

The Sailing Journey behind Title Sponsor Around the Island Race of 2021

Advertorial | The Sailing Journey behind Sun Hung Kai & Co



Hong Kong's biggest sailing extravaganza, "Around The Island Race" was a huge success this year, with 228 boats participating under a picture-perfect conditions. **SUN HUNG KAI & CO. LTD.** was this year's ATIR title sponsor. Sun Hung Kai & Co. is a leader in alternative investing headquartered in Hong Kong. Since its establishment in 1969, the group has owned and operated market-leading platforms in financial services. Sailing is a sport particularly relevant to the company because they believe that competitive sailing reflects and espouses the company's ethos – "Endure. Adapt. Excel". The Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Race Team, Hong Kong's professional off-shore sailing team won the homecoming leg of the Volvo Ocean Race 17-18, one of the toughest sailing challenges in the world. Unfortunately, due to the disruptions resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the Scallywag team was unable to participate in this year's ATIR, we look forward to having them back to racing as soon as travel restrictions and logistic delays ease.

We took the opportunity and connected with the skipper of the Sun Hung Kai Scallywag crew, Mr. David Witt.

Editor: What yacht races have you done in and around Hong Kong?

David: Over the past 10 years, I've been lucky enough to compete and win line honours in the Rolex China Sea Race, a couple of times. Once with Ragamuffin, once with Genuine Risk. Hong Kong to Vietnam Race, managed

to win it in the Ragamuffin 90, the Ragamuffin 100, and break the record. And also in the Scallywag trimaran, which we broke the multihull record. We've been lucky enough to win and break the record in the Hong Kong to Hainan Race, as well. And we're looking forward to competing with the trimaran in the Sun Hung Kai & Co. Around Island Race 2022.

Editor: You famously won the leg into Hong Kong during the Volvo Ocean Race – how was that being a local Hong Kong team?



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David: To date, it's the highlight of my sailing career. It was a highlight of being a Hong Kong resident and the amount of satisfaction it gave all the people that backed us, when we were told they shouldn't, was immensely gratifying. It still feels like it was yesterday.

Editor: You're involved with the Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Foundation. How was coaching the kids recently?

David: The Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Foundation was something we announced during the Volvo when we won the leg into Hong Kong. It's taken a little while, but now that it's fully up and running despite the pandemic, we've had over 800 kids through the course since 2019. I've been down there when I was in Hong Kong. It's great to see kids that normally wouldn't get an opportunity to compete in sailing or learn sailing get an opportunity. Recently, we've now just appointed a foundation coordinator, and that's going to be a big drive through the next few years to push the foundation, and stay tuned because there'll be more news to come.

Inspired by Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Race Team's achievements over the past few years, the Sun Hung Kai & Co. Foundation (SHK's charitable platform to support caring and sustainable community) partnered with Sailability, and established the Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Foundation in 2019, with the objective of building a sailing legacy in Hong Kong, and supporting youth development through the sport. Their goal is to raise awareness and make sailing accessible to everyone whilst changing lives. Here we reached out to Mrs. Kay Rawbone, founder of Sailability.

Editor: What is Sailability?

Kay: Co-founded in 2009 by my husband Mike Rawbone and myself, Sailability is a not-for-profit

charity looking to enrich the lives of many within our community by 'making sailing accessible to EVERYONE', irrespective of their ability, age, gender, ethnicity or status. What we provide is more than sailing and we change lives.

Editor: Why Sailing?

Kay: Sailing is one of the few inclusive sports, in which able bodied sailors, disabled sailors and those with other life challenges can take part on equal terms. We believe that sailing increases self-confidence, independence, responsibility, and self-esteem whilst learning and having fun.

Editor: How do supporters like Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Foundation make a difference?

Kay: Through Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Foundation's support, for instance, they have sponsored the expenses of sailing courses and have also provided us with additional safe, easy to sail dinghies and an additional safety boat. This has enabled us to run additional regular sailing programs, providing opportunities to many under-represented youth groups, from all walks of life, to learn to sail. Since the inception of the program, the foundation has supported 800 individuals from the under-represented youth of Hong Kong to enjoy 120 days out on the water learning to sail. Why not come to see it for yourself – you will be amazed.



During summer and the mid-term break this year, Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Foundation also organised several sailing camps for the public under its "One-for-One Charitable Scheme", where the children can learn sailing and self-sufficiency while getting their sailing certifications. Money raised from each participant supports another underprivileged youth. The sailing camps have been a huge success, and due to popular demand, the Foundation will be organising another one in the coming Christmas period.

If you are interested in the sailing camps or wish to support the Sun Hung Kai Scallywag Foundation and Sailability, please contact them at info@shkcofoundation.com.

This year, it has been a meaningful collaboration between Sun Hung Kai & Co and the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club; both striving to raise the passion and awareness of sailing in Hong Kong. It is assuring to learn the company has confirmed plans to continue to be the title sponsor of ATIR, one of the biggest inshore events in Hong Kong, for the next several few years. 🌊



ABOUT SUN HUNG KAI & CO.

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SUN HUNG KAI & CO. LIMITED

Sun Hung Kai & Co. Limited (SEHK: 86) ("SHK & Co."), together with its subsidiaries, the "Group" is a leader in alternative investing headquartered in Hong Kong. Since its establishment in 1969, the Group has owned and operated market-leading platforms in Financial Services. The Group invests across public markets, alternatives and real assets and has an established track record of generating long-term risk adjusted returns for its shareholders. Most recently, SHK & Co has extended its strategy to incubate, accelerate and support emerging asset managers in the Asian region. SHK & Co is also the major shareholder of a leading Consumer Finance firm, United Asia Finance Limited.

The Group currently holds about HK\$48 billion in total assets as at 30 June 2021. For more information about SHK & Co., please visit www.shkco.com.

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