

# PRACTICE SAILS, PAINTERS, PRIMARY KIDS & POLAR BEARS

## HHYC ROADSHOW@ECA EXPO 2024

By Paul C. Arkwright



As part of HHYC's roadshow at multiple venues across Hong Kong to let more people know about sailing and introduce the Club to them, the Sailing Centre took one of our oppies, our hiking out bench and information on all our sailing activities to the Extra Curricular Activities Expo at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 3 - 5 May.

The emcee, Choy Kwok Wai, welcomed the dignitaries in attendance along with principles from schools across Hong Kong, a battery of journalists and parents eager to find activities to keep their children engaged and learning out of school hours. The event then formally kicked off with a traditional lion dance, painting of the lion's eyes and was followed with a performance by a kindergarten dance troupe. Straight after people were visiting the Hebe booth—which was one the easiest to find as it was situated right opposite a giant three-storey-high polar bear!

The key concept behind the expo is to provide children with opportunities to learn additional skills and try some new activities that they might not ordinarily be able to try at their schools. Kids big and small were free to explore a wide range of activities including science experiments, exercises, art, archery, dancing, electric cars, chess, skateboarding, indoor skiing, acting, calligraphy, ice hockey, flight simulators, badminton, karate, cycling, magic and Chinese culture. Then, of course, they all go the chance to jump aboard our demo oppie at the HHYC booth and try their hand at hiking out and getting to grips with the tiller.

The HHYC booth garnered a lot of interest from parents and children alike from all over Hong Kong, and provided the perfect opportunity to introduce them to our upcoming summer camps and multi-activity weeks. Many had never heard of HHYC when they arrived at the Expo, but after the kids had a go in the oppy—under the watchful eye of the Sailing Centre team—and the parents were introduced to our sail training pathways, families left enthused about the prospect of joining our sailing courses. The membership team was also on hand to help explain all the benefits of becoming members to interested families.

為了讓更多人了解帆船運動，並向大家介紹白沙灣遊艇會，本會會於本港不同場地參與 Roadshow。5月3至5日，帆船運動中心就帶同我們的一艘小帆船、壓舷訓練長凳以及有關本會帆船活動的所有資訊，到香港會議展覽中心參與了「課外活動節」博覽會。

主持人蔡國偉對在座嘉賓、本港各學校的校長、一眾記者以及渴望為孩子安排具教育意義，同時饒富趣味的課餘活動的家長表示歡迎；活動隨即以傳統的舞獅及點睛儀式正式拉開序幕，而幼兒園舞蹈團的表演則緊隨其後。大家接着開始參觀展覽攤位——白沙灣遊艇會的攤位是其中一個最容易被找到的，因為它就在一頭三層樓高的巨型北極熊對面！

博覽會的背後理念是為孩子們提供學習額外技能機會，讓他們嘗試一些平常在學校不一定有機會接觸到的新活動。可供大大小小的孩子自由探索的活動廣範非常廣範，包括科學實驗、運動、美術、射箭、舞蹈、電動車、象棋、滑板、室內滑雪、演戲、書法、冰上曲棍球、模擬飛行、羽毛球、空手道、單車、魔術以及中國文化。當然，他們全都有機會於白沙灣遊艇會的展位，登上我們展示的小帆船試一下壓舷和握舵柄。

白沙灣遊艇會的展位令來自香港各區的家長和孩子們大感興趣，我們籍此機會向他們介紹了本會即將舉辦的夏令營和活動週。許多到場人士本來並不認識我們遊艇會，但當孩子們在帆船運動中心團隊的看顧下嘗試過小帆船，並由我們向家長介紹了帆船運動的訓練發展途徑後，家庭離開時都對參與帆船運動課程表現得相當熱心。而負責會員事務的團隊也在現場幫助向有興趣的家庭解釋成為會員的各種好處。

