

PRESS RELEASE

1 December 2023
PRESS RELEASE

Monsoon Winter Series 2023, Races 3 & 4

(For immediate release) Superb conditions, 27 boats total and two windward / leewards – what more could a sailor ask for? Add to that a sailing arena that is certainly the best in Hong Kong, if not Asia when you factor in prevailing winds, distance from host club, support facilities and other requirements for yacht racing. Even better, this is recognised by sailors from other clubs. They come from far and wide to take part in the Hebe Haven Yacht Club's packed training and racing calendar. On the day, there were nine entries from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, not forgetting the six Shelter Cove Dragons that added their grace and charm to the course.

Another pleasing development of Hebe racing is that more and more crews are staying for the après race celebrations back in the Garden Bar. This is wonderful – Hebe Haven is regaining its reputation for being the friendliest yacht club in town!

Actually, this is how it should be. Well done the club's F&B division, its PR department and, of course, the sailing committee without whom you wouldn't have a selection of some 96 formal courses to sail around. Check out the club's *Sailing Standard Instructions* that describe these courses – if nothing else they're a geography lesson for those who can't get enough of Hong Kong's beautiful eastern seaboard.

On Saturday, the 25 November, after the volunteers had all arrived and been briefed by the race officer, the committee boat, *Hebe One*, pulled away from the dock and headed for Port Shelter, keeping to the left side of the bay. Winds were fresh – 10 to 12 knots – from the east and there were plenty of white horses about. Boats could be seen with reefed mainsails and furled headsails.

Hebe One came to a rest at 1200 and, after some discussion, the race officer, Carl Wilkinson, and his assistant, Queenie Ho, decided on Course 6 for everyone. The top mark for IRC and Sportsboats would be at 1 nautical mile, and for PHS and the Dragons it would be at 0.8 nautical miles. The thinking was that the majority of boats would finish their two sausages in under 60 minutes which would give plenty of time for a second race before the light faded, or if the wind died.

Bang on 1300, Race 3 saw two IRC entries and five sportsboats get away in a clean start, followed five minutes later by 14 cruisers racing under the newly-implemented Performance Handicap System (PHS). Then, at 1310, six Dragons glided across the line as the IRC and Sportsboats were nearing their top mark in the 12-knot easterly.

In IRC, line and handicap honours went to *Talkinghead*, with the A35, *Dexter II*, in 2nd place. *Serendipity* claimed line honours in the Sportsboats Division but dropped to 2nd behind *Catch 22* on handicap. *Jive* was 3rd.

Minnie the Moocher stormed around the course to take PHS line honours but got trounced on handicap, ending up 9th. In 1st place was *Voyages 32* and in 2nd, another DC29, *Voyages 88*. *Harpseal* placed 3rd.

The Dragon class saw Dragonfly take the honours, with Phyllis Chang's *Phylloong II* in 2nd and husband Lowell Chang's *Davinloong* in 3rd.

All according to the race committee's plan – all finished within 60 minutes

Ten minutes after brave PHS entry, *Little Swallow*, crossed the line, the warning signal for Race 4 went for the IRC and Sportsboats. Five minutes later, at 1415, these two divisions, sailing Course 7 set off for their top mark. The difference being they would sail three laps of the same course, instead of two.

Then it was the turn of PHS but poor *Zoe* was not having a good day. After nearly redesigning *Harpseal's* transom, it went on to have a close encounter with *Davinloong* which was loitering in front of the start line. *Davinloong* lodged a protest and *Zoe* retired.

At 1425, *Dragonfly* again led the Dragons off the line.

This time, the IRC and Sportsboat divisions were a little slower and the order of finishing changed: *Dexter II* claimed 1st and *Talkinghead* 2nd. *Serendipity* took line honours and a deserved 1st on handicap. The Magic 25, *Catch 22*, filled 2nd slot and *Baring Asia 1*, 3rd.

In PHS, *Minnie the Moocher* claimed line honours in 39 minutes and 52 seconds. But, again, Bridget Chan's handicap result was only marginally better than Race 3 . . . 8th. On handicap, *Voyages 32* won top slot, followed by Robert Cook's *Ichiban* and *Voyages 88*.

Dragonfly won handicap honours in the Dragon class, ahead of *Lalalam* in 2nd and *Phyloong II* in 3rd.

Facebook: [Hebe Haven Yacht Club](#) | Instagram: [hhyc_offical](#) | [HHYC Website](#)

– Ends –

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.

For media enquiries, please contact our PR & Marketing Department at pr_mgr@hhyc.org.hk or call +852 2719 7911.