SAILORS FOR THE SEA CLEAN REGATTA REPORT

2024 Boase Cohen & Collins Interschool Sailing Festival Hosted by ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB



2024 Boase Cohen & Collins Interschool Sailing Festival

The Interschool Sailing Festival has been running at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club since 2003. In this the 18th annual running - as one of the Club's signature events, the Inter-School Sailing Festival brings the importance of teamwork into youth sailing. While on the water the sailors push themselves towards a common goal with great sportsmanship, it is also a great opportunity to get the message out about the environment and raise awareness of Clean Regattas for Sailor for the Seas.

Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

"Navigating the World Towards Ocean Health" - NO SINGLE USE PLASTIC BOTTLES!

Reusable Water Bottles

As one of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's signature events, the Boase Cohen & Collins Interschool Sailing Festival strives to comply with the highest sustainable manner and is run in line with the RHKYC policy of not to sell, provide, or encourage the use of single use plastic bottles due to the detrimental effect to the environment, both sailors and volunteers are supplied a souvenir aluminium reusable water bottle to use, as part of the BCC Interschool registration and are encouraged to use this or another reusable bottle at all times.

Water refilling stations were in both female and male changing rooms, along with being set up in 2 other locations on the hardstand - large water carboys provided with pumps to refill personal water bottles, along with the presence of a large capacity water filter machine that is located on the hardstand which further reduces the need to purchase water.











Eliminate Plastic Straws



As part of the Club's commitment in 2016 to eliminating single use plastic – plastic straws have also been eliminated from the RHKYC.

*Straws are not issued - by request only in paper form.

Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

Food was served on reusable melamine dinnerware with standard cutlery for the event – all to be washed and re used creating no wastage.

Use or Provide Reusable Bags

The use of non- single use bags has been implemented for Volunteer lunches. RHKYC branded reusable bags are used for the distribution of lunch packs daily for all our volunteers, along with water-tight buckets with a screw top lid that are used for every RIB to help keep the lunches dry. These are used year on year.

Each bag and bucket are clearly labelled for the race management team boat and at the end of each day the bags are returned, rubbish distributed and then set up for use again the next day.

*All sandwiches were wrapped in waxed paper with no plastic wrap used.







Perpetual & Upcycled Trophy / Medal

Take home trophies for the schools and medals for the students, were all produced by a socially responsible group who vocationally train and employ handicapped and disability workers, to assist with their production. Wooden wine crates are recycled from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and used to produce upcycled regatta medals and trophies.



Perpetual trophies are also used for the overall winning school.



Venue & Beach Clean -Up:

While celebrating the success of this great youth event, as part of the both the regatta and the Club's ongoing commitment to the Clean Regatta program with Sailors for the Sea, the Boase Cohen & Collins Interschool Sailing Festival was conducted to meet the highest standards of sustainability -we held an "during-regatta" beach clean-up.

At the daily briefing, the sailors were reminded that as per the Notice of Race, "This event is designated a Clean Regatta by the Sailors for the Sea Organisation, a non-profit organisation that educates and empowers boaters to protect and restore our oceans and coastal waters. Our goal is Platinum Level."

The race Officer at the Saturday briefing requested for sailors to join in an additional experience and participate in the combined race venue & beach clean-up at the Middle Island Race site, while the regatta took place.

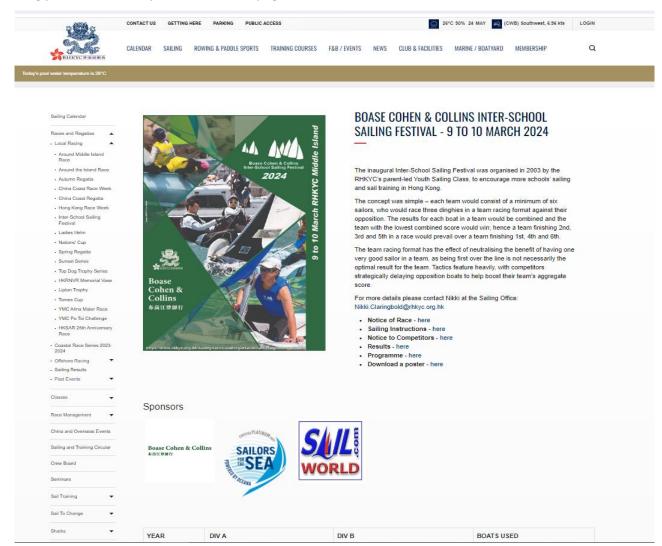
As this was a team racing event, not all 150 participants were on the water at the same time, allowing the sailors and their teachers to participate. The regatta DJ and Race Commentator's also discussed live the importance of participating in the beach clean-up, helping to emphasize the importance of running Clean Regatta is for the health of our waterways and marine wildlife, while our Youth Clean Regatta Ambassadors from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's SHARKS Racing Team were on hand, also as participants to answer any questions.

Gloves and collection bags were supplied for participants helping.



Publicity of BCC Interschool Sailing festival sustainability efforts & certification

To follow up all our Clean Regatta's and particularly when involving the schools – we push out a specific newsletter announcing the result of our efforts when the certificate status is awarded for our Clean Regatta submission. The level of achievement is also posted on our RHKYC social media accounts: Facebook | Instagram | Twitter | Linked In, along with being published on our permanent event page on our RHKYC website.



Promote our commitment to sailors for the Sea for the event, highlighting our achievements and further pushing out the message online via social media posts, also incorporates the local initiative - Pick Up Plastic endorsement.





Post Educational and Reusable Signage







To further reinforce both the stance of the BCC Interschool Sailing Festival / RHKYC's ongoing commitment to Sailors for the Sea and sustainability, sailors are reminded of our responsibility through signage displayed at the club perpetually.







Local and Sustainable Food

The event offered for sale locally inspired meals for both sailors and volunteers which is also locally sourced and from sustainable sources.

* WWF helped us to assess several seafood suppliers in Feb 2016 and we started to serve sustainable seafood in Oct 2016. Products from suppliers are certified by the Marine Stewardship Council with 100% traceable origin, 100% natural, 100% free of chemical, antibiotics and growth hormones, 100% safe

Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

Vegetarian food was on offer for both sailors and volunteers at this event. Volunteers were asked upon confirmation of their commitment to join the event of their preference of a lunch provided – asking for vegan - vegetarian or any other food intolerances.

Each sailor was provided a Vegetarian Lasagna meal at the end of racing on Day 1, using standard club re-useable plates, knives and forks.

Event Green Team

Our Green Team for the 2024 BCC Interschool Sailing Festival was run by the Organising Committee, reinforced by our Race Management Team at the sailors briefing along with the event DJ making announcements throughout the running of the event.

Through the ongoing interaction of our youth sailors at events such as the BCC Inter School Sailing Festival and RHKYC's signature youth event Hong Kong Race Week, our sailors are becoming well groomed in matters of single use plastic and sustainability of preserving our ocean environment.

All schools are also encouraged to get involved with following the Sailors for the Sea program to ensure the younger generation are made fully aware of how our actions are impacting the environment.

Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage



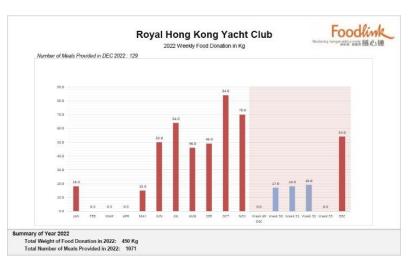
We have multiple, well placed and signed rubbish bins at the event venue, each also displaying easily identified markings to indicate the recycling choice – in both English and Chinese.

Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

While always serving responsible food choices and serving sizes to deter the instance of food waste, the RHKYC also incorporates the use of the ORCA Machine.

We have had a food waste processing unit at our Club since 2019, the ORCA machine. The machine is now processing around 300 kg of food waste every month, and minimizes waste being discharged to landfill. The RHKYC also participates in the "Foodlink food recycle" programme. Foodlink collects safe-to-eat surplus food from us and deliver to those in need and this helps local community and reduces our city's landfill. Collected food is provided to people who live below the poverty line in Hong Kong.

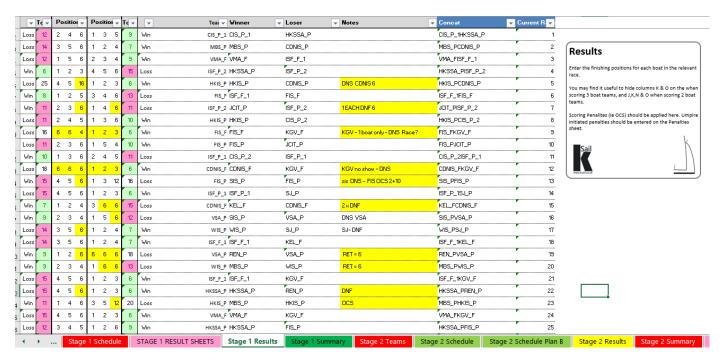




Use Paperless Event Management

The regatta is run via a computer-generated Team Racing Program produced by the UK based UK Teams Racing Association. Entries, schedules and results are all generated and managed through the program and published online for the sailors to access on the Online Notice Board on the webpage for the event.

Likewise the event program was fully digital and also included the Notice of race and the Sailing Instructions. https://www.rhkyc.org.hk/storage/app/media/Sailing/Interschools/2024/2024InterSchoolsProgramme.pdf



On shore, white boards and white board markers were used continually to update sailors as to which race was up next and which teams were next on course.

Venue access:

Due to the proximity to public transport – the event is easily accessible via the local public bus system, with one bus stop located at the top of the access stairs above the ferry pick up point and another two within 5 to 7 minutes' walk along a dedicated waterfront promenade path. A train station is also located within a 30-minute walk to the ferry pick up point.

Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

Due to the type of racing being run and its proximity of being right in front of the RHKYC clubhouse – the start and finish boats are secured to laid moorings, helping to not further disturb the seabed with anchoring.



Eco-Smart Race Management equipment

The RHKYC are currently testing robotic marks which will further increase protection of the seabed from anchors that are currently otherwise in use to lay marks.

These remotely controlled marks are operated via an electronic tablet and can be dropped into the water by a committee vessel. They are then guided accurately into positioned with the aid of their own propulsion and held in place by the locking in a GPS coordinate.

*The use of Bow Stickers has been eliminated since 2016





Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water



As a dinghy regatta there is a "Water Only Washdown" protocol for all boats at our event. We also advocate water conservation with an allocated adult volunteer monitoring and restricting the use of the hose for washing down returning boats from the racetrack. Speedy wash downs ensure the reduction of wasted water.

The RHKYC also actively promotes the prevention of toxins and rubbish going into the waterways with signage on drains that go into the waterway.

The RHKYC Kellet Island Boat yard employs measures of all hardstand boat yard contaminants going into a sump, which is then pumped into holding tanks where it is processed. The clean water goes into the main drainage system, while the contaminated solids are taken away by truck for toxic waste treatment and disposed.

Green Boating Practices – Clean transportation on alternative fuel



The RHKYC launched an initiative for Solar powered EV sampans (ferries) in 2022, with more vessels now on order. The vessels offer solar powered electric engines to take the short journey across to Middle Island - the race venue of the Boase Cohen & Collins Interschool Sailing Festival.

The solar powered sampan saves around 30 litres of petrol per day of operation, and yearly it will reduce greenhouse emissions equivalent to 28.6 tons of CO2.

Enhanced environmental awareness watch:



The Ocean starts here: the truth about what goes down the drain and ends up in our waterways needs to be highlighted to everyone.

By using targeted printing around the clubs drains we hope to raise further awareness. We also regularly highlight this image in social media posts for the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.