

# PRESS RELEASE

22 December 2023  
PRESS RELEASE

## **Bart's Bash 2023**

(For immediate release) Andrew 'Bart' Simpson was an English sailor who won gold at the Beijing Summer Olympics in 2008. A year later he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire and went on to win numerous awards in the Star class and was in the TeamORIGIN afterguard for the 2010 America's Cup. He and skipper Iain Percy won Silver at the 2012 Olympics and, in 2013, Bart moved to San Francisco to train for the 34<sup>th</sup> America's Cup.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2013, in San Francisco Bay, the 72-foot Swedish Artemis Racing team catamaran he was aboard broke up. The decorated sailor was trapped under the boat's hulls for 10 minutes and died. He was 36 years old.

Known for his 'steely determination and focus', and a huge inspiration to others, his passing drew tributes from far and wide. In his memory, an official charity was founded with a mission to transform lives through sailing. Non-profit centres were set up in the UK, Italy, South Africa and the Caribbean and a fund-raising event – Bart's Bash – was launched in 2014. Seven hundred sailing clubs in more than 60 countries were inspired to take part, including four from Hong Kong.

The annual charity race continues and, this year, was scheduled for its regular slot in September on the club's sailing calendar. However, bad weather forced a postponement and the race took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December in lively conditions. Too lively, in fact, and race officer, Queenie Ho, decided to abandon the morning race, scheduled to start at 1100, for safety reasons.

Everyone returned to the Garden Bar and tucked in to the lunch provided by Sailability. Hamburgers, chips and mountains of salad, all for a donation of HK\$100. Wow!

For the afternoon's race, the course was moved to calmer waters near the mariculture zone. Even though the surrounding hills provided some protection, there was still plenty of wind. To give an idea, the main mast of a Hansa 303 snapped and there were a number of crew who ended up taking a dip.

The fleet of 39 boats was split into two – one for Hebe Haven Yacht Club and one for Sailability. The Sailing Centre fielded five Laser Picos, 10 Optimists and four RS Quests while Sailability's contribution of 20 boats was divided into four 2.4mRs, 13 Hansa 303s and three Hansa Liberties.

In the Overall category, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Eric Cheung & Foo Yuen Wai, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Tara & Joe, and 3<sup>rd</sup> to the determined duo of Sylvia & Carolyn.

In the Saturday Sailing category, Tara & Joe were the victors, followed by Sunny & Henri and Sophie & Henry. The order of finishing among the Hansa Liberties was Chiu, Kai and Ricky. Well done, guys.

The weather, of course, played a big part in the event. The winter monsoon, a cold front and Force 4-5 winds proved quite a challenge, as did the wind chill effect. Definitely a day for wrapping up in warm gear but all worth it for the HK\$25,000 raised in memory of Andrew 'Bart' Simpson.

Facebook: [Hebe Haven Yacht Club](#) | Instagram: [hhyc\\_offical](#) | [HHYC Website](#)

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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.

For media enquiries, please contact our PR & Marketing Department at [pr\\_mgr@hhyc.org.hk](mailto:pr_mgr@hhyc.org.hk) or call +852 2719 7911.