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elcome to the Discovery Bay Yacht Club (www.dbyc.net), a virtual club house based in

Discovery Bay. Many thanks to our main sponsor, the Discovery Bay Marina Club, where two thirds of our members hold debentures and moor their yachts. We are a group of yacht owners and crew who enjoy fun and friendly regattas, cruises and races.

Since our first regatta in September 1999, we have grown into one of the premier sailing clubs in Hong Kong and our members have competed very successfully in many local races as well as to the Philippines. We host about 12 events each year, including day racing, islands cruising, weekend race rallies. We aim to explore those parts of Hong Kong which are otherwise inaccessible.

Our aims are twofold: to draw local sailors together in friendly and social sailing events, and to introduce beginners to the fun of sailing and racing yachts. We are predominately a cruising club – the format of our events being a handicap race or pursuit, followed by lunch, dinner, a BBQ and lots of laughs.

The club was founded by Jim Fernie, who has just retired from a lifetime of flying to concentrate on sailing *Harlequin*, his Bavaria Vision 44, currently in Fiji. Join him on <http://harlequin.blogspot.com>. He and Ken Wiltshire introduced us to drag racing, and we became more knowledgeable of the racing rules. Now many of our members compete successfully in Hong Kong, down to the Philippines and in Thailand.

Our next commodore, Paolo Alvera, concentrated on training up new sailors and our numbers grew as the trainees became competent and brought their own yachts to the club. The Round Lantau Regatta became a fixture in the calendar. Under our third commodore, St John Cameron, we continued to forge ahead, with some splendid events and themed parties.

I have the pleasure and privilege to be the fourth commodore, and will continue the virtual theme of our club, through this story medium in *Fragrant Harbour*, another of our main sponsors. I have been sailing since we came to Hong Kong 20 years ago, and have been a member of the DBYC since its inception. I am passionate about getting out



DISCOVERY BAY YACHT CLUB

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and sailing, being much more enjoyable when shared with like-minded souls.

We welcomed the club back to a hot and stormy Hong Kong August with a Full Moon cruise, but the weather was unsettled and it didn't look like we were going to have a moon at all to sail by. We ended up with an informal cruise to Mui Wo with tapas and skewers at Bahce, the Turkish restaurant.

We had four boats anchored off the sea wall, which had been recently dredged,



making anchoring a challenge. *Lady Soko* was tucked into the beach area, and *Heartbeat* stood off. Later, the full moon came out in all its glory. *ZhuLu* had a fabulous sail back in the moonlight but *Heartbeat* beat them home to take the trophy. We'll try again on the November Full Moon (9th) with perhaps a different format. Check our web page for further details.

Then, it's that time of year again when everyone is back to school and the weekends

are precious again. So with a forecast for no rain and very hot, Members dusted off the sail boat covers and seven yachts and a speed boat congregated off Cheung Chau beach for a light lunch at the Cheung Chau Windsurfers Club. They do the best fish

this side of New Zealand! The start time was 11am, from outside the marina, and *Käpt'n Blaubär* made it, so winning the race to arrive at Cheung Chau for 1st prize.

Fresh from celebrating the vice-commodore's wife's birthday the night before, *Sex Drive* and *ZhuLu* finally turned up with hangovers, but not as late as *Aegean* and finally *Rising Sun*, who moored on the other side of the island! *Swan* won the bevy of young ladies award and *Illusion* rowed in

swiftly and was very well behaved – or was that a trick? *Allegro* turned into a swimming platform for the enjoyment of her extremely young crew. With good winds over to blow out the cobwebs and fading to provide for an easy motor home, it was a Grand Day Out.

The annual Doc's Dash was held on the 13th of September. There was a good fleet, Class B dominated with 10 starters over Class A with seven . . . after juggling the handicap threshold to include *Bodicea* in A.

The wind God's were kind, the sun shone and (nearly) everyone was happy. A 9-knot breeze had even the heavier boats, such as *Koala* and *Yankee* moving well in the water. Ably assisted by the Hopkinson family as trainee race officers, the countdown went smoothly. The B start was won by *Sex Drive* who rounded the

windward mark first and headed off like a scalded cat. The A boats start saw *Käpt'n Blaubär* forcing *Lola* and *ZhuLu* to tack away from the line but then failed to make use of this opportunity. *Lola* crossed the line first.

This year we were also joined by six beachcats from the LBC, starting later and having to sit around in the scalding heat in their wetsuits! Rounding Peng Chau, the fleet was uncertain whether it would be a spinnaker run up to No Name Rock. *Leg's*



Eleven raised its kite briefly. After the Rock, the fleet split, with some yachts going deep into the bay, others tacking to keep into Kau Yi Chau.

Past Kau Yi Chau the spinnakers came up, then we were past Peng Chau again and deciding when to tack to head for the finish line. *Leg's Eleven* was first followed by *Boadicea* and *Sex Drive*.

More on our up and coming events can be found on our website www.dbyc.net, together with membership details. We work on e-mails to contact people for updates, changes and informal events, so join up and join us for a fun and friendly series of cruising style events.