SUN HUNG KAI & CO.





Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau Arts & Sport Development Fund 文化體育及版區 藝術及體育發展基金 Subvented By 資助機構















29er





SUN HUNG KAI & CO. HONG KONG RACE WEEK 2024

Incorporating the

2025 29er Asian Championship

Clean Regatta Report - Sailors for the Sea



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Clean Regatta Report

Hong Kong Race Week is an annual event, that repeatedly demonstrates a collective commitment to improving our marine environment by educating our sailors, applying recycling principles, minimising waste and avoiding single-use plastics.

The event is well recognised for its commitment to Sailors for the Sea as an established Clean Regatta.

1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

From the onset – the RHKYC has been actively promoting the banning of single use plastic products at the club.

On 4 May 2016 – the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club announced that the Club will no longer sell beverages in single-use plastic bottles nor provide members with plastic bags or plastic straws. This initiative took effect from 8 June 2016, an auspicious date being the internationally celebrated World Oceans Day, a United Nations recognised day of celebration and action for the ocean held every 8 June.

Then RHKYC Rear Commodore of Sailing, Anthony Day said, "Reducing the amount of waste being dumped into our oceans is one of the challenges of our time. Here in Hong Kong, where recycling is effectively non-existent, it's impossible to sail far without being struck by the amount of plastic that finds its way into our waters and onto our beaches. As one of the world's larger and most active yacht clubs, RHKYC is then uniquely positioned to be able to show innovation and leadership in no longer using or providing plastic bags, bottles or straws. I am proud of our cadets for showing the way through their successful initiatives promoting the use of reusable water bottles over the past three editions of *Hong Kong Race Week* and grateful both to our management and to our membership for now taking up the 'plastic free' challenge with effect from World Oceans Day."

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

Reusable Water Bottles

As one of the RHKYC's flagship events, Hong Kong Race week continues to ensure the regatta is run to the highest sustainable manner. This year in line with the RHKYC policy – to not sell, provide, or encourage the use of single use plastic bottles due to the detrimental effect to the environment, both competitors and volunteers were supplied a souvenir aluminium reusable water bottle to use, as part of the SUN HUN KAI & CO. HONG KONG RACE WEEK welcome pack initiative or otherwise encouraged to use other reusable bottles.

Water refilling stations were in both female and male changing room and in 6 other locations scattered throughout the boat park and hardstand, which provided large water carboys with pumps to refill personal water bottles, along with water jugs available at the bar for a top up. The carboys were also distributed to all Race Committee vessels and coach boats so sailors and volunteers could refill their bottles while on the go out on the racetrack.









2. 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 no issued by request only in paper form

3. Serve Food with reuseable dinnerware

This year a more conscious decision was made regarding food waste and preparation of the after-racing sailor snack. The daily hot snack was offered on regular service tableware plates, as used throughout the club. They were then washed are reused. Standard stainless-steel cutlery was

used with the sailors also allocating their used tableware to appropriate buckets for easy handling and washing.







4. Use and Provide Reusable Bags

As part of the event pack and commemorative souvenir, all sailors were issued with a waterproof dry bag back-pack. A very practical souvenir to help distribute sailor race pack items including, safety sign on tags, a stainless-steel reusable water bottle and sunscreen. The bag also offers a great promotional advert for our regatta. The item can continue to be used long after the regatta has finished and is always a sought-after collectable.

The event also promotes the use of non- single use bags for Volunteer lunches. Extra bags left over from the previous event were put into use for the daily distribution of lunch packs 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 will now used year on year.

Each bag and bucket are clearly labelled for each of the 41 race management boat teams to collect for their lunch packs. At the end of each day the bags and buckets are returned, rubbish distributed to the correct recycle bin and then set up for use again the next day.

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



5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

Regatta Awards:

All our trophies and medals awarded are upcycled and produced by a socially responsible group who vocationally train and employ handicapped and disabled workers, to assist with their production. Upcycled wooden wine crates are used to produce the regatta medals.



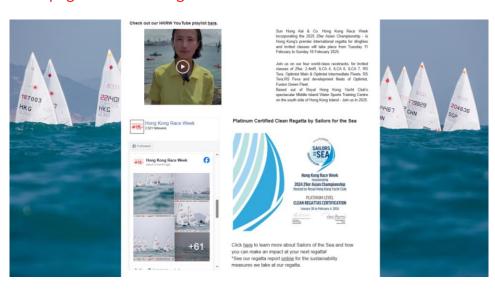
6. Publicity of HKRW sustainability efforts & certification

The participation in the Clean Regatta program started with the inclusion statement in the **Notice of Race:**

"The event is designated a Clean Regatta by the Sailors for the Sea, a non-profit organisation that educates and empowers boaters to protect and restore our oceans and coastal waters. Our goal is Platinum Level."

Dedicated Website with specific content: Our Website home page includes our past certification as a Clean Regatta for Sailors of the Sea and includes the Sailor for the Sea logo in the footer. We also have a specific page that links through to our efforts as a dedicated Clean Regatta participant.

HKRW - webiste home page with Clean regatta accrediation listed



HKRW - dedicated sustainability page https://www.hongkongraceweek.com/sustainability



Targeted Newsletters and social features were implemented in promoting sustainability:













7. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

We recycled signage from the 2017/2018 Volvo Ocean Race Hong Kong Stopover – which has been on display at all our HKRW events and remains permanently outside our Sailing Office at RHKYC. We also use targeted signage to reinforce the message of our commitment to the non-supply of single use plastic bottles and straws, plastic pollution and ocean conservation.

Drains around the clubhouse are also marked to highlight the importance of not dropping litter as it ends up pin the sea.













Since 2016 RHKYC has banned single-use plastic bottles, bags, straws and cutlery, etc. and continues to minimise the use of single-use plastic.

為減少使用即棄塑膠用品,自2016年起,香港遊艇會已禁 用即棄膠樽、膠袋、塑膠飲管及餐具等。

RHKYC Sustainability Working Group







8. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

The event served up local inspired meals to both sailors and volunteers. Our volunteers enjoyed local favourites such as steamed pork buns and Hong Kong's famous Pineapple buns amongst the breakfast offered up to our volunteers every morning of the regatta.



*The Club also only serves food that is locally sourced and from sustainable sources. WWF has 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.



9. Organize a Green Team – Ambassadors

The organising Committee formed the Green Team for the event working in conjunction with the RHKYC Sustainability Committee member Sheila Chan. Setting up a Beach Clean-up involving the collaboration of our Title Sponsor and also involving family and friends, to help raise public awareness and gain maximum traction for both the Regatta and the RHKYC on the issues regarding Clean Regattas and what everyone can do to help make a difference.

Our event also nominates 2 x Youth Sailors to be Clean Regatta Ambassadors for the event, to reinforce the commitment of the RHKYC's Youth Sail Racing program "The SHARKS" with Hong Kong Race Week.



To help highlight efforts in Racing Against Plastic Pollution, the Ambassadors make a speech at the opening ceremony of the event, explaining to the sailors how the items handed out in competitors Race Pack help the environment. Anyone with questions, were encouraged to look for our **Sailors for the Sea Youth Ambassadors** Cleo Badenach and Audrey Liu for more information.

In their speech at the opening ceremony, conducted in both Chinese and English, both sailors spoke to highlight the Sailors for the Sea and Clean Regatta Programs:

"Good afternoon fellow Sun Hung Kai Hong Kong Race week competitors, coaches and race committee. We are excited to welcome you all to our home here at Middle Island and hope you enjoy your time racing here.

各位新鴻基香港帆船賽週參賽者、教練和賽事委員,下午好。我們很高興歡迎你們來到位於中途島的家,並希望你們在這裡享受比賽的時光。

The RHKYC Sharks racing team are proud to host visitors from all over the world to our home and hope you all enjoy your time here.

香港遊艇會 Sharks 隊很榮幸能夠接待來自世界各地的參賽者及家人,並希望大家在這裡度過愉快的時刻。

We are Audrey and Cleo from the RHKYC Sharks racing team and one of our core focuses is the protection of our marine environment.

我們是香港遊艇會 Sharks 隊的 Audrey 和 Cleo,我們最核心關注的是保護海洋環境。

At SHK HKRW we are racing against plastic pollution 參賽新鴻基香港帆船賽週之餘,我們同時在跟塑膠污染賽跑。

Together with our SHK HKRW Green team, the RHKYC sustainability committee and Sailors for the sea - we are working for a Clean Regatta. A healthier ocean starts here with us all

我們聯同新鴻基香港帆船賽週綠色團隊、香港遊艇會持續發展委員會以及 Sailors for the sea 一起,致力打造一個潔淨帆船賽。健康的海洋由我們大家開始造起

Every sailor will receive a reusable water bottle - forget the plastic water bottle - reuse your water bottle every time you sail and remember the great sailing here at HKRW each time you use it.

今年比賽每位參賽者將獲得一個可重複使用的水瓶,請別再使用塑膠水瓶了。每次參加帆船活動請帶備這個水瓶,使用時能讓你們記起香港帆船賽週的開心比賽片斷。

Please also remember to separate you rubbish and recycle as much as you can. 亦請記住將垃圾分類及盡可能回收。
Remember: REUSE – RECYCLE - Replenish - Restore! 請記得 - 重複使用 - 回收利用 - 補充 - 還原!
Enjoy SHK HK Race week 25 and good luck racing! 好好享受 2025 年度香港帆船賽週並祝大家好運!"

10. 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.

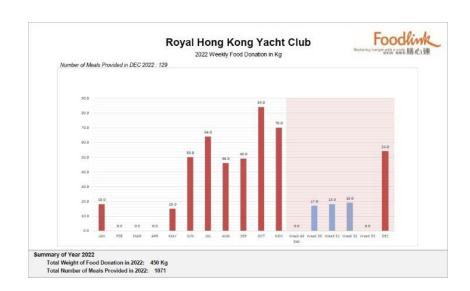


12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

Sailors were offered an after sailing snack each day after racing. Meals were offered individually hand served, with the option for portion control, enabling a smaller serve if required for younger sailors and therefore avoiding uneaten food and eliminating food waste. The RHKYC also incorporates the use of ORCA Machine.

We have had a food waste processing unit, the ORCA machine at the Club since 2019. 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.





13. Use Paperless Event Management

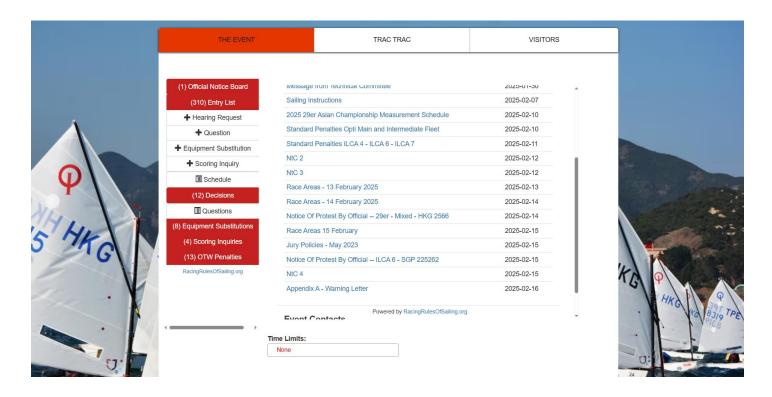
Sun Hung Kai & Co. Hong Kong Race Week utilizes various online portals to handle event management needs. The event has a dedicated website that embeds all the features for a full online entry registration, Online Notice Board and sign on and off the water safety system by incorporating the event management system *Clupspot*, along with the *RRoS* portal for full support for all the Sailors, Coaches Race Committee, Technical Committee and Jury communication required.

*Electronic Sign On / Off the water:

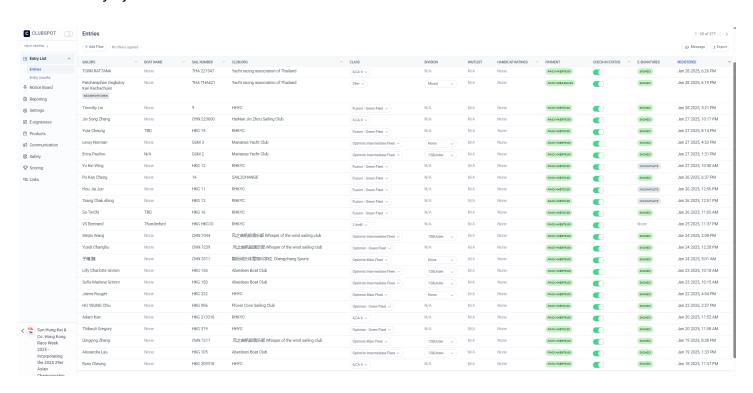




*Online Notice Board



*Online Entry System



14. Host a Beach Clean-up and involve local organisations Racing against plastic pollution: Beach clean- up for Sun Hung Kai & Co. Hong Kong Race Week

In line with the event's best practices of Beach Clean-up's and Clean Ocean environmental awareness our Green Team co-ordinated collaborated with our local title sponsor to hold an Ocean Awareness and Clean Up session pre regatta.

The Sun Hung Kai & Co. management, staff, friends and family members - including many children, all took time out to get behind the effort to clean up the local and adjacent beach's at and around Middle Island. They helped to ensure the Club's Island shoreline was free of any rubbish and plastic that could interfere with the local wildlife, particularly nets and rope debris that could be hazardous for marine life, while also helping to secure race ready waters for our Hong Kong Race Week 2025 sailors.





Serving as both a company awareness to the environment day, it also embraced the companies desire to be involved with volunteering for the events that the company sponsors. The attendees pooled together to participate in the beach cleanup the weekend prior at the regatta.

Green Team Leader Sheila Chan briefed the attendees about our aims and goals as a Clean Regatta and updated them on the need for ongoing ocean awareness and the harm of plastic pollutants in our waters.





15. Promote Alternative Transportation

More sustainable ways of getting to HKRW are always promoted on the event website.

Local public transport is highlighted as the best means of getting to the race venue. With Hong Kong's very efficient public transport system, this option makes it extremely easy for competitors to easily access the race venue, particularly for our international sailors and international jury who were able to use the frequent and efficient service from their nearby regatta partner hotel, reducing the need to rely on multiple additional cars and taxis to transfer people for short trips.

A bus stop is conveniently located at the top of the stairs leading to the small dock area which services the Race Venue Island. Sthe Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club proudly boasts the use of Sampans (ferries) run by solar powered electric motors, used to transfer people across to the island race venue.

GUIDE - CLICK HERE

HOW TO GET TO MIDDLE ISLAND:

Directions to Middle Island with photos on this link public bus.

Then walk via Seaview Promenade from Deepwater or Repulse Bay (or steps near bus stops) to ferry. Repulse Bay (or steps near bus stops) to ferry.

Bus stops as shown:-

- 1) Stop 1: Citybus route 6 from Central (daily) Citybus route 61 from Central (Sundays & Public Holidays inSummer) First Bus route 63 from North Point (Mondays-Saturdays) First Bus route 66 from Central (daily)
- 2) Stop 2:Return routes for buses listed in point 1)
- 3) Stop 3: Citybus route 6A (Mondays-Saturdays) Citybus route 6X from Central (daily) Citybus route 73 from Cyberport (daily) Citybus route 260 from Central (daily) Citybus route 973 from Tsimshatsui East (daily) First Bus route 65 from North Point (Sundays & Public Holidays) First Bus route 315 from the Peak (Sundays & Public Holidays) Green Mini Bus route 40 from Causeway Bay to Stanley (daily) Green Mini Bus route 52 from Aberdeen to Stanley (daily)
- 4) Stop 4:Return routes for buses listed in above point 3)



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16. Increased Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection:

With the assistance of Marine Biologist and RHKYC member Thea Bradford - as our advisor for HKRW Marine wildlife updates, along with our past invited speakers such as *Lisa Blair* for Climate Action Now and *A Plastic Ocean*, the RHKYC is engaged in an ongoing partnership project of oyster rejuvenation. The Oyster SOS project engages diverse stakeholders (academics, government officials, oyster & fish farmers, educators, NGOs) and integrates ecological restoration, scientific research, STEM & conservation education, and public engagement to achieve this goal.

As a leader in water sports, the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club is well recognised for its commitment towards protecting the marine environment while educating and inspiring its members on marine conservation. At the core of what we do, a healthy marine environment is indispensable. Given the Club's position at Kellett Island, Middle Island, and Shelter Cove, RHKYC and Hong Kong Marine Ecology Association believe by synergizing our strengths, we can help create a healthy and thriving marine environment for organisms and people to enjoy.

The deployment of cages of live oysters and oyster shells in RHKYC's shores in Kellett Island, Middle Island, and Shelter Cove started as a 12-to-18-month monitoring period and member engagement in a variety of educational activities relating to oysters continues.

Members were initially introduced to the scheme with a 30-minute talk



on oyster shell strings, then participated in one hour of drilling of the oyster shells and assembling them into on oyster strings. Members then help to participate in deploying the oyster shell strings off a Pontoon and then can volunteer to record the progress in scheduled check-ups of an ongoing basis.

17. 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, for their preference of a lunch provided – asking for vegan - vegetarian or any other food intolerances, likewise at the breakfast offer each morning.

Vegetarian meals were also available for sailors, with catering also available for full vegans.

18. 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. This year 2 x Robotic marks were used over the 4 racecourses.

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







19. 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.

20. Green Boating Practices: Fleet management – 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 HKRW.

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.

Th Club proudly owns 3 of these vessels servicing our 3 Club venues. 2 x boats were used for HKRW.





Additional Enhanced Recycling Upcycle old banners:

Our volunteers again this year assisted in upcycling old vinyl banners - cutting hundreds of squares out, which were distributed to sailors to write their country prefix and sail number on and attached to their beach trolley.

As our regatta operates without bow numbers, this process helps our volunteer launch and retrieval beach team to easily identify the beach trolleys. This assists with being able to organise the trolley systematically to enable quick location after having been stack in numerical order to the waiting sailors, as they arrive back to the boat ramp after racing each day.









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 prints on the drains around the club, we aim to raise further awareness to the issue of rubbish being washed down drains and then into our waterways.

