

## Commodore's comment

As the long, hot, sticky summer draws to a close, we welcome back those lucky sailors who have been on adventures overseas and look forward to hearing your stories.

As you can read on these pages, those of us who stayed at home to man the ship amused ourselves with adventures of our own. Trips to far off parts of Hong Kong, typhoon mitigation and even breaking in a



new dart board : we have certainly not been idle!

Now we await the cooler, windier weather to sail, for pleasure and competition. Tally Ho!

### RICHARD CARREY

Commodore, Discovery Bay Yacht Club

The DBYC Regatta is one of the premier sailing events in our busy club calendar. Held in home waters with a long figure-of-eight course around the nearest islands, it always provides a challenge and spectacle whatever the weather. This year's forecast of 1 knot gusting 2 was not exactly promising, but the wind gods smiled on us and gave a



good 10 knots at times, letting it drop at others to keep us on our toes.

Race officer, Ken Wiltshire, this year took us on an anticlockwise trip round Hei Ling Chau from the start near the monastery, then clockwise round Peng Chau for a

finish near the marina. Although he clearly mentioned the upwind mark in the briefing, there were boats that, in the excitement of it all, completely missed it. A reminder on the radio, however, brought them back into line.

Our friends from Lantau Boat Club joined us, starting 30 minutes after the first yacht

division. That's enough to keep them clear at the start and lets the big boats get a bit spread out before they all get tangled up. And spread out they got, with the wind shadow of Hei Ling Chau bringing more than a few boats to a frustrating standstill. Other boats drifted past, seemingly in their own private airstream.



Boats went off in different directions searching for breeze with varying levels of success, and *Kei Lun* found its early lead gobbled up by *Sapphire*, which had gone far to the north on a handy air current. *Sapphire* stretched that lead to about half a mile, and pleaded with the race officer to shorten

the course at the first gate . . . to no avail. Unsurprisingly, with *Sapphire* hoisting its kite for the first time ever, *Kei Lun* came screaming back to retake the lead, which it never lost, claiming line honours three and a half hours after the start.

In the second half of the race, round Peng Chau, *Sapphire*, *Boadicca* and *Zhu Lu* had a fine tussle both upwind and downwind, finishing within seconds of each other. On handicap though, Division A honours went to *Sula*, the magnificent double-masted Amel Super Maramu. The corrected times were extremely close, with 1 minute and 15 seconds separating the first four boats.

In Division B, the wider spread of handicaps made it harder to judge the lead

without a calculator. When Excel had done its stuff, *Speedy Gonzales* came out on top, followed by *Square Bear* and *Nervous*

*Breakdown*. *Tsuru* was awarded the 'Finis est Omni' toilet seat for bravely battling to finish long after the race officer wanted to go to the pub. But, as we forgot to bring it (the seat, not the pub), he was presented with a much-admired ship-in-a-bottle, kindly donated by *Fragrant Harbour*.

Festivities were then moved to Coyote restaurant in DB plaza, where prizes generously donated by Coyote, *Fragrant Harbour* and DB Marina



Services were awarded with customary pomp and ceremony. A slap-up Mexican buffet and free-flowing mojitos set the pace for the evening, which went on long in to the night.

Another excellent DBYC event to be remembered!

Stammtisch is our regular club social evening, meeting in the Bilge Bar of the Discovery Bay Marina Club on the first Wednesday of each month. It is a great time to meet up with other members, chew the fat, gossip and generally talk nonsense. It is also a great way for anyone with any interest in getting in to sailing to pop along and make some contacts. It is guaranteed that if you are looking to get out on the water, no matter what your level of knowledge and skill, someone will be happy to offer you a space as crew.

At a recent Stammtisch, we tried out the



DBYC Regatta downwind leg



# DISCOVERY BAY YACHT CLUB

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Darts winner, Sue Huggett

par's new dart board. A scorekeeping app was downloaded and a rough round-robin schedule devised. A couple of hours later it was proved that we are all as bad as one another, so a sudden death, one dart, nearest the bull, play off was necessary. Congrats to Susan Huggett, who is the least bad of us!

Although it wasn't an official club event, the early July long weekend (1st to the 3rd) saw a motley flotilla of half a dozen DBYC yachts cruise up to Sai Kung. All had slightly different intentions, priorities and scheduled rendezvous but, with a bit of texting, we managed to meet up in various unfamiliar bays and coves

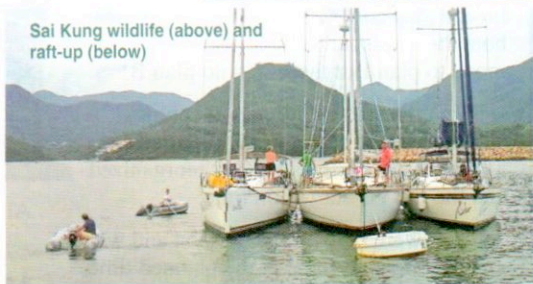
for impromptu swimming, boat hopping and sundowners.

Getting all in to frame for a drone video of spinnaker runs was a bit beyond our organisational abilities, but *Sula* does have some good shots of themselves. A big raft-up party in the typhoon shelter to the north of Kau Sai Chau was certainly the highlight of the weekend and caused more than a few sore heads in the morning.

Next year we will have to get it on the club calendar and be a little better organized so that more boats can join the fun.



Sai Kung wildlife (above) and raft-up (below)



To all the DBYC members who helped bring the boats in to the marina for the recent Typhoon Nida, a big, big thank you. With many members away on holiday or out of town, it was great to see others pitching in to help Ken at DB Marina Services make sure all boats on swing moorings were safely tucked up in the typhoon shelter. It was actually the first time anyone could remember Nim Shue Wan and

Cheung Sha Lan bays being completely empty. With great team work we found a spot for everyone in the marina.

#### Coming up . . .

17-18.Sep.16 **Barts Bash** : a joint race with the Lantau Boat Club as part of the worldwide charity event. We will make it a two-day event, over-nighting in Mui Wo with festivities in The China Beach Club.

15-16.Oct.16 **Middle Island Regatta** : race to ABC Middle Island for an overnight party, with a pursuit race home on the Sunday

5-6.Nov.16 **Sokos under the stars** : camp fire, guitars and star gazing down in Hong Kong's beautiful southwest corner

Don't forget : *Opening Regatta*, 24-25.Sep.16 and *Around the Island Race*, 27.Nov.16