

Commodore's Cup 2010

by Guy Nowell



ASIANYACHTING.COM

DID YOU KNOW
This Commodore's Cup is a new regatta on the Philippines racing calendar. Hosted out of Subic Bay the regatta follows on from the Rolex China Sea Race.

April 2010 saw the inauguration of a new 'big boat' regatta on the Asian circuit – the Commodore's Cup, organised by the Subic Bay Yacht Club in conjunction with the Saturday Afternoon Gentlemen's Sailing group (SAGS). The event was timed to follow on straight after the Rolex China Sea Race - which finishes at Subic Bay – thereby ensuring the presence of a large and competitive fleet fired up and ready for some short course racing.

Over the course of four days' racing, the pleasant waters of Subic Bay served up practically every combination of fickle and reliable winds imaginable. From 90-degree wind shifts and 17-knot southwesterlies

to 10 knots from the north east – Subic produced it all.

"It was the sort of stuff that really makes you think on the water," said RHKYC Commodore Warwick Downes, sailing on the Archambault 40, Avant Garde. Shifting winds kept tacticians on their toes throughout the regatta, kept the crews busy, and produced spectacular close-quarters racing for the eight 50-footers in the premier Racing class – one competitor described it as "50ft dinghy racing".

The Bay conspired to give 22 boats and a host of enthusiastic racing sailors a fantastic event. Their support and encouragement for the beleaguered

organisers, who decided to go ahead with the event despite a court order to abandon it, demonstrated the tremendous goodwill and genuine gratitude for holding the event. Neil Pryde, owner of Hi Fi and winner of the Racing class, described the first Commodore's Cup as "a great event. Race Officer Jerry Rollins' patience in waiting for the wind made it work, and the race management was always professional."

The Awards Party was held in front of the Subic Bay Yacht Club – Feliciano Salonga, Chairman of the SBMA, presented the trophies with SBYC Commodore Ricky Sandoval and co-host Jun Avecilla of the Lighthouse Marina Resort assisting. 🦋

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July

asian racing/sailing calendar



JULY

SIX SENSES
PHUKET RACEWEEK
THAILAND
Thailand's only "Green Season" regatta will be

held from July 21-25 with race headquarters in the luxurious 5-star surroundings of the Evason Phuket Resort and Six Senses Spa. The racing takes

place over four consecutive days, and competitors enjoy five nights of magical beachside parties at this world-class resort.
www.phuketraceweek.com

NAUTICA TYPHOON SERIES: HHYC HONG KONG

The Nautica Typhoon Series, run by the Hebe Haven Yacht Club starts on June 13 and finishes on August 28. Held every second Sunday throughout the summer the 10 race series consists of island and windward/

leeward courses and includes a race to Mirs Bay. The series prizegiving will be held on August 28, 2010.
www.hkyc.org.hk

BORNEO INTERNATIONAL YACHTING CHALLENGE BORNEO

The Borneo International Yacht Challenge is a joint effort of three Malaysian Borneo states. Racing starts on July 24 in Miri with two inshore races, followed by a passage race to Brunei. Another two short passage races, to Labuan and then to



Kota Kinabalu, complete the offshore legs of the series. The regatta concludes on July 31 with two inshore race in Kota Kinabalu.
www.borneorace.com

6th Top of the Gulf Regatta (Incorporating the Coronation Cup)

by Guy Nowell



GUY NOWELL

DID YOU KNOW?
The Top of the Gulf regatta is the only marina-based regatta in Thailand that attracts over 200 yachts from Optimists to top fleet IRC racers

Top of the Gulf' refers to the top of the Gulf of Thailand, of course, and for the sixth year in a row this regatta attracted a sizeable fleet of keelboats – 51 all told. The event incorporates the Platu Coronation Cup which once again provided the closest racing in the 'big' boat classes. And, to really bring up the numbers and the bragging rights, Top of the Gulf includes divisions of beach cats and dinghies as well as a whole flock of Optimists competing for the Thailand Optimist National Championship.

The regatta runs out of Ocean Marina Yacht Club in Pattaya, about 90 minutes

from Bangkok airport, and (on this occasion) a long way from demonstrations and disturbances in the capital. At Jomtien Beach it was all peace and camaraderie as competitors enjoyed a few pre-regatta drinks on the lawn.

Regatta Chairman Bill Gasson has been trying to attract the Asian Grand Prix fleet to Top of the Gulf for some time, and this year Ray Roberts made an appearance with his TP52 Evolution Racing. Matt Allen's Beneteau 44.7 Ichi Ban was always going to be the closest competition in the division, and so it proved. After six races over four days it all came down to the last

race, a 10-mile triangle. Ichi Ban tactician Michael Spies said, "when we rounded the windward mark and put the bow down we went from 6 kts to 8, whilst Evolution accelerated from 8 to maybe 12 knots. It was 'game over' for us, right there." So, after sailing a Platu and winning the Coronation Cup last year, this time Roberts lifted the IRC Racing title by just one point.

Every year the Coronation Cup provides close, tactical and very watchable racing. This year's fleet of 14 boats included Thai National Platu Champion Rolf Heemskerck, Scott Duncanson from Phuket – keen to (to be continue next page)

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 August - October
 asian racing/sailing calendar



SAIL INDONESIA DARWIN TO SINGAPORE
 This event is progressively turning Southeast Asian waters into a world-class cruising destination.

The 2010 edition is a collaborative effort to promote the navigational route from Darwin, Australia, through the Indonesian Archipelago and ending in Singapore. The rally starts on July 24 and incorporates Sail Banda, a historical trip through the original "Spice Islands".
www.sailindonesia.net

AUGUST WESTERN CIRCUIT SAILING REGATTA SINGAPORE
 One of Singapore's premier

keelboat regattas, this regatta is organised by Raffles Marina, and takes place over the weekends of August 15, 21-22 and 28.
www.westerncircuit.com

2010 SINGAPORE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES
 Singapore is hosting the inaugural Youth Olympic Games. This is first new games the Olympic Movement has created in 80 years. The games run from August 14-26 and will comprise four medal events.
www.singapore2010.sg



HOBIE 16 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHINA
 Open to all Hobie 16s, the 19th biennial Hobie 16 World Championships this

year are scheduled for August 15-30 in Weihai, in China's Shandong province. Over 200 yachts are expected to participate.
www.hobieworlds.com



make up for a second place finish last year, and four crews from Singapore Management University. In the exceptionally shifty conditions of the first two days, Heemskerck racked up a very substantial 9-point lead and looked to be on top form. Then came a disastrous 5-2-5 day, with the second race going to the Protest Room and turning into a disqualification. Duncanson, levelled the scores with the first race of the last day, and then went on to win the very last race of the series, and the title. "We had a couple more kilos on the rail," said Duncanson, and we were able to sail just that little bit higher than Rolf. Enough to make the difference."

"What I'd really like to see," said Chairman Gasson, "is this regatta becoming the leading event for the sub-Grand Prix boats around here. The boats that are used all the time, for cruising as well as racing, but can't hold their own against a brand new superlight racers." The IRC 2 fleet, in fact. This year the Royal Thai Navy, sailing a familiar Farr MRX 36, and skippered by Damrong Sirisakorn, dominated the IRC 2 division with seven wins from seven races. They might have walked away with the points, but were chased hard and close on the water by the likes of El Coyote, Dynamite and

Magic Roundabout.

Competitors make a regatta, but you need a Race Officer to make it happen. Jerry Rollin brought his considerable experience to the Top of the Gulf, coping with some very tricky conditions and operating with a distinct shortage of volunteers. (We know he is short-handed when he asks the Media Boat to move a mark...). Top of the Gulf is a good regatta that has the potential to become even better. It is run out of a great location, and seems to run in generally excellent conditions. Now, if the regional fleet could boost the IRC 2 division over a dozen boats... 🦋



SEPTEMBER
SUNSEEKER OPENING
REGATTA : ABC
HONG KONG
 This event marks the opening of the Hong Kong

sailing season. To be held on September 5-6, the regatta is open to boats of all types and sizes, from dinghy to the largest racers.
www.abclubhk.com

ROYAL HONG KONG
YACHT CLUB
AUTUMN REGATTA
HONG KONG
 The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's "Opening Regatta" marks the start of the new sailing season. The racing this year, to be held over the weekend of September 12-13, attracts around 80 keelboats in 10 classes. There is one race on the Saturday afternoon, and two races on the Sunday and the regatta prizegiving is held at Kellett Island after the last race.
www.rhkyc.org.hk

OCTOBER
24-HOUR DINGHY
RACE, HEBE HAVEN
YACHTCLUB
HONG KONG
 A firm fixture on the Hong Kong sailing calendar this event on October 8 and 9, raises large sums of money for charity. Teams race around a closed-loop course in Hebe Haven and winners are determined on lap-count, and there are numerous entry categories. Schools and youth entries feature strongly in the event
www.hhyc.org.hk

ROYAL HONG KONG
YACHT CLUB
CHINA COAST RACE WEEK
HONG KONG
 Organised by the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, this year the series comprises the China Coast Regatta and the Offshore Category 1 race, which goes to Vietnam. The China Coast Race Week includes the China Coast Regatta from October 15-17, and is Hong Kong's premier "big boat" regatta. It attracts around 35 entrants from Hong Kong and overseas,



particularly Asia. The event consists of three consecutive days of yacht racing in Hong Kong, followed by an offshore race to Vietnam.
www.rhkyc.org.hk

Korea Cup 2010

by Guy Nowell



GUY NOWELL

DID YOU KNOW
The Korea Cup is all about being seen to race at Dok-do, a small island that claimed by both Korea and Japan.

The Korea Cup International Yacht Race is three years old this year, making it a fairly new item on the Asian sailing calendar. The event is based at Hoopo, a small fishing village on the east coast of Korea about five hours' drive from Seoul.

An Inshore fleet of small keelboats, dinghies and beach catamarans contested a seven-race series over four days, with KRW1m (HK\$6,300) on offer for each race winner. The Offshore Series involved 'joining in' with the first inshore race, a 83nm passage race to Ulleung-do, an inshore race at Ulleung-do, and a second passage race from nearby Dok-do back to Hoopo.

Race Management is clearly not a well-developed skill in Korea. For the first inshore race the RO had all boats from

68' down to 5.9m and beach cats – about 50 boats all told – starting together. The remainder of the race was equally poorly managed, ending with the race officials giving finishes to boats that were still racing, and even to some that had not raced at all, and failing to record finishes at all for several others - including Line Honours winner Scott McCook on an F-16.

The Offshore fleet sailed a leisurely race across to Ulleung-do under sunny blue skies and on amazingly calm water, but had to postpone the next inshore race by a day while 40kt winds and huge seas lashed the island. And one day later the weather at Dok-do, some 48nm miles away, was reported to be "wind 28kts, swell 5-8m" – small beer for anyone who has raced to Hobart or around the Fastnet Rock, but

enough to make this fleet think twice – the race was cancelled.

The principal agenda item for this regatta was not the racing and not the competitors, but the visible presence of a racing fleet at Dok-do. This did not happen. When competitors were given the choice of a race from Dok-do back to Ullueng-do, or no race at all, they took the latter on the understanding that all overseas entries would still be paid their 'subsides' even if they didn't complete the entire race series.

The Korean Sailing Federation says that it would like to see the Korea Cup "becoming (the) world's biggest international yacht race," but good race management needs to be in place to if it is to be called an international regatta. 🦋



VINACAPITAL HONG KONG TO VIETNAM RACE
HONG KONG - VIETNAM
This Category 1 offshore race starts on October 20 and is known as one of

the great "downhill" sled rides. This is the fifth time the race has been held, and overseas competitors are welcome. The record for the 656nm race to Nha Trang in Vietnam is currently held by Grant Wharington's Skandia Wild Thing, which did the crossing in 42hr 45min 41sec, in 2004.
www.rhkyc.org.hk

CHINA CUP INTERNATIONAL REGATTA
SHENZHEN, CHINA
This regatta starts in Hong Kong with a passage race to

Shenzhen and is followed by three days of inshore racing out of the Longcheer Yacht Club, in Shenzhen. The 30-strong fleet of one-design Beneteau 40.7s is the big attraction, and these boats are available for charter. The event starts on October 29.
www.chncup.com

NOVEMBER

AROUND THE ISLAND RACE, HONG KONG
This classic race around Hong Kong Island starts on November 21 outside the Royal Hong Kong



Yacht Club's Kellett Island clubhouse. The Around The Island Race is open to all Hong Kong sailors and all classes of boat including keelboats, catamarans and dinghies. In

recent years, outrigger canoes and coastal rowing boats have also taken part, and have even beaten some of the bigger yachts around the course.
www.rhkyc.org.hk