SAILORS FOR THE SEA CLEAN REGATTA REPORT

2023 Boase Cohen & Collins Interschool Sailing Festival Hosted by ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB



Boase Cohen & Collins Interschool Sailing Festival 2023

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

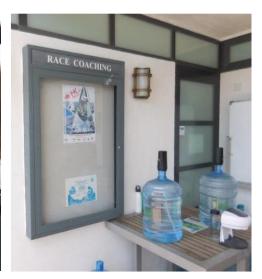
"Navigating the World Towards Ocean Health" - NO SINGLE USE PLASTIC BOTTLES!

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.

Use or Provide Reusable Bags

As with all our regattas, for the volunteer lunch packs we use **non-single use bags** – RHKYC branded. Each bag is clearly labelled for each of the race management team boats and at the end of each day the bags are returned, rubbish correctly distributed for recycle and then set up for use again the next day.

*All sandwiches were wrapped in 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 vocational 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.



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 - this year integrating the concept that many hands make light work theory, and with a very captive and willing audience, we held an "during-regatta" beach clean-up.

At the daily briefing, the sailors were reminded that as per the Notice of Race, item "1.3: 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."

The daily briefing requested for sailors to join in an additional experience and participate in the beach clean-up at the race venues' Middle Island Beach, 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.

Spearheading the initiative, was our regatta Green Team Leader Rowan Logan, also a member of the RHKYC Sustainability Committee, who took time to explain to the sailors the impact of the rubbish polluting our seas and beaches. He also put together a review of the rubbish collected for further study, making sure this younger generation are being made fully aware of how our actions are impacting the environment.

The beach clean-up run within the regatta was also documented in the RHKYC's publication AHOY! and further articles and reports on the practice were written up by the Green Team Leader on behalf of the RHKYC Sustainability Committee for the RHKYC.







Post Educational and Reusable Signage

To follow up all our Clean Regatta's and particularly when involving the school's – we pushout 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.



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 serves up food that is locally sourced and from sustainable sources. We supply an after sailing snack for all competitors that is a vegetarian lasagne.

* 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

Event Green Team

We are fortunate to have the ongoing support of Rohan Logan as our Green Team Leader for the BCC Interschool Sailing festival. Rohan who also serves on the RHKYC Sustainability Committee and helps us in spearheading the combined joint forces of the youth regatta events with the club's efforts on sustainability.

Rohan took time to explain to our sailors the impact of the rubbish polluting our seas and beaches and how that in turn impacts the local sea life and biodiversity. He also puts together a review of the rubbish collected for further study.

All schools were 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



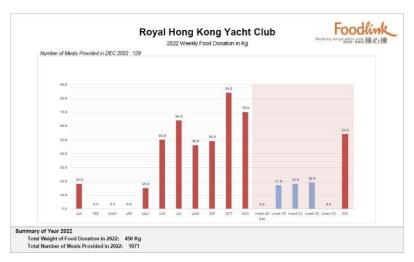
We have multiple, well placed and signed rubbish bins at the event venue, each also displaying easily identified markings to indicate the recycling choice – in both English and Chinese.

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.

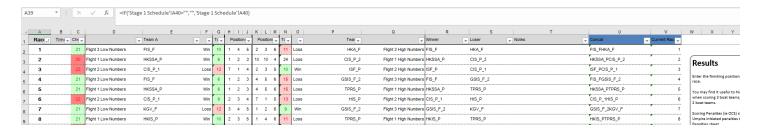




Use Paperless Event Management

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/2023InterschooolProgram.pdf



On shore, white boards and white board markers were used to let sailors know which race was up 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 racing being run right in front of the RHKYC clubhouse – the start boat and finish boat were able to be secured to laid moorings, helping to not further disturb the seabed with anchoring.





The club is also currently testing robotic marks which will further increase protection of the seabed from the anchors that are currently used when laying marks.

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

*The use of Bow Stickers has been eliminated from this event.

Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water



Being a dinghy regatta there was a "Water Only Washdown" protocol for all boats at our event. We also actively monitor and push for water conservation.

A responsible adult volunteer was allocated to monitor the use of the hose for washing down returning boats from the racetrack, ensuring a speedy wash down reducing the waste of water.

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

Green Boating Practices – Clean transportation on aalternative fuel



The RHKYC launched a new solar powered EV sampan in 2022 which makes the short journey across to the Middle Island race venue for the Boase Cohen & Collins Interschool Sailing Festival.

The solar powered sampan saves around 30 litres of petrol per day of operation, while 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.