there were 4 massive pies, along with a mountain of chips and buckets of peas. It was worth pointing out that there was only 8 of us for dinner and not 18, but even so the HKCC's generosity and hospitality did not go unmentioned.

With full bellies and a few takeaway dishes filled with leftover pie, we wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There will be a nice break over the holidays with most of the team out of town, but we will be back to practicing in January, to prepare for another match in the middle of the month at the ABC.

## ABC Snooker Society

All levels of snooker players are more than welcome to join. If you would be interested to find out more or join up for one of our snooker practices to see for yourself, please reach out to Dave Hilling (ABC snooker convener and captain) at [davidhillling@hotmail.com](mailto:davidhillling@hotmail.com); and we look forward to adding to our snooker society.

Scan to Join





## F&B PROMOTION

### January PROMOTIONS

#### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS MENU

The Galley & The Patio  
Vegan & Plant Based Meats

The Four Peaks Restaurant  
New Winter Dishes

### February PROMOTIONS

The Galley & The Patio  
Modern Chinese New Year's Festive Menu

The Four Peaks Restaurant  
New Winter Dishes



*Perfect for the cooler weather!*



### HOT POT SET for winter at Middle Island



Only \$180 per pax (min 2 pax per order).

\*Pre-order at least one day in advance \*

Book Now



Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會



## Beer & Wine of the Month Promotion - January

香港 | BREWED IN HONG KONG | 製造

YOUNG MASTER  
少爺

ABC

# ZERO

ALCOHOL FREE  
PALE ALE  
無酒精啤酒

ABV <0.5% | IBU 15  
Elegant | Versatile | Hoppy  
**\$55 PER BOTTLE**

香港 | BREWED IN HONG KONG | 製造



Wine of the Month  
JANUARY  
California, USA

ABC

**\$68**  
per glass

**\$298**  
per bottle

Sauvignon Blanc  
2021

Merlot  
2018

SLINGSHOT  
NAPA VALLEY

FRANCIS FORD  
COPPOLA  
MERLOT



## Beer & Wine of the Month Promotion - February

ABC

**HAPPY CHINESE  
NEW YEAR**

**TAKING LOCAL CRAFT  
TO NEW HEIGHTS**

CONTAINS LESS THAN 0.5% ABV

新世界啤酒  
NO.0 LIMITS  
PALE ALE

**\$48 PER CAN**

- BEER OF -  
THE MONTH

MADE IN HONG KONG



Wine of the Month  
FEBRUARY  
Stellenbosch, South Africa

ABC

**\$60**  
per glass

**\$280**  
per bottle

Gewurztraminer  
2023

Pinotage  
2018

SIMON SIG  
STELLENBOSCH

SIMON SIG





F&B PROMOTION

# CONFIDENCIAL

## Cigars & Rum Night



Friday, 19 January, 2024  
The Middle Island Clubhouse  
Mr. Eric Piras - Guest Speaker

Early Bird Price  
**ONLY \$198**  
per pax!!  
(Limited to 40 pax only)

7pm

Welcome Cocktails

7:30pm

Cigars, Rums & Canapes

(A-la-Carte Middle Island dining menu will be available to order for dinner.)



CONFIDENCIAL  
w/ ERIC PIRAS  
LANCERO

Booking



To reserve for your family and friends, call reception at 2552 8182 or email [booking@abclubhk.com](mailto:booking@abclubhk.com)

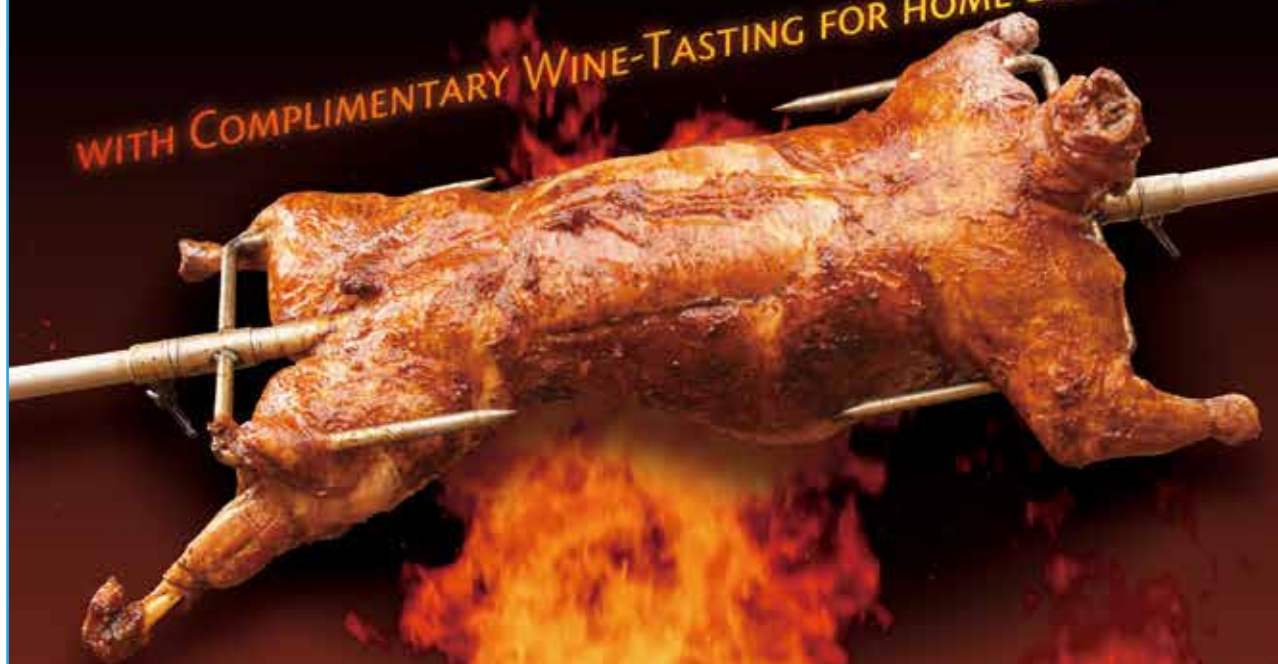
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# LAMB ON A SPIT IS BACK!



WITH COMPLIMENTARY WINE-TASTING FOR HOME DELIVERY



## The Galley & The Patio Saturday, 20 January, 6pm

Celebrate the winter season with a full lamb on a spit, accompanied by a delightful selection of buffet sides. Delight in the tender and flavorful meat, perfectly complemented by roasted vegetables and an array of other delicious dishes. Indulge in this sumptuous feast and savor the rich flavors of the season.

Adults:

**HK\$318** only

For member over 65 years of age

**HK\$268**

Child (3-12yrs)

**HK\$218** only

Booking



To reserve for your family and friends, call reception at 2552 8182 or email [booking@abclubhk.com](mailto:booking@abclubhk.com)

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F&B PROMOTION



# SICHUAN

## Spicy Hot Pot Night

**6pm, Saturday 27 January**  
**The Galley & The Patio**

Freshly  
sliced beef,  
pork & lamb!  
You may choose  
2 soup bases out  
of Spicy Sichuan.

**\$318** Adult

**\$268** For member over  
65 years of age

**\$218** Child (3-12yrs)

*The photo is for reference only.*

Scan to Book



To reserve for your family and friends, call reception at 2552 8182 or email [booking@abclubhk.com](mailto:booking@abclubhk.com)

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# Exclusive Valentine's Dinner



Oh là là!

Wednesday, 14 February  
7 PM  
The Four Peaks Restaurant

This Valentine's Day, the Four Peaks Restaurant will have an especially romantic atmosphere, with roses and glitter to add that once-in-a-year *je ne sais quoi*. Cupid is bound to approve, as you and your partner are served an exquisite 5-course French meal paired with Free flow Sparkling Wines, while music to kindle the flames of romance plays in the background. Plus, special gifts for all the ladies. *Magnifique!*

**\$1,388**  
per couple

Scan to book



Limited edition sparkling wine  
for the first 8 couples!



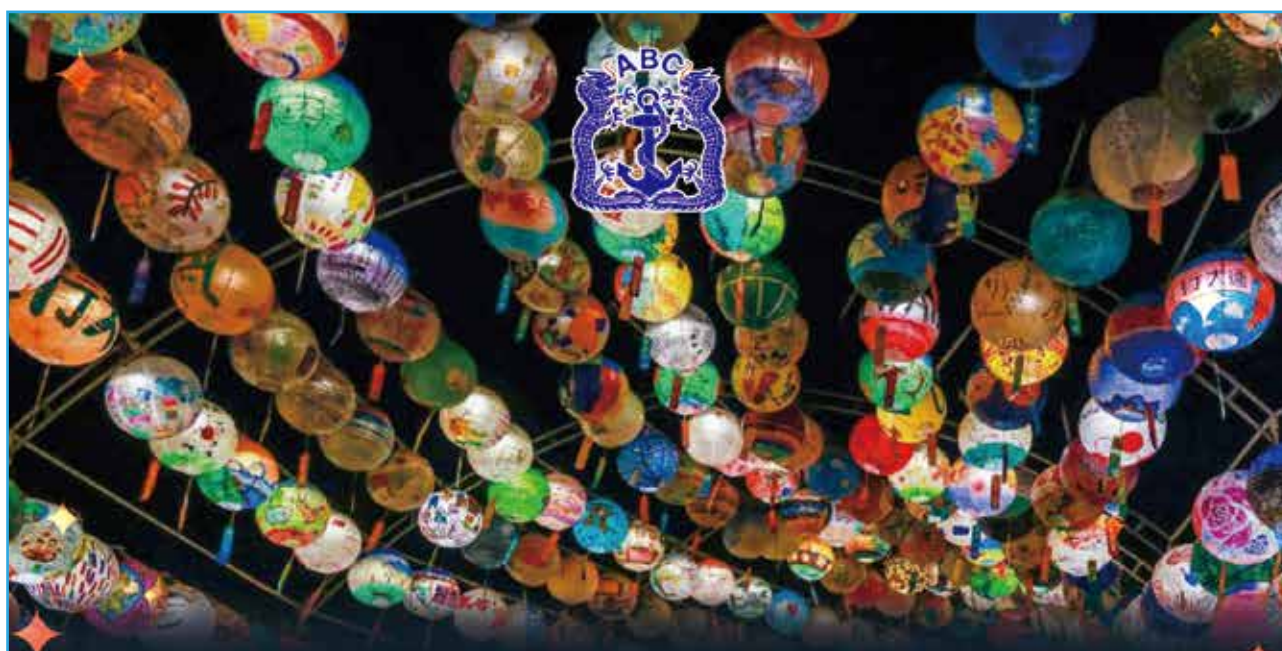
To reserve for your family and friends, call reception at 2552 8182 or email [booking@abclubhk.com](mailto:booking@abclubhk.com)

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F&B PROMOTION



## Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring Lantern Festival Celebration

With complimentary Wine-Tasting

Saturday, 24 February, 6pm - The Galley & The Patio

With the Chinese New Year underway and winter giving way to spring, the Club will be adorned with floating and flying lanterns, to enliven a sumptuous evening buffet of traditional Chinese festival food. Join us with your guests, to also enjoy a selection of Chinese wines and spirits, plus Chinese desserts such as Eight Treasure Rice Pudding, Glutinous Rice, Sweet Rice Cake, Steamed Sponge Cake and Sesame Balls.

Adults  
**\$318** only

For member over 65 years of age  
**\$268** only

Child (3-12yrs)  
**\$218** only



Scan to book



To reserve for your family and friends, call reception at 2552 8182 or email [booking@abclubhk.com](mailto:booking@abclubhk.com)

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## Dragon Chinese New Year Seafood & BBQ Buffet

*The Galley & The Patio*  
*Saturday, 17 February, 6pm*

Join us for ABC's popular and delightful Dragon Chinese New Year BBQ on the Grill, prepared by our chef Paul. Indulge in a wide array of mouthwatering options, including steaks, seafood, and sausages. This all-you-can-eat feast will also feature a variety of cold and hot dishes, a carvery station, and delectable desserts to satisfy your cravings.

**Come and celebrate the Chinese New Year in style with us!**

Adults **\$338** only

For member over 65 years of age **\$288** only

Child (3-12yrs) **\$238** only



To reserve for your family and friends, call reception at 2552 8182 or email [booking@abclubhk.com](mailto:booking@abclubhk.com)

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## JANUARY & FEBRUARY

### DRINKS

Non Alcol Sangria \$55

Tea

Fresh Fruits

Lime Juice

Soda



NON ALCOL Aperol Spritz \$60

Orange Syrup

Fever Tree Tonic

NON Alcol Cava



Masala Tea \$45



# Home Wine Delivery January 2024

Free Wine Tasting (Saturday, 20 January) 6:30pm - 8:30pm

SPARKLING	Price	Qty	Amount
<b>Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel Brut 2021– Stellenbosch, South Africa</b> A classic Cap Classique with a light golden hue. On the nose, white flowers, apples, and nectarines are supported by subtle aromas of shortbread biscuits. Refreshing flavours of apple and peach are followed by a delicate mineral finish on the palate. Beautiful acidity contributes extraordinary length and finesse to this Cap Classique, making every occasion a memorable celebration.	\$145		
WHITE WINE	Price	Qty	Amount
<b>Kono Sauvignon Blanc 2020– Marlborough, New Zealand</b> This wine has a vibrant fruit-driven nose bursting with citrus fruits and herbaceous characters. On the palate luscious flavours of lemon zest and guava combine with notes of currant leaf and fresh bell pepper. Finely balanced with zesty acidity, underlying minerality and just a hint of residual sweetness this crisp and fresh wine leads to a perfectly long, dry, and persistent finish.	\$130		
<b>Hahn Winery SLH Chardonnay 2018 – Santa Lucia Highlands, California, USA</b> Lively aromas of citrus and apple with hints of ripe tropical fruit and vanilla. On the palate, this wine is full-bodied with a viscous round mouthfeel and balanced acidity. Flavors of lemon and vanilla combined with delicate butter notes lead to an elegant long finish.	\$278		
<b>J. Lohr Estates Bay Mist Riesling 2021 – Monterey County, California, USA</b> Exotic aromas of honeysuckle, ripe pear, Meyer lemon, and lychee. Flavors of ripe apple & pear, with just a touch of residual sweetness, classic minerality, and a light, refreshing spritz of natural carbonation on the finish.	\$160		
RED WINE	Price	Qty	Amount
<b>J. Lohr Esates Wildflower Valdiguie 2021 – Arroyo Seco, California, USA</b> Served slightly chilled, displays inviting fresh raspberry, cranberry, and pomegranate aromas, with a bit of black pepper and hibiscus. Flavors of brambly, bright red berry with a touch of spice, mid-palate acidity, and a juicy, mouth-watering finish.	\$150		
<b>Hahn Winery Merlot 2020 – Central Coast, California, USA</b> This wine expresses aromas of black cherry, red ripe plum, with hints of vanilla and spice. The palate mimics those fruits with a touch of blackberry, leather and velvety tannins, while a rich and luscious mouthfeel tie the whole package together.	\$140		
<b>Francis Coppola Diamond Collection Red Blend 2019 – California, USA</b> Aromas of caramel, blueberry and tobacco. On the palate, violets, black pepper, clove.	\$178		
<b>Balnaves Tally Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 – Coonawarra, Australia</b> Deep red in colour - the nose is perfumed with perfectly ripened dark blackberry, liquorice and cassis fruit. The palate is firm, structured and tightly wound with coffee and milk chocolate characters adding to the dark fruit. The finish is long and textured with fine grainy tannins.	\$560		
**Please Note: The listed items do not qualify against minimum monthly F&B charges**	Grand Total:		

Member Name: Mr. / Ms / Mrs. Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount will be charged to Member's account. Order accepted by email or in person.

Email: [bar@abclubhk.com](mailto:bar@abclubhk.com)

FREE delivery will be offered for purchase over HK\$1,500, pls allow 3 working days for delivery.

All wines are subject to availability.

# Home Wine Delivery February 2024

Free Wine Tasting (Saturday, 24 February) 6:30pm - 8:30pm

SPARKLING	Price	Qty	Amount
<b>Gyejacquot Freres Rosé NV– Champagne, France</b> This Champagne reveals a lively and fruity nose. The taste is gourmet with notes of small red fruits. Fresh & elegant, we can observe the aromatic range of a typical rosé.	\$365		
WHITE WINE	Price	Qty	Amount
<b>Tinpot Hut Sauvignon Blanc 2018– Marlborough, New Zealand</b> Classic characters of blackcurrant bud and fresh cut thyme. Underlying ripe fruit and mineral notes combine well with tropical notes of passionfruit and melon.	\$170		
<b>Farmhouse White Blend by Cline 2020 – California, USA</b> Aromas of lime & pear, on the palate: grapefruit, lime and pear, light to medium body with clean & lively finish.	\$135		
RED WINE	Price	Qty	Amount
<b>Francis Coppola Pinot Noir Director's Cut 2021 – California, USA</b> Aromas of blackcurrant, plum and spice. On the palate: raspberry, violet, red cherry.	\$270		
<b>Chateau des Bardes 2019 – Saint-Emilion Grand Cru, Bordeaux, France</b> Aromas of warm & intense bouquet of mocha & sweet spices. On the palate: firm tannins, explosive black cherry wrapped in a subtle vanilla flavour with long finish.	\$325		
<b>Slingshot Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 – North Coast, California, USA</b> Complex and dark on the palate, this wine has an abundance of ripe black fruits, tobacco, and vintage leather. The palate is full and textured with notes of dark chocolate, blackcurrant, and boysenberry, balancing the acidity and rocky tannins. The round finish of toasty oak will have you scrambling for more!	\$255		
<b>Cline Classic Syrah 2019 – California, USA</b> Aromas of black pepper, coffee and violets. On the palate, flavors of boysenberry and peppery spice are complimented by notes of summer savory and a meaty character. Well integrated and structured tannins are perfectly balanced by the wine's fresh acidity. The finish has excellent length and complexity.	\$185		
SWEET WINE	Price	Qty	Amount
<b>GMH Noble Sweet White 2010 – South Australia, Australia</b> It offers delicate aromas of apricot, citrus and elderflower. On the palate: it's sweet and luscious with stone fruits and lime, complemented by perfectly balanced acidity. Pairing: This wine works really well with both savoury and sweet dishes.	\$165		
**Please Note: The listed items do not qualify against minimum monthly F&B charges**		Grand Total:	

Member Name: Mr. / Ms / Mrs. Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

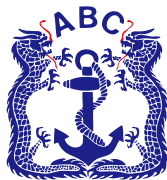
Total amount will be charged to Member's account. Order accepted by email or in person.

Email: [bar@abclubhk.com](mailto:bar@abclubhk.com)

FREE delivery will be offered for purchase over HK\$1,500, pls allow 3 working days for delivery.

All wines are subject to availability.





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



### Part A (Master)

Dates	: 18, 19 April 2024	15, 16 August 2024	14, 15 November 2024
Times	: 7:00pm to 10:30pm		
Syllabus	: Rules, Lights, Shapes, Buoyage and Signals, Seamanship, Local knowledge and the Laws of Hong Kong Fire & gas precautions.		
Cost	: HK\$2,200 for member/person/course.	HK\$2,800 for non-member/person/course.	

### Part B (Engineer)

Dates	: 25, 26 April 2024	22, 23 August 2024	21, 22 November 2024
Times	: 7:00pm to 10:30pm		
Syllabus	: Engine general construction, Diesel & Petrol fuel, fuel systems, electrical systems, ignition systems, Lubrication, cooling & pumps, transmission systems, operation & maintenance, fire & gas precautions.		
Cost	: HK\$2,200 for member/person/course.	HK\$2,800 for non-member/person/course.	

### Notes:

1. Students who attend these two courses will be required to sit their examinations at the PEAK Examination Centre, Vocational Training Council ("VTC") after completion of the course. Successful candidates after they get the license which issued by Marine Dept. will be entitled to operate a vessel in Hong Kong waters up to 15 metres in length with engines of any power.
2. Courses are entirely theoretical for the relative examination. Practical boating is not required for the examination.
3. Examinations are normally held on selected weekdays, you may register your examinations to the PEAK Examination Centre ("VTC") by post or online registration. Document required for the examination application:- a ready examination application form, a copy of your identity document, examination fee HK\$1,100 (HK\$550 for Part A and HK\$550 for Part B), cheque payable to "Vocational Training Council". There will be a minimum of 5 students and a maximum of 20 students/course. If there is insufficient support for a course, that course will be cancelled and those already enrolled will be informed accordingly. Members who responded to the initial inquiry and whose names are held on file will be given priority.
4. Course Instructor: Alan Chau.
5. Please forward the completed application form(s) to Ms Cobo Liu by email [mbs@abclubhk.com](mailto:mbs@abclubhk.com) or by post or hand to the Admin Office of the Club.
6. For applying the examinations to the PEAK Examination Centre ("VTC"), please visit <https://www.peak.edu.hk/exam/en/md> for more information.

Eye test certificate requirement: <https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/forms/pdf/md687.pdf>

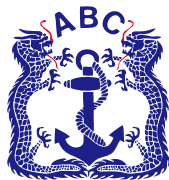
Note: Get your eye test certificate before booking the examinations

The address of the PEAK Examination Centre ("VTC"):

VTC Tower, 27 Wood Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Tel. no. 2919 1467 Email : [cpdc@vtc.edu.hk](mailto:cpdc@vtc.edu.hk)

N.B. Before booking and fixing your examination date, you have to allow enough time for finishing all the model questions, so as to prepare the examinations efficiently.



## Pleasure Vessel Grade II Operator Certificate Courses

### Application form

#### Part A (Master)

Surname: Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Forename(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me on the course for Part A (Masters) to be held at 7:00pm – 10:30pm

( ) 18, 19 April 2024 Thursday & Friday

( ) 15, 16 August 2024 Thursday & Friday

( ) 14, 15 November 2024 Thursday & Friday

Please debit my account with \$2,200. -

For Non-Member please include a cheque with \$2,800. Payable to Aberdeen Boat Club Ltd.

Address: 20 Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.

Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Part B (Engineer)

Surname: Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Forename(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me on the course for Part B (Engineer) to be held at 7:00pm – 10:30pm.

( ) 25, 26 April 2024 Thursday & Friday

( ) 22, 23 August 2024 Thursday & Friday

( ) 21, 22 November 2024 Thursday & Friday

Please debit my account with \$2,200. -

For Non-Member please include a cheque with \$2,800. Payable to Aberdeen Boat Club Ltd.

Address : 20 Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# WAGLAN

*Series*

## 2023-2024

8 OCT  
22 OCT  
5 NOV  
19 NOV  
10 DEC

**MINI  
SERIES  
ONE**

**MINI  
SERIES  
TWO**

14 JAN  
18 FEB  
3 MAR  
17 MAR  
24 MAR  
7 APR

**OPEN TO ALL**

**IRC, PHS (FORMALLY HKPN) BOATS**

[WWW.ABCLUBHK.COM](http://WWW.ABCLUBHK.COM)