

## FRAGRANT HARBOUR MARITIME FESTIVAL wrap up

The 2<sup>nd</sup> FrAGRANT Harbour Maritime Festival ended last Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, and showed that there is a lot more to marine recreation than just money. On display were sailing dinghies, craft for the disabled, home-made speedboats and an impressive Mastercraft wakeboard boat.

All three of the major sailing clubs took part, along with the Cruiser Owners', Rowing, Water Ski and Optimist Associations. From entry level and upwards, these institutions drive the territory's water sports sector, displaying their willingness to 'reach out' to the real people of Hong Kong by taking part in a grass-roots, three-day event.

The show opened at midday on Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, with the historic L sailing dinghy, *My Belle*, designed for the 1940 Tokyo Olympics, drawing much attention with its colourful pennants fluttering in the breeze. Nearby, a two-man rowing scull and two Optimist dinghies drew curious onlookers who, perhaps, had not realized that they, too, could enjoy themselves afloat.

Inside the exhibition area, Asia Marine greeted visitors with details of its regional charters, Beaufort Marine represented Hanse and Nautor's Swan, the Dominica Maritime Registry gave details on how to register your yacht and Wattis Fine Art displayed some fascinating maritime charts of Victoria Harbour and beyond.

Marine Link had a generator on display and Hong Kong Deep Sea Fishing Charters played videos of its expeditions into the South China Sea. Jon Cannon's mini-speed boats, coming in at 2.99 metres in length (so no need for an operator's licence) had children posing and adoring parents snapping away.

For those who just enjoy sailing in company with like-minded boating folk, the COA had two members willing to explain all, and nearby a round-the-world yachtsman advertised his sailing courses.

Yachting personality, Wayne Robinson (recently retired), proudly displayed his home-made cockpit tables with intricate inlays and, further along, Storm Force Marine had plenty to interest visitors with its racks of sailing gear, marine clothing and chandlery.

For the approximately 2,000 attendants, light refreshments at Café 8 upstairs completed the visit to this year's FrAGRANT Harbour Maritime Festival. Details for the 2019 event soon.

