Vengeance — overall winner

RACING

FOUR PEAKS RACE

Rick Hanslip sailed his 38-foot Sigma *Vengeance* to victory in the TAG Heuer Four Peaks Race '95, held on the 25th and 26th of February. Mr Hanslip and his crew of six highly trained servicemen were 3rd across the finishing line at 0710 on the second day, but the Sigma's handicap resulted in a winning corrected time of 21:30:11. Mark Horton in *Sky Song* took line honours and 2nd overall, beating John Blay's *Windseeker* into 3rd. *Bugis*, skippered by Vic Locke, was 2nd across the line but was placed 5th on corrected time.

Martin Ganz of Desco (HK) Ltd, agent for sponsor TAG Heuer, said: "This race requires a combination of skills — sailing, running and logistics. 90 nautical miles of sailing are combined with the climbing of four of Hong Kong's highest peaks. It's very tough, with probably more competition this year than ever before." The rigours of the race forced three boats to retire, and left the 24 remaining crews cold, exhausted but happy to have finished the course.

The fleet got underway from Shek O rock in a 12 to 15-knot northerly wind heading for Port Shelter and the first peak, Ma On Shan. *Vengeance* took the lead from the right hand side of the line until Rick Strompf in the larger *X-Rated* pulled ahead in strengthening winds. The X-512 was the first boat to reach the drop-off zone at 1359, less than three hours after the start of the race. *X-Calibur* retired upon arrival at Port Shelter as a result of minor injuries to one of its crew.

Mr Strompf lost the commanding lead he had built up on the first sailing leg when his runners were beaten back from the 702m peak by *Vengeance's* Cliff Squib and David Brown. It was this performance, said Mr Hanslip, that led to their victory: "That was always going to be the crux of the whole race, if you can get away from Sai Kung early." *Vengeance* was consistently among the first three boats to reach the subsequent drop-off zones.

The leg from Port Shelter to Lantau is the longest of the race, with the spinnaker run around the Ninepins down to Po Toi allowing the fleet to spread out. *Bugis* was leading in the 22-knot following wind, but around Po Toi Island the breeze dropped, bunching the leading boats together. Several of the heavier cruisers, including *Tru Blu*, suffered from the light airs, while the lighter Young 8.4 *Gambit* and *Windseeker* played conditions to their advantage and moved up the rankings by sneaking around the shoreline.

Sky Song, helmed by experienced yachtsman Mark Dagge

At 2230, *X-Rated* was the first boat to arrive for the ascension of Lantau Peak, followed within 11 minutes by *Sky Song*, *Bugis* and *Vengeance*. Strong offshore winds as *Xiabu Xiabu 5* dropped off its runners caused the boat to gybe unexpectedly, gashing Andy Nisbet's head against a winch and ripping the mainsail. They were forced to retire.

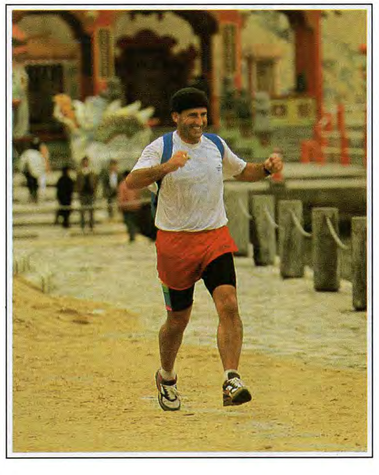
Despite an elevation of only 353m, the ill-defined paths of the third peak, Mount Stenhouse on Lamma, caused problems for those runners with inadequate pre-race preparations. *X-Rated* retired after its runners got lost. Those from *Vengeance* also lost their way, causing a delay that was worsened by light airs on the way across to Repulse Bay favouring the lighter *Sky Song*. Helmsman Mark Dagge said: "At one point we had zero knots and zero boat speed. Ours is a pretty light boat and for us to stop means it must have been even tougher for the bigger boats."

Dream Wind in Repulse Bay

The J-35 was first to the drop-off point for the final peak Violet Hill with *Vengeance* and *Bugis* over 90 minutes behind. 3rd across the finishing line, the winning crew feared they had not done enough to edge ahead of Mr Horton in the handicapped results. Nevertheless, they took away the RHKYC San Fernando Race Trophy as the first Division A yacht on corrected time.

Dream Wind, an open sail training ketch recently supplied to the Outward Bound School, sailed a remarkable race and won Division B despite suffering sail damage early on. The boat also received the Sponsor's Prize awarded this year to "the boat best symbolising the spirit and nature of the Four Peaks Race." *Halcyon*, 4th overall, won the MTL Sprightly Skippers Salver for the first boat in Division A in which each of the crew climbed a peak.

Tipsy Too created Four Peaks history with the event's first all-Chinese crew; they had a hard race reaching the finish line late on the second day in 20th position. The efforts of YK Szeto and crew attracted close media attention with a TVB cameraman on board at the



The agony (above) and the ecstacy (below)

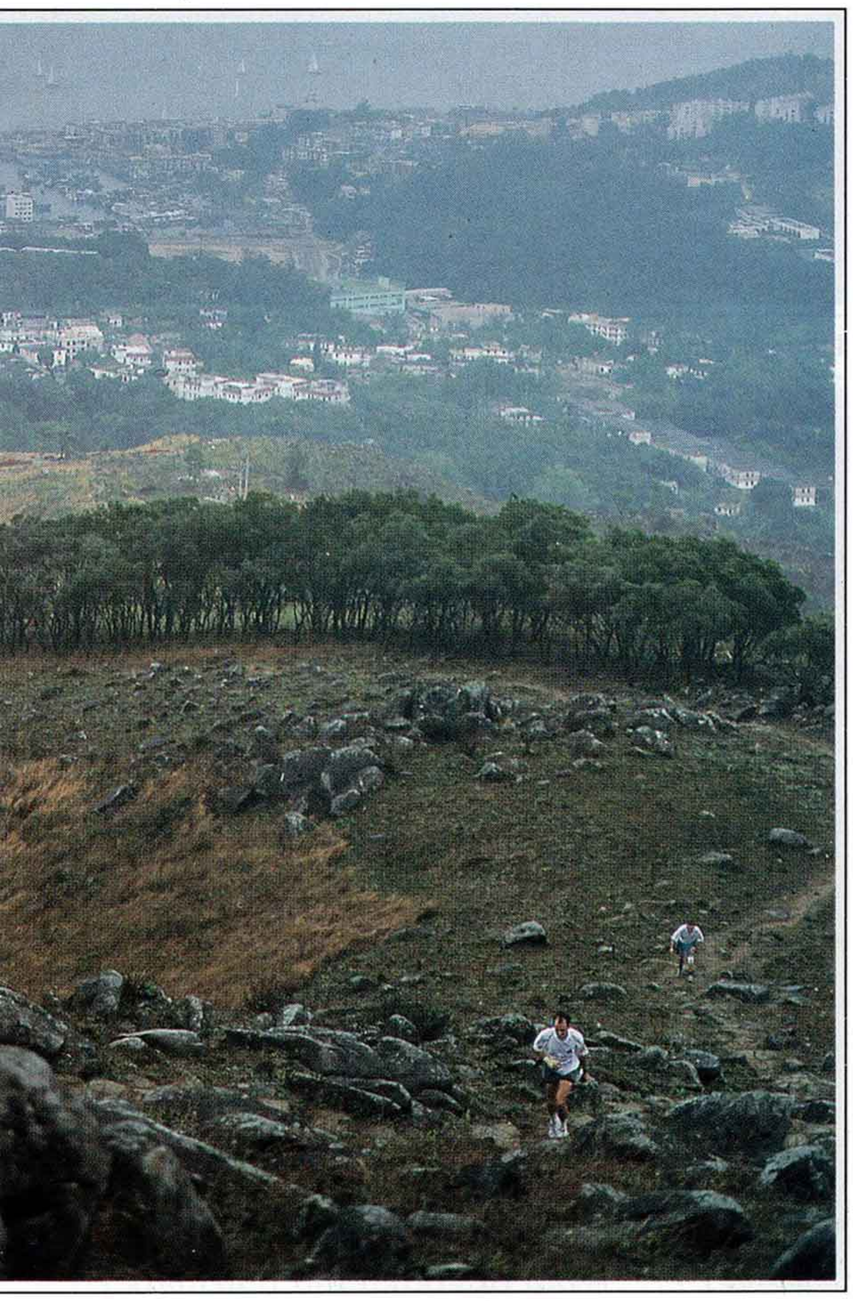
Continued on page 16

All-Chinese entry *Tipsy Too*

Continued from page 15

beginning of the race.

Race Chairman Brian Phipps said that the appeal of the Four Peaks was " . . . there is never the animosity found in so many other forms of yacht racing." The prize giving in Division B was open to question, though, due to fewer boats than usual competing in this division. Wayne Robinson in 4th-placed *Thea* said: "There were prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions, and one for last over the line. Not bad for us to come last and still get a prize!"



Ascending Ma On Shan

ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB

TAG HEUER FOUR PEAKS RACE '95

25th - 26th February 1995
Start 11:00:00 hrs

DIVISION A

Pos	Yacht	PYS	Class	Finish time h	m	s	Elapsed time h	m	s	Corrected time h	m	s	Class pos I	II
1	Vengeance	92	I	7	10	58	20	10	58	21	30	11	1	
2	Sky Song	84	I	6	5	46	19	5	46	21	46	52	2	
3	Windseeker	95	II	7	58	55	20	58	55	21	49	23		1
4	Halcyon	104	II	10	6	55	23	6	55	22	25	7		2
5	Bugis	85	I	7	7	9	20	7	9	22	47	14	3	
6	Gambit	90	I	8	7	35	21	7	35	22	55	5	4	
7	Boss Hogg	100	II	10	15	23	23	15	23	23	15	23		3
8	Shearwater V	97	II	10	8	6	23	8	6	23	41	45		4
9	Tru Blu	107	II	12	8	50	25	8	50	23	49	45		5
10	Gipsy	102	II	11	19	56	24	19	56	23	57	11		6
11	Farr Fetched	96	II	10	17	36	23	17	36	24	3	20		7
12	Wave Dancer	94	I	9	58	55	22	58	55	24	7	47	5	
13	Shogun III	99	II	10	59	4	23	59	4	24	10	34		8
14	Xanzibar	83	I	8	54	20	21	54	20	25	22	5	6	
15	Tamarisk**	99	II	12	20	58	25	50	58	26	3	36		9
16	Quinella	105	II	15	22	53	28	22	53	27	16	5		10
17	Waimea	103	II	15	43	58	28	43	58	28	2	29		11
18	Gnu	100	II	15	22	1	28	22	1	28	22	1		12
19	Artemis	98	II	15	38	24	28	38	24	29	7	21		13
20	Tipsy Too	94	I	16	41	12	29	41	12	31	15	44	7	
	X-Rated	73	I				Did not finish							
	Xiabu-Xiabu 5	83	I				Did not finish							
	X-Calibur	88	I				Did not finish							

DIVISION B

Pos	Yacht	PYS	"K"	Finish time h	m	s	Elapsed time h	m	s	Motoring time h	m	s	Class pos h	m	s
1	Dream Wind**	114	2.00	9	43	17	23	13	17	2	49	0	24	8	46
2	Delmara	118	2.40	15	32	53	28	32	53	0	50	0	26	14	59
3	Ariki III	140	2.00	17	34	5	30	34	5	4	17	15	28	46	31
4	Thea	116	2.20	17	29	38	30	29	38	9	0	0	77	58	1

** 30 minute penalty on elapsed time for scutineering infringement

RUNNERS

Boat name	Ma On Shan D-off	P-up	Total	Lantau Peak D-off	P-up	Total	Mt Stenhouse D-off	P-up	Total	Violet Hill D-off	P-up	Total
Ariki III	15.55	17.54	**1.59**	05.12	8.07	**1.55**	11.31	12.5	**1.19**	14.49	17.14	**2.25**
Artemis	13.40	16.20	**2.40**	01.25	04.45	**3.20**	08.02	10.35	**2.32**	13.45	15.30	**1.45**
Boss Hogg				22.41	12.57	**2.16**	02.35	05.59	**3.24**	08.26	09.51	**1.25**
Bugis	13.05	14.50	**1.45**	20.57	23.22		01.55	03.19	**1.24**	05.10	06.41	**1.31**
Delmara	15.00	16.40	**1.40**	03.00	05.30	**2.30**	09.00	11.15	**2.15**	13.20	14.35	**1.15**
Dream Wind	15.05	16.54	**1.49**	01.20	03.14	**1.54**	05.20	07.00	**1.40**	08.00	09.10	**1.10**
Farr Fetched												
Gambit	13.31	15.20	**1.49**	21.40	24.00	**2.20**	02.20	04.15	**1.55**	06.18	07.24	**1.06**
Gipsy	13.32	15.44	**2.12**	23.35	01.57	**2.22**	04.51	06.37	**1.46**	08.27	10.16	**1.49**
Gnu												
Halcyon	13.50	15.35	**1.45**	23.45	01.35	**1.50**	04.40	06.40	**2.00**	08.45	04.40	**0.55**
Quinella	13.53	16.05	**2.12**	02.37	05.22	**2.45**	09.00	10.55	**1.55**	13.20	14.38	**1.38**
Shearwater V	13.28	15.10	**1.42**	22.22	00.53	**2.31**	03.16	04.53	**1.37**	08.17	09.47	**1.30**
Shogun III	13.33	16.10	**2.37**	23.45	02.39	**2.54**	05.00	06.45	**1.45**	09.05	10.15	**1.10**
Sky Song	13.01	14.50	**1.49**	09.13	11.19	**2.06**	01.27	02.35	**1.08**	03.33	04.46	**1.23**
Tamarisk	13.36	15.38	**2.02**	23.43	02.29	**2.46**	04.52	07.05	**2.13**	10.25	11.39	**1.14**
Thea	14.55	18.00	**3.05**	07.15	09.30	**2.15**	12.00	13.30	**1.30**	14.53	17.00	**2.07**
Tipsy Too												
Tru Blu	13.53	15.37	**1.44**	23.54	02.19	**2.25**	05.04	06.40	**1.36**	10.12	11.26	**1.14**
Vengeance	13.15	14.48	**1.33**	21.33	23.18	**1.45**	01.20	02.57	**1.37**	05.02	06.41	**1.39**
Waimea	14.00	16.25	**2.25**	02.30	05.50	**3.20**	09.15	11.20	**2.05**	13.30	03.00	**1.30**
Wave Dancer	13.28	15.15	**1.47**									
Windseeker			**1.46**			**2.15**			**2.13**			**1.11**
X-Calibur	13.20	15.11	**1.51**									
X-Rated												
Xanzibar	13.09	14.56	**1.47**	21.59	00.28	**2.30**	02.58	05.51	**2.53**	06.45	08.30	**1.45**
Xiabu Xiabu 5												