

Commodore's comment

I am honoured to have been elected Commodore of the Discovery Bay Yacht Club at our recent AGM. Together with James Oliver taking on the role of Vice Commodore, Ben Wilson stepping in to the Treasurer job and Sue Oliver continuing as Secretary, I am sure we can create a bright future for the club.

Of course, we will be aiming to continue the upward trajectory piloted by Lindsay Pickles and Nik von der Leuhe over the last few years, and we thank them sincerely for all the effort they have put in to the club.

So what's in store? More of the same seems to be the consensus from the meeting, so we'll be planning more races, more social sails and more parties. Watch this space!



RICHARD CARREY

Commodore, Discovery Bay Yacht Club

In years gone by, our Spring Lunch Cruise went to Stanley, but it's a long way from DB and it was always touch and go for the tailenders to make it before the faster crews scoffed all the nosh. Since last year, Roger and Sue Wilkinson have taken over the event and made it their own.

Changing the destination to the Rainbow Seafood Restaurant on Lamma has brought it to a comfortable cruising distance from home and, this year, the restaurant laid on an excellent ferry service to get the sailors from their moorings to the tables, all at the same time.



DISCOVERY BAY YACHT CLUB

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At 0900 on Saturday, the 21st of May 2016, the torrential rain was looking like it might wash out the whole event. However, by the delayed start time of 1100, the sun was out and the wind had picked up to 15 knots.



Seven boats made it to the staggered start and hared off on a broad reach, with the leaders crossing the finish line less than an hour later. A scrumptious seafood feast awaited them, washed down with plenty of beer and tea. Roger and Sue seemed to have an endless bag of race and raffle prizes and nearly everyone got something to take home.

An excellent event with a bit of racing and plenty of sociability. We'll have more of that please!

The start of any regatta really comes nine days before the fall of the class flag, when the Observatory starts publishing relevant forecasts. In the week before this year's Round Lantau Regatta, the race officer was having serious discussions about whether 25 to 30-knot winds were going to be too much for our fleet, and exactly when the plug should be pulled.

As it turned out, there was not a breath of wind for the start on the 23rd of April 2016. The start line was moved out from DB Marina to the middle of the western approaches but, even so, it was a frustrating two-hour drift for the two-mile stretch to the first cut-off at Cheung Chau Rock. After

that the wind picked up a bit, but it was too little too late and all boats motored the rest of the way to the typhoon shelter at Tai O.

Lots of dolphins were seen around the southwest corner of Lantau — good to see that they are battling on despite all the construction going on for the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge.

As so often happens, the worse the sailing, the better the after party. The new venue in the town centre proved popular and was followed late into the evening with the usual catalogue of drunken debauchery, boat hopping, skinny dipping and dinghy capsizes we have come to expect.

The next day dawned wet and lifeless and the RO took the decision to give up fairly early. Instead, he set a navigational challenge — for all boats to get to a specific lat long position at a specific time, and prove it to as many decimal points as possible.



Kaido fun (left), Tai O prizegiving (above right) and a real drifter (below)



To avoid the inevitable pile up, he gave everybody slightly different co-ordinates. The result should have made a superb photo of all the fleet abreast near Hei Ling Chau, but it turned out to be pouring rain and everyone was anxious to get back to the comfort of the Bilge Bar.

Prizes generously provided by sponsors *Fragrant Harbour*, UK Sailmakers and Next Wave Yachting were awarded to *Kei Lun*, *Aegean* and *Andiamo* in Division A and to *Simplicity*, *Vega* and *Shun Shui* in Division B.