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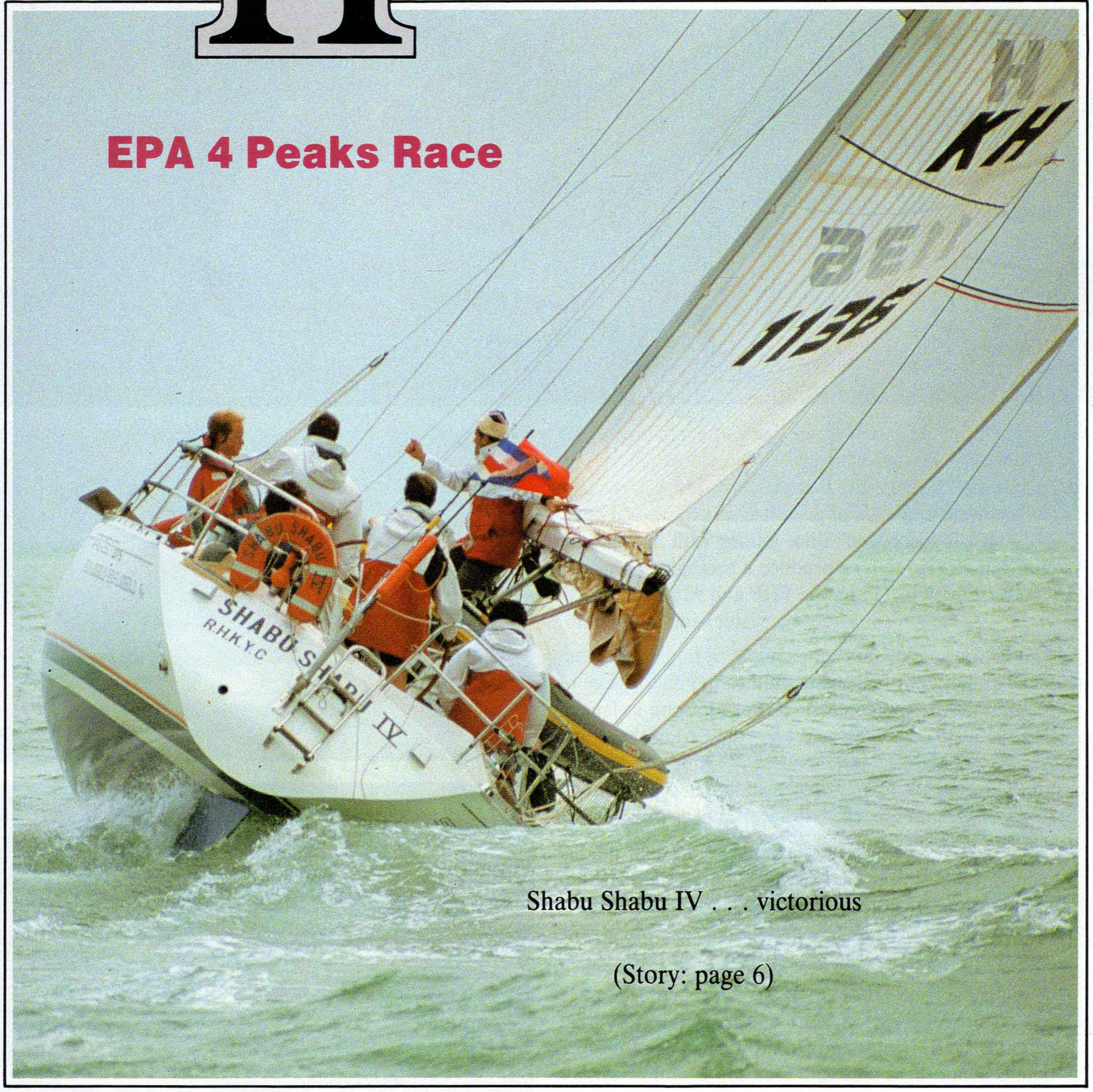
FRAGRANT HARBOUR

FEBRUARY 1989

EPA 4 Peaks Race



Shabu Shabu IV . . . victorious

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EPA 4 Peaks Race

With far better winds than last year, the EPA 4 Peaks Race 1989 saw plenty of action and some very impressive times. After a delayed start of an hour and 35 minutes, 19 boats set off for Sai Kung at 1235 on Saturday, 18th of February, in very light airs. In a matter of hours, however, conditions changed dramatically and boats enjoyed more than favourable winds for the rest of the race.

In fact, crews needed to reef in during the night and most stayed that way into Repulse Bay the following day. There were 17 finishers with only two retirements, a considerable improvement over last year when almost all of Division A were unable to finish. Division B are allowed to use engines – there is a 1x penalty for motors used up to 15% and a 5x penalty for any amount over that. This allowance helps some of the slower cruisers to keep up with the faster boats.

"... Shabu Shabu IV won overall on corrected time (26 hours, 39 minutes and 43 seconds) ..."

First over the line on the Sunday was Bimblegumbie but Shabu Shabu IV won overall on corrected time (26 hours, 39 minutes and 43 seconds) despite one of her foredeck crew pirouetting into the sea during the night. Luckily he managed to cling onto the spinnaker sheet and was whisked back onboard with little time lost.

Shabu Shabu IV near the finish line (above), approaching Repulse Bay (below)

The last boat home crossed the finish line at Chung Hom Kok at a quarter past eleven on Sunday night. The finish line was manned from six on Sunday morning until midnight – quite a feat of endurance in itself.

"The race is a very physical event and yet despite the hardships, crews return year after year ..."

Second overall was Fiddler's Green II and third, the Army boat, White Dragon V. The race is a very physical event and yet despite the hardships, crews return year after year to test their abilities. Even the support teams manning the various check points and the operations room take the event very seriously and it is indeed thanks to these committed people that the 4 Peaks has grown into what it is. Organised by the Aberdeen Boat Club and sponsored by Edwin Palfrey & Associates Limited, the race was this year moved some two to three weeks into the season over previous years in the hope that it would lead to more consistent winds and better sailing. The committee and crews got what they wanted.

Gail Force beating hard (top) and landing runners in Repulse Bay (right). Bimblegumbie's crew relax after crossing the finish line (below).

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Jon Casson, ABC commodore, told FH that the response for volunteers to run the race had been overwhelming this year. "There are people that insist on doing their "own peaks" because they've done so for the five years the event has been running. Dads take their kids along and make a big adventure out of it. In fact, we had too many volunteers for Violet Hill. The Gurkhas also assist with manning the checkpoints," said Jon.

". . . Gail Force and Bucephalus needed to use their means of communication to report a floating body"

Boats that didn't have VHF were supplied with CSL telephones and contact was kept with the operations room at the ABC and on one occasion, Gail Force and Bucephalus needed to use their means of communication to report a floating body. The message was then quickly relayed by the operations room to the police.

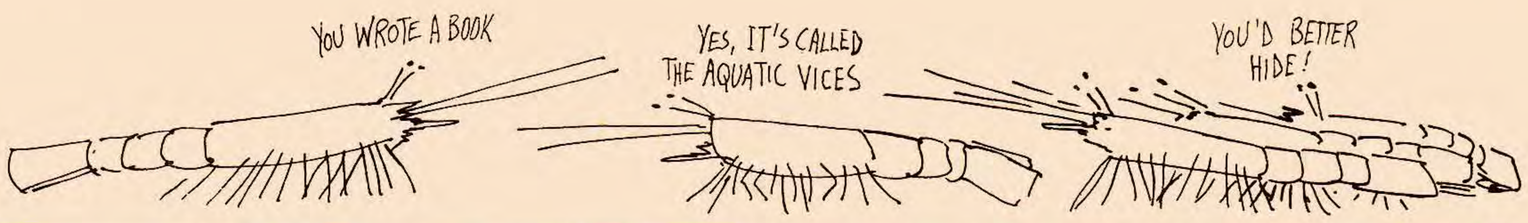
The race was not without trial and tribulation. Coming into Lantau with more than 30 knots of wind proved very difficult for everyone. Bucephalus' man who rowed his runners ashore in the dark tried to get back from the beach but somehow got swept, or blown, out and was only spotted by those on board in the light of dawn. He had been rowing his dinghy for two and a half hours trying to reach the boat and was stiff and exhausted.

"One crew actually missed the check point on Ma On Shan and were forced to retire"

Added to the hazards of wind and low light was the fog. One crew actually missed the check point on Ma On Shan and were forced to retire.

But that all has to be taken in the spirit of the race. "You really get to the edge," said Peter Bayer of Gail Force. In spite of all the hardship, FH is sure next year will see the same, and more, boats taking part – it really is great event.

George Weiss and Tony Geeser from Gail Force



Results

EPA 4 Peaks Race 1989

Division A

O/all	Yacht	Sail No.	PYS No.	Class	Finish time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Class pos
					h m s	h m s	h m s	
1	Shabu Shabu 4	1136	93	II	13 47 56	25 12 56	26 39 43	1
2	Fiddlers Green II	6015	98	II	14 54 2	26 19 2	26 43 55	1
3	White Dragon V	739	107	III	17 10 30	28 35 30	27 6 49	2
4	Tatoosh	1007	103	III	17 34 54	28 59 54	28 19 43	3
5	Bucephalus	4735	100	II	17 11 34	28 36 34	28 36 34	4
6	Windseeker	1198	95	II	16 19 35	27 44 35	28 53 15	5
7	Delphian	1616	91	II	16 4 10	27 29 10	29 36 40	1
8	Bimblegumbie*	818	79	I	13 14 40	24 39 40	30 7 18	3
9	Wild Wind	742	104	III	20 0 6	31 25 6	30 26 27	2
10	Ichiban	5875	86	I	15 47 21	27 12 21	30 39 29	3
11	Gale Force*	676	86	I	15 36 41	27 1 41	30 57 4	4
12	E.P. Ah	6425	106	III	23 14 28	34 39 28	33 2 8	–
–	Roxanne	1615	87	I	Retired			

* Includes 30 min penalty (Rule 2.4)

Division B

Pos	Yacht	Sail No.	PYS No. Std	PYS No. Adj	Finish time h m s	Elapsed time h m s	Motoring time h m s	Corrected time h m s
1	**Kotuku**	**225**	**125**	**2**	**12 57 58**	**24 22 58**	**2 52 0**	**22 43 55**
2	**Arawa**	**65**	**146**	**3**	**21 28 36**	**32 53 36**	**3 7 0**	**26 8 27**
3	**Skerryvore**	**–**	**112**	**-2**	**14 24 6**	**25 49 6**	**4 34 0**	**30 41 29**
4	**B-P Spirit**	**232**	**110**	**4**	**20 52 37**	**32 17 37**	**3 37 0**	**32 14 14**
5	**Midas***	**3725**	**126**	**-3**	**20 48 6**	**32 13 6**	**5 38 0**	**34 59 57**
–	**Respite**	**675**	**103**	**1**	**Retired**			