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Club Call



Ellen Wong

The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club is synonymous with sailing in the South China Sea. It celebrated its 150th year in 1999 and is still going strong.

The club has some 8,000 members and boasts an exceptional location for its main clubhouse. Beneath a towering wall of steel and glass the club looks out over a harbour teeming with activity.

The clubhouse has recently been refurbished and boasts luxurious lounges and a large pool – but make no mistake, this is a club for sailors. A fleet of dinghies is used to get youngsters on the water and the training programme is expertly run. Members' boats range from fleets of keelboats and dinghies to a large variety of cruising and racing yachts.

Two other sailing bases are used in addition to the main club – both are away from the throng of the city and give an opportunity for members to sail in clear, warm seas.

The club is justifiably proud of its record of organising and participating in major sailing events. This April the San Fernando Race to the Philippines will be boosted by the inclusion of *The Times* Clipper round-the-world fleet and the pre- and post-race parties are famous.

Visiting yachtsmen are welcomed and the RHKYC has reciprocal arrangements with other clubs around the world. Commodore: John Leigh Honourary; Secretary: G Fred Kinmonth; details: Kellett Island, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, SAR or surf the internet and log onto: www.rhkyc.org.hk

Miss Kendall

The power of association

Najad owners in the UK now have their own association to organise meetings, rallies and exchange ideas and information. The group has recently been formed and is based at Hamble Point. Details 02380 455555.

Another new group is the national ETAP Owners Association. For more information call 01376 340870 or

email etapowners@cs.com. The Trapper Owners Association is well established but its details were not included in the Second Hand Focus report in January's YM. You can find out more at www.trapper.8m.com. The Countess Owners Association is holding a dry meet on 4 March. Details: 0208 505 0318 or www.CountessOwners.com.



RCC Awards

A yachtsman who conned a ship through reefs by standing at the cross trees with lines led to his tiller has been awarded the Royal Cruising Club Challenge Cup. David Mitchell's ingenious helming was part of a single handed crossing from Australia to Vancouver via eastern Asia.

Among other winners of RCC awards for 2000 was Nicolai Litaou who was awarded the Seamanship medal after skippering a 51ft (15m) steel ketch around Europe, Asia and Australia, including the first ever transit of the North East passage. The Tilman medal was won by Sverre Kraemer who took his 37ft (11m) *Quest* through the ice around Svalbard in the Arctic ocean.

The Grace Cup went to 88-year-old Helen

Tew for her cruise to Portugal prior to her transatlantic crossing on board the family gaff rigged cutter, *Mary Helen*. Peter Ingram won the Cruising Club Bowl for his east-bound Atlantic Crossing. Mary Thornhill won the Sea Laughter Cup, Richard Wakeford, The Caymore Cup; Michael and Julie Manzoni, The Founder's Cup; Stephen and Sue Lennane, The Juno Cup; Jessica 'Bean' Wollen, The Ladies Cup; John and Sally Melling, The Romola Cup; Peter and Gill Price, The Royal Cork Club Glass Vase and Heather Howard, The Dulcibella Prize. The Ocean Cruising Club has also announced its awards. YM contributor Nigel Calder was a suitable winner of the Geoff Pack Memorial Award given to the person who, by his or her writing, has done most to foster and encourage ocean cruising in small craft. Full details in next month's magazine.

Head for the Med

Kiriacooulis Mediterranean is getting bigger and better. The yacht charter company which owns hundreds of boats in the Med is expanding its fleet and opening new bases. The Greek company has two new centres in Sardinia: Marina di Portisco is just 15 miles from the international airport at Olbia while Carloforte on San Pietro island is on Sardinia's south west coast. One-way charters between the two bases will be

available meaning that you can sail in new waters everyday. The Mediterranean charter specialist is introducing 60 new boats for 2001 including 13 Bavaria 42s and 19 Bavaria 40s. Kiriacooulis is continuing to offer a range of yachts from its base at Elba as described in last month's feature 'The Emperor's Isle'. Details of any Kiriacooulis charters are available from Nautilus Yachting. Tel: 01732 867445. www.nautilus-yachting.co.uk

