

PRESS RELEASE

11 November 2023
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24 Hour Charity Dinghy Race 2023 Cheque Presentation Ceremony

(For immediate release Hong Kong, 11 November 2023) – First held in 2002, the 24 Hour Charity Dinghy Race was conceived by Roger Eastham and Mark Houghton and drew 16 entries. The 24 hour sailing regatta raised HK\$350,000 for the Children’s Cancer Foundation and, since then, more than HK\$12 million has been raised for the foundation and other worthy causes.

The event is held annually (apart from during SARS and more recently Covid-19) and regularly attracts 30+ boats; 2012 was an exceptional year and saw 47 boats competing out of the club, camped in the Garden Bar, and doing their laps within the confines of Hebe Haven. Being an overnighter, and given that dinghies don’t have accommodation, tent villages have been a feature of the event and have allowed sailors some rest and recuperation between their ‘shifts’ on the water.

The tent villages, team gazebos on the dock and variety of exhibitor stalls in the club’s car park all add to a carnival atmosphere and this year – the 20th Anniversary – the race was held on the 14th and 15th of October, attracting 23 teams and a healthy fleet of 35 boats. Most teams were able to put in between 30 and 40 laps of the approximately one nautical mile course while major sponsors included Knight Frank, St James’s Place and Honor Lane Shipping. Generous support also came from Bon Café, Corney & Barrow, CLP, Carlsberg and Telford International.

With the results finally in, a lively Cheque Presentation Ceremony was held on the 10th of November in the club’s Garden Bar. Along with the sponsors and supporters, all the charities for which collections were made were invited to receive their cheques.

Like most Hebe Haven Yacht Club prize-givings and ceremonies it was a happy, vocal affair with over 50 guests and VIPs thoroughly enjoying themselves. Not to mention the cheques to the various charities which totaled nearly half a million dollars! With at least HK\$469,000 to date (as more to come) was shared among the charity beneficiaries, namely The Children’s Cancer Fund, Sailability Hong Kong Limited, TREATS, Sai Kung District Community Centre and IDEAL.

On hand to receive their cheques was *Vera Chin*, CEO of the Children’s Cancer Foundation; *Kay Rawbone* Co-founder and CEO of Sailability Hong Kong; *Mabel Lo*, Executive Director of TREATS; *William Chan*, Chief Executive of the Sai Kung District Community Centre; and *Katherine Li*, Chairperson of IDEAL.

The cheque presentation was supported by one of the major sponsors, Knight Frank, with one of its senior directors, Paul Hart, receiving the Corporate Sponsor Trophy for their continuous support.

Lydia Koon, District Relations Manager, Corporate Affairs (External Relations) of CLP was the other sponsor being awarded with a thank-you gift. The event also saw the success of *Zoe Hong Kong*, which was racing for the first time at the 24 Hour Charity Dinghy Race. Incidentally, they won the Charity Cup for the highest fund-raising team.

The largest team of supporters at the event were the Sailability sailors and members, showing their principal, *Kay Rawbone*, much appreciation while on the stage.

The audience was reminded by chairperson of the 24 Hour Dinghy Race 2023 committee, *Simon Robertson*, that to pull off a weekend of this nature takes a whole year of planning and organization. He duly received much applause. He then called on everyone for continued support in 2024 so that the club could, once again, put on a fantastic and worthy event.

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About Hebe Haven Yacht Club

Hebe Haven Yacht Club is a private members club established in the Pak Sha Wan, Sai Kung area in 1963. The Club provides first-class yacht racing and boating facilities for members. The Club also works closely with local schools and organisations, to offer training facilities and professional instruction to develop youth sailing in Hong Kong. In addition, as a 'Caring Organisation' member, the Club proactively contributes to the local community with regularly organised events.

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