

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Monsoon Winter Series 2023, Races 6 & 7

(For immediate release) The briefing was brief and the committee boat, *Hebe One*, was soon heading out of Hebe Haven and looking for a suitable place to lay a start line for Races 6 & 7 of the Monsoon Winter Series 2023. It would be the second race day of the series featuring geometric courses – islands courses were held on the other three Saturdays. It would also be the last race day of the series so a lot was at stake, in all three divisions.

*Dexter II*'s overall victory in IRC was assured although in PHS there were some tight battles going on in the mid-fleet. *X-Terminator*, *Minnie the Moocher* and newcomer *Serendipity* (HKG2557) were very close on points and, in the Sportsboat Division, Patrick Pender's VX One, *Serendipity*, Vivio Chan's *Baring Asia 1* and Billy Ling's *Jive* were all in contention for top slot.

The Shelter Cove Dragons, incidentally, took part in Races 3, 4 and 5, in their own class, adding to overall fleet numbers and nurturing the long-standing relationship Hebe Haven Yacht Club has with the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.

With *Hebe One* at rest inside Port Shelter, race officer Queenie Ho sent off the support boats to lay the top marks, the outer distance mark and the gate in front of the committee boat. The start line was tantalizingly short and promised plenty of action, especially among the PHS boats.

Also on board *Hebe One*, lending his assistance to the RO and her team of volunteers, was the experienced sailor, Simon Jones, an *Ichiban* alumnus and senior club member visiting Hong Kong from his retirement home in Wales.

The ketch *Jadalinkir* was making its customary Saturday morning outing, tacking across Port Shelter on its way to the many islands that make up Hong Kong's picturesque eastern seaboard. *Jadalinkir* was built in Sydney in 1946 and shipped to Hong Kong by a Jardine's *taipan*, Taffy Landale. It is now owned by a syndicate of classic yacht enthusiasts.

As the start for Race 6 approached, the wind was a fair 8 knots from the east and, as the horn sounded at 1300, *Talkinghead* had manoeuvred into a commanding position with *Serendipity* looking strong at the pin. Altogether, nine boats set off on Course 6 for the A1 mark, approximately 1 nautical mile distant. There was no offset mark.

A minute later the countdown for PHS began. Thirteen determined crews jockeyed for position and, at 1305, powered off the line. Simon Lynch and crew of *Bucephalus* brought a splash of colour to the fleet with their red Santa suits – Christmas starts early in Port Shelter! Their top mark (A2) had been laid approximately 0.8 nautical miles from the start.

After two laps, the results on handicap were *Dexter II* ahead of *Talkinghead* in IRC, and *X-Terminator* 1<sup>st</sup> in PHS. In 2<sup>nd</sup> was Bridget Chan's *Minnie the Moocher* and 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Harpseal*. Sadly, four boats retired including Ming Yip's brave *Little Swallow*.

The Sportsboat Division was won by Sean Lam's *Ironman*, ahead of *Baring Asia 1* and *Golden Dragon*. Patrick Pender's *Serendipity* slumped to 4<sup>th</sup>.

*DEA II* was the last boat home. Well done Bonnie Yung and crew for their 9<sup>th</sup> on handicap in PHS.

After a small delay, the RO had the countdown for IRC and Sportsboats underway at 1445. The breeze had dropped to 4 knots and there were genuine fears that it would die completely so Course 1 was the obvious choice. Only one lap but, even then, four boats never made it.

In IRC, the finishing order was reversed with *Talkinghead* emerging as victor and *Dexter II* in 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the Sportsboat Division, *Ironman* again won the day. *Gold Dragon* scored a 2<sup>nd</sup> and *Jive* placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. The VX One, *Serendipity*, dropped even further to 6<sup>th</sup>.

Bridget Chan's *Minnie the Moocher* improved its performance to win PHS ahead of Jimmy Lau's *Lazy Piggy* and Mathieu Brummer's *Serendipity* (HKG2557). Three of the five Voyages DC29s from Kwun Tong finished the race.

Back in the Garden Bar, the day prize-giving and series awards ceremony got underway at 1700. *Dexter II* won the IRC series with five 1<sup>st</sup> places and one 2<sup>nd</sup>. *Harpseal* performed admirably in PHS to win the series and, in Sportboats, the series honours went to *Serendipity*.

The club's Monsoon Spring Series 2024 starts on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February next year.

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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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