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Hebe Haven Sailability Trust

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

*Hebe Haven Sailability Trust
marketed as 'Sailability Hong Kong'*



2019 Chairman's Report

I don't know where 2019 went but it has! It seems only yesterday I was preparing the 2018 Annual report.

As we come to the beginning of the new year, 2020, we have many new things to celebrate and be proud of.

Our numbers have once again been amazing with 1,723 people sailing with us on one or more occasions during the year, 464 of whom were new sailors. A big thank you to Hebe Haven Yacht Club for their continuing support and also to Sun Hung Kai for their support in providing sailing for the under-represented youth of Hong Kong, which increased our numbers by 245 sailors. In 2018 we were amongst the top 10 busiest Sailability centres globally – *I wonder where we will be once our numbers are in for the past year!*

***Our journey continues and we definitely are
'Making Sailing Accessible to EVERYONE'***

Very fortunately we avoided another Typhoon hitting Hong Kong and generally, though very hot at times, the weather enabled us to continue sailing for practically the whole year. A definite result which improved both our sailor numbers and spread of activities.

New programs included sailing for the visually impaired and those having a hearing impairment. In addition, we ran our first program for the elderly and it was particularly pleasing to note that a number of the latter group subsequently turned out in all weathers to assist in a Volunteer capacity. Towards the end of the year, we introduced our first program for those recovering from mental health challenges.

2019 also saw disappointments. These included the cancellation of our first Open International Regatta where 23+ countries had expressed an interest in sailing in Hong Kong from 2nd – 8th December 2019 and our 10th Anniversary celebrations on 23rd November.

As we look forward to the new year and beyond, we will be working towards a 2nd S.E. Asian International Para Sailing Championship in December 2020. In the longer term, we hope to run the Hansa World Championships, an Open Event, in 2023 so our coming December event will be good practice for our race team management and our sailors.

Fund raising included various events such as the Arbitrators Ball, Bart's Bash, AWA, Holman Fenwick & Willen, a Christmas Tree Lighting event at the Hong Kong Golf & Tennis Academy and a very generous donation from the HHYC 24 Hour Charity Dinghy Race. These together with the support we continue to enjoy from the other Sailing clubs in Hong Kong and private donations were reflected in an improved balance sheet for the year. A huge thank you to them all.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to our Volunteers, Instructors, Safety Boat drivers and all those who make our programs possible. We have seen a large increase in local Volunteers which, as a charity formed for the benefit of the local community, is particularly pleasing.

We now look forward to a very successful 2020 and beyond.

Mike Rawbone

Mike Rawbone

Co-Founder & Chairman

As you progress through this report you will see a snapshot of 2019 and important happenings/events we are looking forward to in 2020

2019 Snapshot

January – March

Leisure & Cultural Services Department (LCSD) Disability Awareness Course

Aimed at providing LCSD with a comprehensive understanding of our history, aims and objectives, the course represented the first time we had undertaken training for representatives of a HK Government department.



RHKYC Race Week:

After 5 days of racing in differing weather conditions (not to mention 2 broken masts) our 2.4mR entries this year battled through to gain 3 podium finishes for Sailability Hong Kong.

XiWang II Launch

We were delighted to welcome representatives from the RHKYC Charity Foundation to the launch of the new Hansa 303 - XiWang II (the name XiWang in English meaning 'Hope').



HKSF Festival of Sport

Well attended by all the Hong Kong Sailing Clubs and held at HHYC, Sailability entered 2.4mR's and Liberty's in the 'Open' Dinghy Division 11, and they did well.

April – June

HHYC Open Day

Attended by 1,800 of the general public with 149 of these sailing in our Hansa fleet. Another successful event for the Club and Sailability. This day also saw the launch of the **Sun Hung Kai (Sallywag) Foundation program** supporting the under-represented youth in HK to have the opportunity to sail.





Team Sheldon Open Regatta at HHYC

Entering 2.4mR's & Liberty's, Sailability had a great turn out with both FOO Yuen Wai & PUK Chi Yeung coming in on equal points with FOO winning on count back. Chi Chian WU from Taiwan winning in the Liberty class.

Hong Kong Society for The Blind (HKSB)

20 new sailors together with carers, parents, volunteers, siblings & staff from HKSB joined us for a training day. This was in preparation for them sailing later in the year with clients with visual impairment and multiple disabilities.



Para Worlds – Spain

28 nations and 91 sailors took part this year. A reduced number but nevertheless a very competitive race series. Our 2.4mR sailors FOO Yuen Wai and PUK Chi Yeung finished in 15th & 17th positions overall, the highest they have achieved in this class.



World Sailing announces the inclusion of **INAS** (a global organisation supporting sports events for athletes with an intellectual disability), in international events.

July – September, and what a hot summer it was!

We carried on sailing and also had a

Volunteer Maintenance Day

Volunteers who had not escaped the heat of Hong Kong gathered to set about cleaning some of our very well used Hansa 303's



St James Settlement

19 children plus staff attended the fun day organized by Sailability Volunteers. A particular thank you to Jimmy NG for arranging this event for the past 4 years.





Bart's Bash & Scallywag Boat launch

46 dinghies took part in the morning sail and 43 in the afternoon sail, with 250 sailors participating in this annual race series at HHYC. The Bart's Bash event was also supported by Discovery Bay, Lantau Boat clubs, 6 x J80's and the Ladies

Helm & Crew Helm Races. An amazing total of HK\$58,800 was raised for Sailability Hong Kong – a huge thank you to everyone who took part and gave so generously.



We also took the opportunity to launch 3 new Hansa 303's, generously donated by the **Sun Hung Kai Foundation**, and named Star Fish, Sun Fish & Jelly Fish. These 3 boats sailed in the afternoon race. Senior representatives from Sun Hung Kai were in attendance at the launch / naming ceremony.



Caritas Lok Yi School

Travel to Japan to participate in the Peace Cup with 4 of their students, parents and staff. Well done to you all.

October – December

American Women's Association (AWA) Boat Launch

Attended by 4 representatives from AWA, their boat was launched and named Anchors AWAY. A very imaginative and clever name. She sailed in the 24hr Charity Dinghy Race after her launch and finished 9th place overall and 3rd in class.



24 Hour Charity Dinghy Race

A total of 9 Hansa 303's took part from a fleet of 36 entries. The Hansa Teams were, 3 from Sailability, 3 from Treats and one each from Caritas Lok Yi School, Jockey Club Sarah Roe School and Sun Hung Kai. Well done to the Para Warriors

team for finishing in 1st place overall for the 4th time. An amazing event with over HK\$1million being raised for the 5 supported charities, one of which is Sailability.



The Open International Sailing Championship

The Championship Committee decided to cancel this event. We had 23+ teams showing an interest to attend – we are now focusing on a **2020 Regional Regatta** and **2023 for the Hansa Open World Championships** in HK

Launch of the Golden Age Program

6 ‘Golden Age’ sailors joined our Golden Age Team for a trial sailing day. We are hoping to do more of this in the future. Benefit to us? Mr Liu & Mr Choi have now become regular volunteers – thank you.



Hong Society for the Blind

Enjoyed their first day of sailing at HHYC. 20 new sailors were accompanied on the water by parents, siblings, carers and staff.



Scallywag program, Saturday Sailing, Schools’ program and Parent & Teacher Training

These sessions continue throughout the year and boost our numbers of sailors each month. We were ranked in the Top 10 busiest centres by the RYA earlier this year. Wonder where we are now!!



2 New schools sailing with us

TWGHS - Tsui Tsin Tong & Po Leung Kuk - Law’s Foundation School.



Jardine ‘Mindset’

This was the first sail for 14 new sailors from the MHA sailed with 10 volunteers from Jardine’s. Great day had by all. We are now looking forward to their 2nd session with new sailors in January 2020.

Lutheran School for the Deaf

12 new sailors (which included 5 young ladies) joined our Scallywag Program and went for their first sail. Will this be the start of Hong Kong's first Deaf Sailing team as it is now a category in World Sailing? We hope so, as there were some amazing first-time sailors in this group.



Arbitrators' Ball 2019

A fund-raising charity event in aid of Sailability, held at the Rosewood Hotel in TST. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this event.

24 Hour Charity Dinghy Race Cheque Presentation

An amazing HK\$200,000 received on the night. Huge thank you to the organisers and those donating to the event. Trophies were also presented during the event.



 **Sailability Hong Kong** 

10 AMAZING YEARS

- 10 months
- 2,000 hours
- 200,000 minutes
- 200,000,000 seconds

of being awesome
of sailing in 2009 to
2019 in 2019

Thank you
EVERYONE
for helping to make
it happen

**Happy
10th Anniversary
2009 to 2019
Congratulations!!**



Sailability 10th Anniversary 23rd November 2019

Sadly, we have had to postpone this event. Postponed but not forgotten – as we look to rearrange early in 2020. **From 4 sailors in 2009 to 2500+ in 2019!!!**

Southside Regatta

Sailing from ABC at Middle Island, 4 Para Sailors participated and FOO Yuen Wai came 1st in class and also won Division B. Well done again – its not an easy place to get to either!



Saturday Sailing Group Christmas Sail

A thoroughly enjoyable morning sail was had by all followed by a Christmas Lunch for our regular Saturday Sailing Group and annual certificates of achievement.

Hong Golf & Tennis Academy Christmas Tree Lighting

As one of the Charities supported by HGGTA we were invited to attend to 'switch on' their Christmas Tree lights. Sailability greeting cards were also sold as part of this funding raising event for us.



Hong Kong Society for the Blind with Multiple Disabilities

20 sailors joined us for the second of 3 planned. Our volunteers and Instructors were impressed with how this group had improved and they were very enthusiastic and extremely positive about their second sailing day. Well done everyone! See you again in 2020.



Sun Hung Kai (Scallywag) Foundation Sailing

Our end of year sailing programs finished with a flurry of activity with 5 days of sailing taking place during the last week of the year. Three groups, comprising of 15 sailors from the under-represented youth of Hong Kong, completed their foundation course with Sailability during the week and hopefully many will convert this to an HKSF Level 1 & 2 with HHYC. A graduation ceremony was held at HHYC on 31st December, for those able to attend.



As we move into 2020 please don't forget to take a look at our website www.sailability.org.hk to keep up to date with what we are doing during the year.

Thank you.