

RUFFIANS IN HONG KONG



Irish Ruffians Outside Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

On Wednesday 11th March, a large party of Ruffian sailors, with partners, set off via Paris for Hong Kong. This was in response to an invitation from the Hong Kong Ruffians to team race in Victoria Harbour. When joined by 5 others who had been on holiday beforehand, the combined party comprised 19 Dublin Bay sailors, 3 Carrickfergus sailors, plus 4 non-sailing partners.

Special mention should be made of the two “veterans” of the last trip to Hong Kong in 1993 – David Fenton and Bernard Smith – who enjoyed themselves every bit as much as they did last time.

The party were all made honorary members of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club while they were there, and the hospitality shown to us was overwhelming. The clubhouse itself is magnificent, with squash courts, a bowling alley, a children’s playground and a swimming pool (sadly, being renovated while we were there).

We started with practice racing in the harbour on the Friday afternoon, followed by a 4 hour (!) drinks reception that

evening.

On Saturday, team racing began in earnest, and RHKYC won the morning match in very light airs, despite Colm Murray getting the gun. In the afternoon the wind got up and the Irish did better, with Alan Claffey claiming a second place, and we won the second match. So, one-all after Day 1!

On Sunday, the morning match was again sailed in very light airs, and despite Mary Chambers getting the gun, RHKYC won – so it was all down to the afternoon race.

The second Sunday match featured a race out past the harbour to a mark in the South China Sea, and again the wind got up. This was more what the Irish were used to, and coming to the finishing mark were 1, 2, and 3, when Larry Power was very unlucky to break a spinnaker pole. This meant that Mary Chambers again got the gun, and the Irish still managed to win the match. So it was a draw at 2 matches all.

But, on countback, RHKYC won by a single point! So the crystal trophy went back to Hong Kong.

The day was rounded off by a lavish dinner in the chartroom of the club, followed by some serious celebratory drinking by all concerned.

To round things off, our Hong Kong contact, Erwin Van den Berge took Monday off to escort us in sight seeing round Hong Kong, taking a scenic bus trip to Stanley Market, followed by a trip to the Peak for a panoramic view of the city. This was followed by an evening boat trip to Lamma Island, where the Irish hosted a fresh fish feast.

Tuesday was St. Patrick’s Day, and, after some serious shopping, we viewed the Light Show from Kowloon and dined in a Chinese restaurant for our final meal together, before joining Erwin in Delaney’s Irish Bar to celebrate in style. The photos from that event are censored (!), but suffice to say that the party lasted long past midnight.... We could not get over the hospitality we were shown by the Hong Kong Ruffians - Claire, their Class Captain, who with Barry, got the boats ready and gave up time for the practice on Friday; Stephanie, who took the photos on the web-site and accompanied us on the Monday tour; and especially Erwin, who made so many of the arrangements. They have indicated that they might have a return match in Dublin Bay in the next 2 or 3 years. When they come, we will really have to pull the stops out if we are to match what they gave us! PTO....

2009 COMMITTEE

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Mary “2 Guns” Chambers in action

RUFFIANS IN HONG KONG CONTINUED

In the meantime, the Irish Ruffians had a wonderful time – well worth the money spent – and we have also significantly raised the profile of the Ruffians in Hong Kong, whose numbers had been dropping.

Our thanks should go to our sponsors Helly Hansen and McWilliams Sails who were kind enough to assist with team clothing and bags.

Special thanks are due to Larry Power as team leader, ably assisted by Alan Claffey, for liaising with Hong Kong, and making all the arrangements for a fantastic trip. We all look forward to the reunion!



Colm Murray after winning the first race



TRAINING WITH

We attach a form for Training with Prof on 17th May.

Your committee would urge you to avail of this excellent opportunity for further training, and we already have expressions of interest from 5 owners. Prof can only take a maximum of 10

VOLVO REGATTA

Apparently there is now only a week or so, if you want to avail of the discounted entry fee for this Regatta, which runs from 9th – 12th July.

SOCIAL/ GET TOGETHER –

Please note that we have postponed our first get-together to the 9th May. It has been pointed out to me that there is a big Heineken Cup match on the 2nd May. So we will meet in the Royal St. George YC, after sailing on the 9th May. Come and meet your fellow Ruffians – swap “war stories” about Hong Kong, and generally enjoy yourselves.

NORTH/SOUTH TEAM RACING

The date for this has now been confirmed for Sunday 5th July, and Carrickfergus will be hosting this event for this year.

NEW RULES

Skippers are encouraged to get a copy of the new racing rules, applicable from 2009-2012. The main change is in mark rounding where the overlap zone has changed from 2 boat lengths to THREE boat lengths (about 9 seconds under normal circumstances, according to Prof.) The zone is defined as “The area around a mark within a distance of 3 hull lengths of the boat nearer to it.” Remember that if you are sailing with other classes, a Sigma’s 3 lengths, for instance, will be much more than ours, and act accordingly.

SUBS

Our Treasurer, Stephen Gill, has put in another plea for class members to return their subscription forms with a cheque. A form is attached herewith.

NEW TROPHY

When the Hong Kong Ruffians last visited us in 1994, they presented us with a trophy in the form of a “Leaping Fish”.

Your committee have decided to award this trophy to the boat with the best performance during the first 6 Thursday and Saturday races – with 1 discard.

The dates will be April 25th, 28th and 30th; May 2nd 5th and 7th.

The object is to get as many boats as possible out early in the season, and we hope you will all make a special effort to get out and win this trophy.

SAFETY

Caoive Collins, our Safety Officer, will be conducting her first safety check for George and NYC boats on 25th April. For details of the Ruffian safety requirements please email Caoive, Alan C or Bruce and we will gladly forward you the checklist.

2009 Ruffian Calendar

Hong Kong Trip	11/18 March
DBSC 1st Sat	April 25
DBSC 1st Tuesday	April 28
DBSC 1st Thursday	April 30
DBSC Olympics	May 2
Ruffian Social	May 9
Training with Prof	May 17
DBSC Olympics	May 30
Wicklow Trophy Ladies Series	June 7
Championships	June 12/14
Lambay Race (DBSC Starred)	June 20
Inter Club Team Racing	June 28
North/South Team Racing	July 5
Volvo DL Regatta	July 9/12
Wicklow Feeder Race & Regatta	Aug 1/3
Ladies Race	Aug 19
DBSC Olympics	Aug 22
DBSC Last Tuesday	Aug 25
DBSC Last Thursday	Aug 27
Captain’s Prize	Aug 30
DBSC Olympics	Sept 12
DBSC Last Saturday	Sept 26
Prize Giving Dinner	Nov 20
AGM	Nov 24

Line Duty Requirements and Times (meet at RIYC)

Tues 17:35	2 cars plus 2 competent people
Thurs 17:15	2 cars plus 3 competent people (1 for Mac Lir)
Sat 13:00	PRO plus 2 helpers for Tarifda

Hut & MacLir

Date	2 people + 1 car / 1 +
Tues May 12	Ruff ‘n’ Ready / Sting
Sat May 16	Carmen / Blue Moon
Thurs Jun 4	Alias / Golden Girl
Tues Jun 23	Ruff Nuff / Icicle
Thurs Aug	Ruff Rider / Rila
Sat Aug 15	Shillelagh / Papillon

Olympics

Date	1 person / 1 person
May 2	Glens on Duty
May 30	N St George / Badger
Aug 22	Paramour / Riff Raff
Sept	Glens on Duty