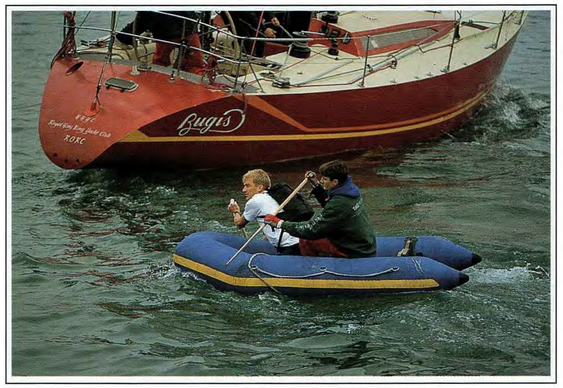
RACING

FOUR PEAKS RACE

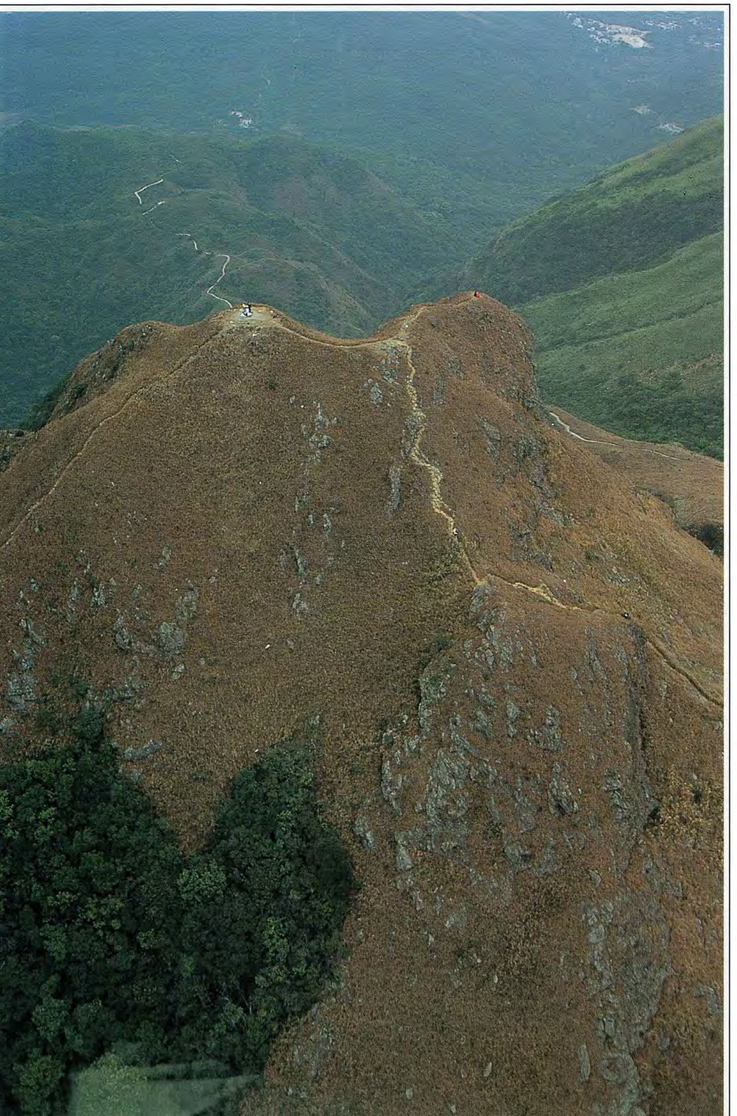
This year's TAG Heuer Four Peaks Race was held over the weekend of the 27th and 28th of January in conditions resulting in impressive times from many in the 30-strong fleet. The north-northeasterly winds were more consistent than last year when a large hole south of Hong Kong island caught most of the fleet during the approach to the finish.

"Our elapsed time shows that we've improved by more than seven hours, more than five of which were gained on the sailing legs," said Y K Szeto, skipper of *Tipsy Too* which finished 16th overall in Division A. "I estimate that most boats improved their times by four hours this year, probably three of which were on the water."

Despite missing out on the silverware at the prizegiving earlier this month, Dr Szeto, who last year entered the event's first Chinese crew, was one of the three skippers presented with a Sponsor's Prize of a TAG Heuer watch, awarded to "the boats who best demonstrate the true spirit of the Four Peaks Race." The other recipients were Graeme Large in *Ariki III* (the oldest skipper in the oldest boat) and Donald Tan of the Outward Bound School's open ketch *Wing Fung*. Mr Tan was selected since it was he and his crew's first yacht race, and off Cheung Sha beach they up-anchored to help *Slalom Glade's* tender which had been caught in a gust.



Bugis' runners paddle ashore



Line honours and winner of the San Fernando Trophy for 1st overall in Division A was *Sky Song* skippered by Mark Horton. Following a good start, the J-35 managed to keep at the head of the fleet for the first beat towards Sai Kung, and was the second boat to drop its runners, the first being the higher-rated *Beau Geste*.

Despite Tim Oakes' record-breaking run of one hour and 23 minutes on Ma On Shan, *Sky Song's* lead was threatened by a parted mainsail halyard which struck while the crew waited for their runners to return from Lantau Peak. Repairs were made, and the J-35 headed for the third peak, Mt Stenhouse on Lamma Island, with *Xiabu Xiabu 5* close behind. *Sky Song's* lead was secure, however, when *Xiabu's* runners capsized in their canoe.

Ma On Shan checkpoint (left) and *Wing Fun* (above)

"Last year we thought we had it in the bag after Violet Hill, but even though we took line honours we didn't make it on corrected time," said Mr Horton. "It's taken us three years of refining our team and tactics to get to the top, which shows the challenging nature of the race."

Andy Foster in *X-Calibur* had a good race compared to last year (he was forced to retire after one of his crew sustained minor injuries on the first leg to Port Shelter). This year, the X-99 was fourth across the line at Round Island and 2nd overall on corrected time.

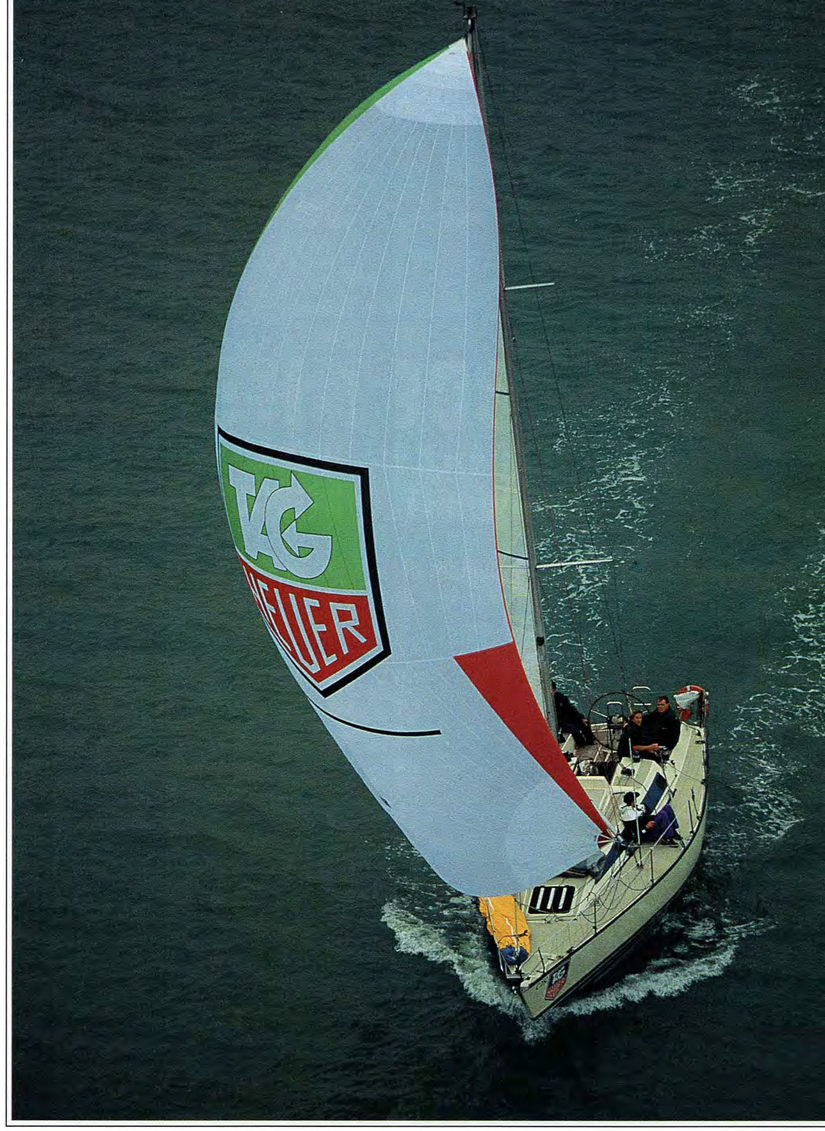
"We started well and were the fourth boat into Sai Kung," said Mr Foster. "We sailed into a hole off Lantau and fell back to 8th position, but our runners had one of the fastest times up Lantau Peak which put us in good shape for the rest of the race."

Tru Blu nears the finish

While he thought the sailing legs were generally well organised, Mr Foster had reservations about the running aspect: "Some of my runners have complained that they should be timed shore to shore rather than boat to boat, because they'd prefer to exhibit their prowess running rather than paddling!"

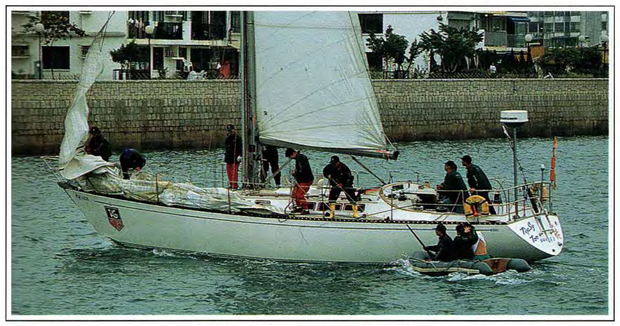
Reservations have also been expressed about the suitability of Violet Hill as the final peak. Mr Large said: "The organisers ought to find another peak on Hong Kong island, since the opening of the Wilson Trail has changed Violet Hill. It's not in the spirit of the race, being full of people and having concrete steps while the other three peaks are wild and magnificent."

Another criticism is that the final sailing leg, from Repulse Bay to the finish at Round Island, is too short, with positions over the line more or less determined when the runners embark after Violet Hill. "I know that last year *Vengeance* beat *Sky Song* just before the line," said Andy Foster, "but if the finish were laid further round towards Shek O, the race would be more exciting at the end."



X-Stream — one of three boats chosen to fly the sponsor's spinnaker

This was the third consecutive year that TAG Heuer has sponsored the Four Peaks Race but next year's sponsorship is in doubt. Cecilia Chok, marketing manager of Desco, TAG Heuer's Hong



The Chinese crew in *Tipsy Too*

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Descending Ma On Shan

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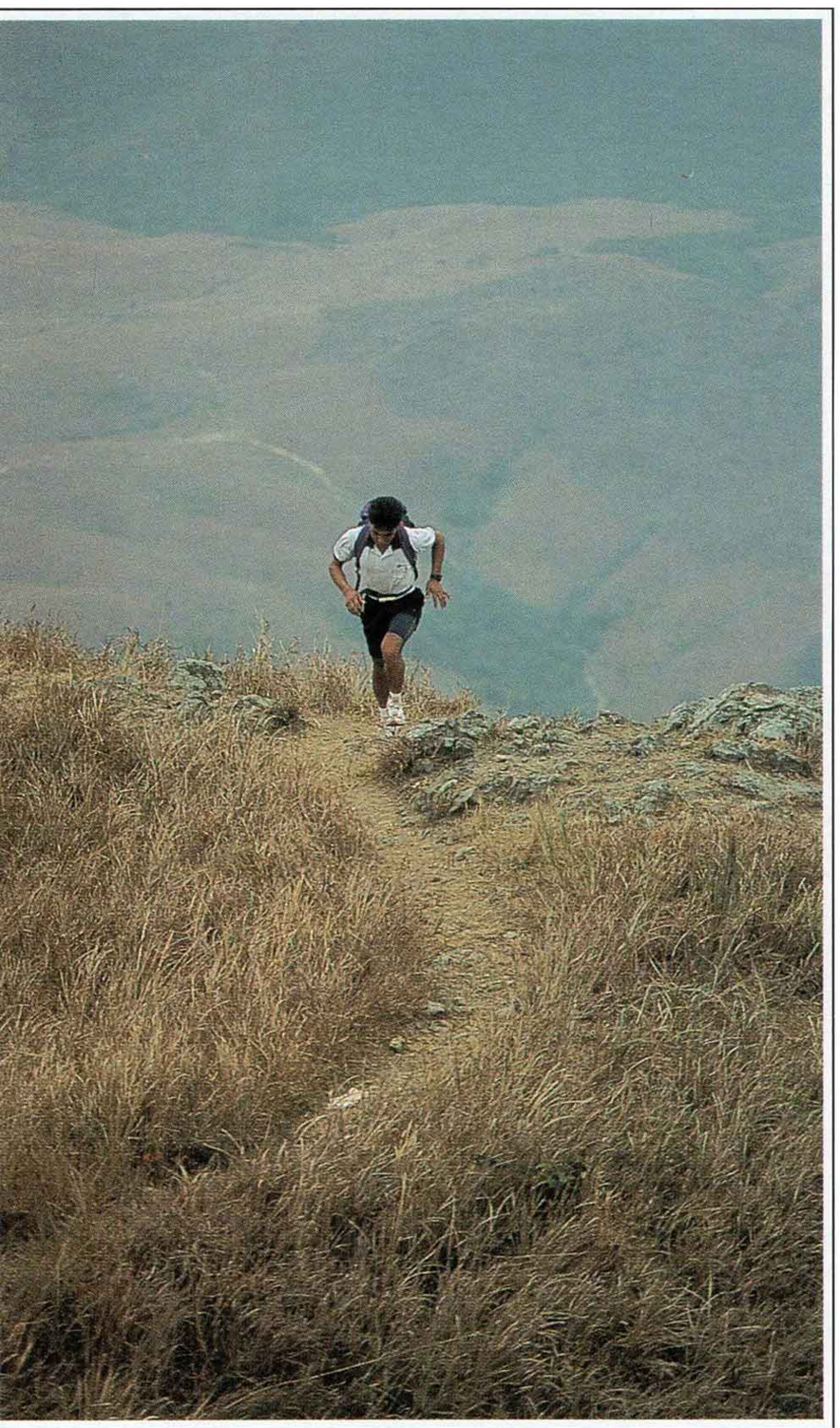
Kong agent, said, however: "We don't know yet whether we will be sponsoring next year's race. We will have to re-evaluate the project."

FH believes that TAG Heuer may feel it is not receiving the right degree of publicity from the event, an opinion formed by such issues as the marks not bearing the sponsor's name, and the ABC's reluctance to co-operate with the media and Desco's photographer.

Jackie Yu of Prism, Desco's appointed PR agency for the race, said: "There's always room for improvement. We think the main thing to work on now is educating the Chinese press, so they understand yacht racing better."



Near the summit

For a full viewing of pictures taken during the event — aerial views of runners around Ma On Shan, boats leaving Port Shelter, runners landing in Repulse Bay, and the sprint to Cheung Hom Kok — *Fragrant Harbour* will be hosting a photo presentation on the 24th of this month. Along with the curry buffet, prints will be presented to selected crews. Those interested should contact Lily Ting. Tel: (852) 2566 8120 or Fax: (852) 2807 3162.

TAG HEUER FOUR PEAKS RACE '96

ABERDEEN BOAT CLUB

27th - 28th January 1996 — **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	Sky Song	82	I	4	2	45	17	2	45	19	15	4	1	
2	X-Calibur	88	I	5	18	59	18	18	59	19	51	34	2	
3	Windseeker	94	I	6	24	25	19	24	25	20	11	56	3	
4	Vengeance	91	I	6	5	46	19	5	46	20	17	33	4	
5	Xiabu Xiabu 5 **	82	I	4	42	0	17	41	60	20	17	56	5	
6	Farr Fetched	98	II	7	7	4	20	7	4	20	23	8		1
7	X-Stream	88	I	6	5	51	19	5	51	20	44	50	6	
8	Wizard	82	I	5	31	27	18	31	27	21	3	14	7	
9	Beau Geste	78	I	5	12	13	18	12	13	21	21	49	8	
10	Halcyon	102	II	9	36	6	22	36	6	22	17	45		2
11	Bugis	85	I	7	6	51	20	6	51	22	25	43	9	
12	Tru Blu	105	II	10	19	46	23	19	46	22	33	7		3
13	Intrigue	78	I	6	9	5	19	9	5	22	34	43	10	
14	Boss Hogg	99	II	9	33	24	22	33	24	22	42	50		4
15	Gipsy	100	II	9	55	58	22	55	58	22	55	58		5
16	Tipsy Too	93	I	9	1	15	22	1	15	23	9	5	11	
17	Wave Dancer	93	I	9	15	20	22	15	20	23	24	14	12	
18	Tamarisk	99	II	10	43	30	23	43	30	23	53	38		6
19	Gnu	99	II	10	56	13	23	56	13	24	6	29		7
20	Eclipse	98	II	10	49	40	23	49	40	24	10	16		8
21	Slalom Glade	95	II	11	26	46	24	26	46	25	21	52		9
22	Shearwater V **	95	II	11	1	12	24	1	12	25	24	57		10
23	Tin Ma	101	II	13	5	39	26	5	39	25	54	19		11
24	Seduced	82	I	11	2	7	24	2	7	27	46	29	13	
	Dexter	88	I				Did not finish							

** Xiabu Xiabu 5 penalised 15 minutes for scrutineering infringement (Rule 3.10.2)
** Shearwater V penalised 30 minutes for hill climbing infringement (Rule 3.5.1)

DIVISION B

Pos	Yacht	PYS	"K"	Finish time h	m	s	Elapsed time h	m	s	Motoring time h	m	s	Corrected time h	m	s
CLASS I															
1	Dream Wind **	100	2.50	7	44	44	20	44	44	2	6	0	27	13	44
2	Sawadee	112	3.20	16	53	13	29	53	13	0	0	0	27	26	5
3	Wing Fung **	100	2.50	12	9	43	25	9	43	3	15	0	32	22	13
4	Ariki III	140	2.50	17	4	31	30	4	31	5	39	0	44	57	31
CLASS II															
1	Pegasus	83	3.10	7	43	3	20	43	3	0	0	0	23	31	38

** Wing Fung corrected time includes adjustment for 40 minutes rowing (K factor 1.25)
** Dream Wind corrected time includes adjustment for 1 hour 4 minutes rowing (K factor 1.25)
** Wing Fung penalised 15 minutes for scrutineering infringement (Rule 3.10.2)

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	15.47	18.37	**2.50**	04.28	07.48	**3.20**	12.13	13.48	**1.35**	15.11	16.45	**1.34**
Beau Geste			**1.37**			**1.40**			**1.20**			**0.55**
Boss Hogg	14.08	15.45	**1.37**	23.52	02.05	**2.13**	04.11	05.31	**1.20**	08.32	09.19	**0.47**
Bugis			**1.33**			**2.05**			**1.10**			**1.00**
Dream Wind			**1.56**			**2.07**			**1.18**			**1.18**
Eclipse	14.03	15.39	**1.36**	23.05	03.02	**3.57**	05.29	08.02	**2.33**	09.25	10.21	**0.56**
Farr Fetched	13.54	15.22	**1.28**	22.58	00.36	**1.37**	02.45	03.57	**1.12**	05.58	06.42	**0.44**
Gipsy	13.42	15.30	**1.48**	00.15	02.30	**2.15**	04.55	07.03	**2.08**	08.29	09.38	**1.09**
Gnu	13.55	15.38	**1.43**	00.15	03.39	**3.24**	06.00	06.55	**0.55**	09.37	10.33	**0.56**
Halcyon	13.54	15.42	**1.48**	00.05	01.57	**1.52**	04.43	06.21	**1.38**	08.40	09.23	**0.43**
Intrigue			**1.48**			**2.08**			**1.21**			**1.15**
Pegasus	13.31	15.27	**2.04**	22.03	00.13	**2.10**	01.50	03.30	**1.40**	5.31	07.15	**1.44**
Sawadee			**2.35**			**3.38**			**3.30**			**2.04**
Seduced	14.02	16.30	**2.28**	00.20	02.30	**2.20**	06.00	07.17	**1.17**	09.35	10.30	**0.55**
Shearwater V	13.56	15.50	**1.52**	00.36	02.50	**2.14**	05.05	08.27	**3.20**	09.37	10.33	**0.56**
Sky Song	13.06	14.29	**1.23**	21.13	23.02	**1.49**	01.08	02.12	**1.04**	02.54	03.43	**0.49**
Slalom Glade	13.53	15.42	**1.49**	00.10	03.15	**3.05**	06.43	07.48	**1.05**	10.00	11.02	**1.02**
Tamarisk	13.58	16.12	**2.14**	00.16	02.36	**2.20**	05.18	07.25	**2.07**	09.17	10.21	**1.04**
Tin Ma	14.37	16.32	**1.55**	00.40	06.27	**4.07**	07.02	08.20	**1.22**	10.50	12.30	**1.40**
Tipsy Too	13.34	15.40	**2.05**	23.35	01.50	**2.15**	03.23	06.05	**2.41**	07.35	08.45	**1.10**
Tru Blu	14.22	15.57	**1.35**	00.27	02.27	**2.00**	04.59	07.19	**2.20**	09.03	09.56	**0.53**
Vengeance	13.48	15.13	**1.25**	22.26	00.09	**1.43**	02.10	03.48	**1.38**	04.37	05.39	**1.02**
Wavedancer	13.47	15.44	**2.03**	23.57	02.04	**2.07**	04.19	06.46	**2.27**	07.53	08.57	**1.04**
Windseeker	13.21	15.28	**2.07**	22.27	00.22	**1.55**	02.13	03.54	**1.41**	04.48	05.48	**1.00**
Wing Fung	15.48	17.39	**1.51**	00.40	03.45	**3.05**	06.20	08.45	**2.25**	10.25	11.33	**1.08**
Wizard	13.20	15.04	**1.43**	21.41	23.33	**1.52**	01.49	03.21	**1.22**	04.04	05.03	**0.58**
X-Calibur			**1.45**			**1.35**			**1.11**			**0.57**
X-Stream			**1.32**			**1.45**			**1.20**			**1.03**
Xiabu Xiabu 5	13.12	14.55	**1.43**	21.01	23.38	**2.37**	01.21	02.30	**1.09**	03.18	04.22	**1.04**