

37th International Phuket King's Cup Regatta

Her Majesty the Queen competed in the final round of the 37th Phuket King's Cup Regatta, serving as navigator for the Vayu sailing team in the IRC Zero class aboard the yacht THA72

The Queen took on the role of navigator or strategist of the vessel, applying her expertise in aviation to calculate shifting wind directions with precision — a critical factor in competitive sailing, where effective use of wind power determines speed and safety. With her skill and determination, and her role as an inspiration to the crew, Vayu clinched first place in three races out of eight, securing the highest overall score in the series. The Queen's participation in the regatta underscores her commitment to promoting sailing in Thailand and elevating the sport to international recognition. Sailing is a global discipline, and Her Majesty's involvement serves as a powerful motivation for young athletes to develop their skills and compete on the world stage. This year's event drew sailors from around the world, with a total of 120 boats — including large yachts, small craft and boats for sailors with disabilities — and more than 365 competitors from countries including Australia, Japan, Sweden, Belgium, China, Germany, Singapore,



Malaysia and France. The event was staged from Nov 29 to Dec 6 on Karon Beach in the island province. After the competition, Her Majesty returned aboard the royal vessel to Kata Beach, where His Majesty the King was waiting. On this occasion, Their Majesties graciously granted a photo session with the THA72 sailing team and the Phuket King's Cup Regatta organising committee.

Source Bangkok Post 6 December 2025

33rd SEA GAMES Thailand 2025 Varuna Sailors Outstanding Results

Sailing has been part of the SEA Games since the 2nd edition in 1961, with developed and new categories added over time. At the 33rd SEA Games in December, sailing featured multiple classes across four categories: men's, women's, and team events. The Sailing competition at the 2025 SEA Games was contested in four event categories across six racing classes: International Laser Class Association, Optimist, Mixed 470 and Keelboat SSL47.

A bit of history: His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great (Rama IX) competed in the 4th SEAP Games, held in Thailand from December 4–16, 1967. His Majesty, together with Her Royal Highness Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya, won a gold medal in sailing. They competed in the OK class, sailing a boat His Majesty had built himself and named "Navaruek".

Page 5

WHAT'S INSIDE Latest news from Varuna. On November 22nd, the Annual General Meeting elected Mr. John Higham as the new Flag Commodore. A new General Committee was also elected to support the Flag Commodore and set the strategic direction of the club. Introducing the new representative and Commodore's vision.

Page 3

Varuna's professionals support the SEA Games with technical teams.

The Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) technical team has been entrusted with the race management for the sailing events at the 33rd SEA Games. The team's involvement is a cornerstone of the sailing competition, particularly in managing the high-profile races hosted at Ocean Marina Yacht Club and Jomtien Beach in Chonburi.

Page 19



CONTENTS

P01 Varuna Breezes – Cover

- 37th International Phuket King's Cup Regatta
- 33rd SEA GAMES Thailand 2025
- Varuna support at the 33rd SEA Games

P03 Varuna Vision – Editorial

- The welcome message from our new Flag Commodore, Mr. John Higham and the introduction of the committee.

P04 Varuna Talks – Sharing Sailors' Stories

- An inspirational talk with Varuna legend Charlie Zbinden

P06 Varuna Fleets – Main News

- 33rd SEA GAMES Thailand 2025 – Outstanding Golds
- TP52 super series new season – Vāyu team is ready
- The Siamese Cat Cup 2025
- The Zest Relay Event 2025
- The French Cup 2026

P12 Varuna News – Events at Varuna

- Christmas & New Year Party
- Holidays Cruise
- Chandler Challenger

P14 Varuna Fleets – Optimist

- Admiral's Cup 2026 – Alert
- Commodore Cup – Alert

P15 Varuna Fleets – ILCA

- Thailand National Championship 2026 – Alert
- Royal Varuna Open Masters Championship 2026 – Alert

P16 Varuna Fleets – OK Dinghy

- Latest from Fleet Captains
- Thailand Open Nationals – Alert

P17 Varuna Fleets – Hobies, F18 and Darts

- Latest from Fleet Captains
- Thai Fiji Adventure 2026 – Work in Progress
- The 2026 Hobie/Dart Thai National Championship – Alert
- The 2026 Prince Bira's Firebird Trophy – Alert
- The 2026 IB Super Series RVYC Championship Updates

P21 Varuna Tech – Sailing Rules, Information & More Tips

- Varuna technical support at the 33rd SEA Games

P22 Varuna Courses – Sail Coach Training & Course

- 2026 Training Calendar
- Safety at Sea & Club Rules

P23 Varuna Relax – Curiosities, and some Gossip

- The Piggy Shirt Alert – 2025 Competition Result

P24 Varuna Network

- Latest from Sailing World
- Introducing new members
- Reciprocals
- Hot news from the sailing world

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Anyone who wants to participate, share, suggest changes, or criticize our publications can write to us at generalmanager@varuna.org

The welcome message from our new Flag Commodore, Mr. John Higham and the introduction of the committee.

Dear Members,

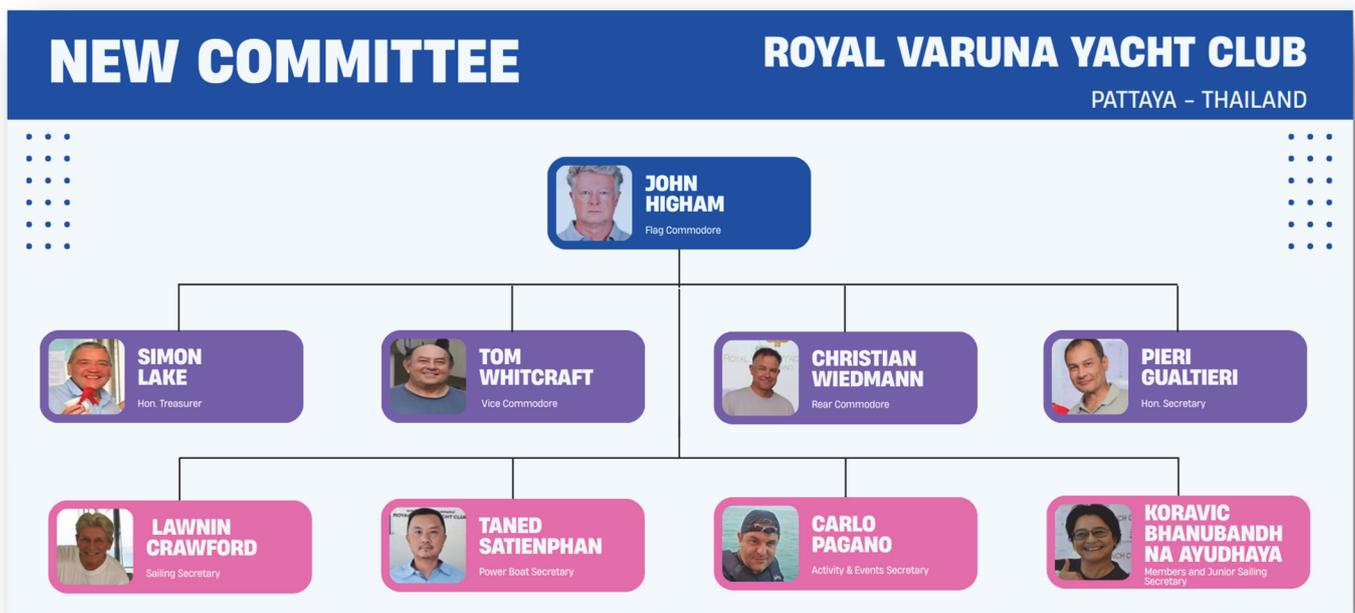
It is a great honour and privilege to write to you as the newly elected Commodore of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club. I am proud to take on this role at a club that is truly special, not only for its outstanding sailing conditions and excellent facilities but also for the spirit and diversity of its membership, which brings together sailors and families from many nations, cultures, and generations, united by a shared love of the sea and of sailing. This international character, combined with our strong traditions, is one of Royal Varuna's greatest strengths and something we should continue to celebrate and protect, as evidenced by the ever-growing "National Cup" events over the last year. My sincere thanks go to the newly elected committee who have agreed to serve the club. They represent a very strong mix of experience and energy, and I look forward to working closely with you as we continue to develop Royal Varuna in a positive and sustainable way. Together, our aim is to increase participation, enhance the member experience, support sailing at all levels, and ensure the club is welcoming, well-managed, and financially sound. Recognition must also go to our dedicated boat staff and shore team. Their hard work and quiet commitment are essential to the smooth running of the club and to the enjoyment and safety of all our members. On behalf of the membership, thank you for everything you do — often behind the scenes — to make our club what it is. I also take this opportunity to add my Congratulations to the Varuna sailors on their fantastic successes at the prestigious SEA games in December. Open communication, clear decision-making, and accountability are essential to maintaining trust and engagement within the membership, and I encourage members to share ideas, ask questions, and be actively involved in the club's life. Royal Varuna Yacht Club has a proud history, and I am excited about the journey ahead and grateful for the opportunity to serve this remarkable community.



Fair winds and following seas,
John Higham Flag Commodore

Introducing the New Committee

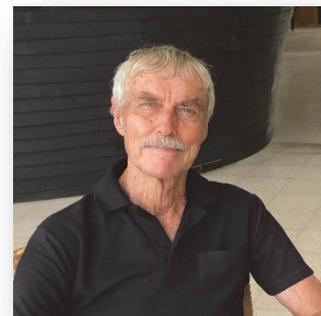
Alongside our new Commodore, we are proud to introduce the team dedicated to serving the club for the upcoming term. These individuals bring a diverse range of skills and a shared love for our maritime traditions.



Note to Members: The committee is here to serve you. Please feel free to approach any of the officers listed above with your suggestions or questions regarding club operations.

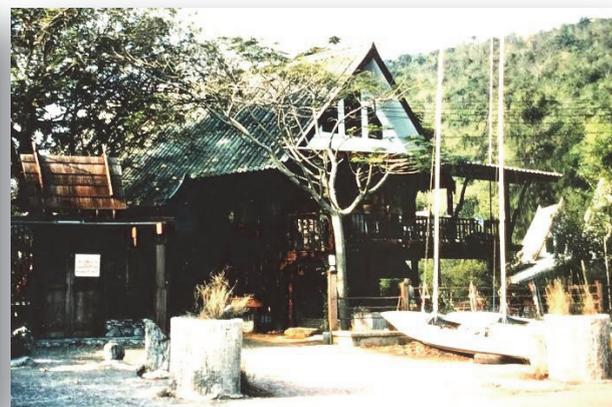
An inspirational talk with Varuna legend **Charlie Zbinden**, RVYC member since 1972 and counting.

Since 1972, one name has remained a constant on the Varuna leaderboards: **Charlie Zbinden**. Affectionately dubbed ‘**The Fox**’ for his tactical brilliance and uncanny ability to outmanoeuvre the fleet, Charlie has become the ultimate symbol of longevity in our sport. While many sailors eventually seek the comfort of larger decks, Charlie continues to challenge and beat competitors decades his junior in the gruelling Laser class. Recently honoured by the **Thai National Sailing Championships** for his indomitable spirit, he serves as a living reminder that sailing isn’t just a hobby; it is a lifelong pursuit of excellence. Today, we sit down with a true Varuna legend to uncover the secrets behind **85 years of mastery** on the water.



Q: How did you first get into sailing, and what was your first boat?

I started sailing in 1972 while I was a student. A classmate convinced me to take it up and sold me my first boat: a Finn Raudaschl dinghy. I think he just wanted to make a sale, but it turned out to be a great decision. Back in 1976/77, I also ran my sailing school from the beach at today’s Bali Hai pier.



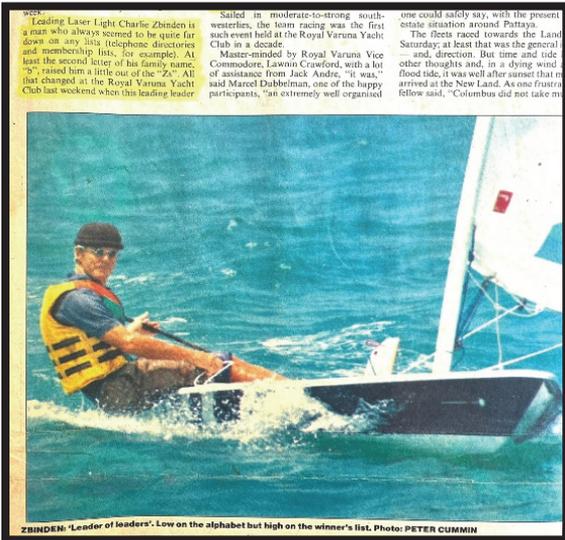
Q: When did you first join the club, and what was it like back then?

I joined the club in 1972, after an interview with a committee member and the promise that I would buy a boat. A welcome chat with the Commodore, Angelo Gualtieri, a fine person, who just celebrated his 100th birthday last year. At that time, the club had only Ok dinghies, Enterprises, Fireballs, and Hobie cats, and it was just a great family racing every weekend. Everything was very simple, no coaches, teachers everything was done by the members, teaching, race officer, etc. Some funny thing I remember: a long time ago, I was Varuna Manager for a while, and I also had to implement the club rules, a kind of British leftovers, even though the club was founded by a Thai, an Italian and two Swiss. Some rules: Gentlemen had to wear long trousers after 18:00, and no maids were allowed on the terrace to take care of the children.... So, I walked towards a member... me: *Please, Sir, no maid on the terrace...* and he: *It's my wife!* A rough way to lose face!



Q: What is the most challenging or memorable race you’ve ever completed?

Around 76/77, we had a long-distance race, sponsored by a hotel, with drinks and a great buffet to enjoy after the finish line on Pattaya Beach. It was light wind and strong incoming Tide and the windward buoy was somewhere in the south. Of course, you sail along the shore to avoid the tide, and to tack out to make the buoy.....There were many misses and abandons. I missed it two times, so, with stubbornness on my side, I went this time halfway to Bang Saray and made the buoy! With great spirit, I sailed towards Pattaya beach. Exhausted, but happy to finish! Only there was no more line, let alone any buffet... everybody gone. Sailing back to the club, not in the best mood...



Leading Laser Light Charlie Zbinden is a man who always seemed to be quite far down on any lists (telephone directories and membership lists, for example). At least the second letter of his family name, "y", raised him a little out of the "Zs". All that changed at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club last weekend when this leading leader sailed in moderate-to-strong south-westerlies, the team racing was the first such event held at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club in a decade. Master-minded by Royal Varuna Vice Commodore, Iawin Crawford, with a lot of assistance from Jack Andre, "It was," said Marcel Dabbelman, one of the happy participants, "an extremely well organized one could safely say, with the present estate situation around Pattaya. The fleets raced towards the Land Saturday, at least that was the general — and, direction. But time and tide other thoughts and, in a dying wind flood tide, it was well after sunset that he arrived at the New Land. As one frustrated fellow said, "Columbus did not take me

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ZBINDEN 'Leader of leaders'. Low on the alphabet but high on the winner's list. Photo: PETER CUMMIN



YACHTING / SCESKE CUP

Charlie's Laser finishes with fish on board

Submerged rocks take their toll

Neil Semple
Pattaya

Traditionally a contest that comprised of a single long distance race around some of the islands in Pattaya Bay on a Sunday, this year it was extended to include two round the buoys races on the Saturday.

But was the eponymous bestower of the cup watching from afar and frowning on our attempt to meddle with tradition? For there was no wind worth speaking of out the South on the Saturday. But there was however simply a huge incoming tide out of the South. The net result was a whole load of dingies slowly drifting north towards Bangkok. Racing was abandoned.

Sunday and a breeze of 10 knots comes in steady as a button from the South. Clear blue skies. This is more like it. Catamarans are away first at 11 am. One and a half hours later and Susan and David race on a Hobie 16 zoom into view on the final leg, a long reach from Koh Krok, and 'miles' ahead of the next catamaran thus claiming first place. "What does David have that you do not?" I ask one slower Hobie 16 sailor later? "Skill", comes the answer. Just over two hours from their separate start at 11:07 am and the monohull Lasers come back into view of the clubhouse after going round the islands. A right battle royal is going on between the two leading boats of Siri Chandler and Charlie Zbinden. Siri goes around the fast buoy, near the Royal Cliff Hotel, and before a short beat to up windward and the finish line, a mere five seconds ahead of Charlie, Charlie tacks out on port to get clear air and to get more speed. But, oh no! Siri does a 'Prada' and does not cover him but stays locked on the starboard tack.

But all is not lost as Charlie tacks back again onto starboard. He is both 20 metres to windward and behind Siri. But Charlie's sail is fuller and he has more speed and while he is sailing a bit lower he is going faster and he catches Siri up. But he is right behind Siri and he is getting bad air from her sail and so he tacks out on port to get clear air. This time Siri covers. Phew. Then Charlie tacks back to starboard and Siri tacks back to starboard too, crucially keeping herself between Charlie and the finish line. But look out Siri! The tide is low and there are submerged rocks ahead. Think! Through the binoculars you see a Laser come to a complete and abrupt halt. Recommended viewing but not recommended sailing. Centre board up to free the boat, sheets (topes) everywhere, just as well there's no microphones on board Siri's boat. Somehow she manages to get her boat to tack and onto port and so she heads away from the rocks and clear water.

But in the time that sorting out that mess takes, Charlie, to windward, has gone past her. But he does not take the hint from Siri's spectacular going a-ground and carries on, on starboard heading for the breakers and another set of submerged rocks. Once again you see this amazing sight of a boat coming to a complete halt. Once again we are glad that we can't hear the monologue. But Charlie manages to extract himself from this mess in short order and tacks out onto port and remains ahead of Siri.

One minute later, with five small fish in the cockpit that he must have picked up during his grounding, Charlie crosses the line 34 seconds ahead of Siri to claim the monohull first prize.

First and second prize winners in the Scheske Cup (from left): Karen Gardham, Don Mackenzie, Siri Chandler, Charlie Zbinden, David Race and Susan Race.

Q: What is your favourite memory or tradition associated with the club?

In the 70', there was a great spirit of camaraderie and a feel of family, and everybody joined the lively and entertaining racing scene. What helped to activate the scene was that all boat classes had a common start in front of the clubhouse, nearer to the water, as nowadays, so everybody was kind of involved, and you knew all the guys from all classes. Every weekend, when there was no sponsored long-distance race, we had our basic triangle: sausage with the famous Westmark (today 2 east marks), with all the historical gybe stories. Here is a sample of a long-distance race. Nowadays, members would not even know where to go. Club start, Kho Chun, Kho Nok, around Kho Sak, back to the club. All these activities received a great boost thanks to all the writing in the Bangkok Post by our Legend, Peter Cummins.

Q: Is there a particular sailing book or resource that you think every sailor should read?

Books? I would say, out of all the books, the first one, "Finn fibel," 1967, but it was in German.

Q: What is the most critical lesson the sea has taught you?

Be humble... or be a good swimmer!

Q: If you could give one piece of advice to a new club member or beginner sailor, what would it be?

Just enjoy sailing...to be able to play with two natural elements.

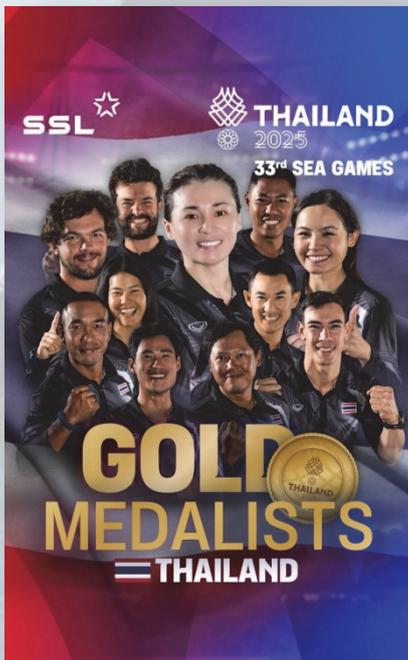


Queen’s touch delivers historic gold in the SSL47 class at the 33rd SEA Games

Thailand has written a new chapter in sporting history after the national sailing team, captained by Her Majesty the Queen, secured an emphatic gold medal in the SSL47 class at the 33rd SEA Games. The victory, sealed with a day of competition still to spare, has been hailed as a moment of immense pride for the Thai people. It was not merely a sporting achievement but a symbolic moment, underscoring the enduring royal connection to sailing and the inspiration it continues to provide to athletes across the nation. The triumph also marked a personal milestone for Naweew Thamsontorn and Nichapa Waiwai, who have now collected two gold medals at these Games. The pair had earlier won in the 470 class, and their success in the SSL47 adds to Thailand’s growing tally and reinforces their reputation as stalwarts of the national sailing program. The team’s strength was further bolstered by Noppakao Poonpat, a former Optimist world champion and double Asian Games gold medalist. His experience and leadership proved invaluable in guiding the crew to this historic achievement, blending youthful energy with seasoned expertise. Beyond the sporting result, the Queen’s leadership on the water carries profound symbolic weight. It represents the continuation of a royal sailing tradition, echoing the passion and vision of King Rama IX, who championed the sport during his reign and whose legacy remains deeply embedded in Thai sporting culture. The image of Her Majesty steering the Thai team to victory has been celebrated as both elegant and inspirational, reinforcing the role of sailing in the nation’s sporting identity. The Royal Thai Sailing Association and the athletes involved have been widely congratulated for bringing honour to the country. Their success not only secures Thailand’s place at the top of the SEA Games podium but also serves as a powerful source of inspiration for future generations of Thai sailors.



Source Bangkok Post 17 December 2025



THAILAND's SSL 47 Gold Medal Fleet

SSL **THAILAND 2025**
33rd SEA GAMES

Her Majesty Queen Suthida
BAJRASUDHABIMALALAKSHANA

Nut BUTMARASRI

Alexander Amarit FREFEL

Sanont KHAISAENG

Anusorn NGAMRIT

Noppakao POONPAT

Chusitt PUNJAMALA

Navee THAMSOONTRORN

Nichapa WAIWAI

Don WHITCRAFT

Dylan WHITCRAFT

Kevin Robert WHITCRAFT

CREW ANNOUNCEMENT
THAILAND



Royal Varuna's Young Stars Triumph at the 33rd SEA Games

The Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) in Pattaya is celebrating a proud moment as two of its most promising young members, Pailin Jaroenpon and Adison Ein, secured major medals at the 2025 SEA Games in Chonburi. Representing Thailand on home waters, the duo showcased the world-class training and competitive spirit fostered at the historic club.

Pailin Jaroenpon: Gold in Optimist Girls

Pailin Jaroenpon, a long-time RVYC trainee, delivered a dominant performance to claim the Gold medal in the Optimist Girls' division. Racing at the Marine Sports Center in Dongtan Bay—waters familiar to many Varuna members—Pailin maintained a consistent lead throughout the 10-race series. She successfully held off a challenge from Singapore's Anya Zahedi to bring home the top prize, further cementing her reputation as one of the brightest young talents in Asian sailing.

Adison Ein: Silver in Optimist Boys

In the Optimist Boys' category, fellow club member Adison Ein secured a hard-fought Silver medal. Adison displayed impressive tactical skill in a highly competitive fleet, finishing as the top Thai boy with 26 nett points. He was edged out for the gold by Singapore's Ethan Chia in a tight battle that came down to the final races of the regatta.

The success of Pailin and Adison adds to the storied history of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, which has long been a feeder for the Thai National Team. Their podium finishes contributed to a banner year for Thai sailing, which saw the host nation collect a total of four gold medals in the dinghy classes.



Home Waters, Golden Results: Royal Varuna Sailors Dominate ILCA 4 Class The Unstoppable Rise of Darwin Hsu & Prin Subying

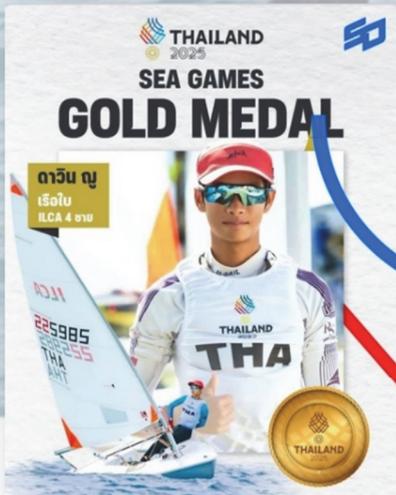
The Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) is beaming with pride as we celebrate a historic achievement at the 33rd SEA Games. Two of our most dedicated young sailors, Darwin Hsu and Prin Subying, have reached the pinnacle of regional sailing, securing Gold Medals in the Men’s and Women’s ILCA 4 classes, respectively. Competing on the familiar waters of the Gulf of Thailand, both Darwin and Prin delivered masterclass performances, navigating shifting winds and a highly competitive international fleet to bring home the top honours for Thailand.

Darwin Hsu (Men’s ILCA 4 Gold): Darwin’s victory is a testament to his tactical brilliance and relentless work ethic. As a long-time member of the RVYC community, we have watched him grow from an eager youngster into a disciplined champion. His success on the water is matched only by his passion for the sport, recently highlighted by his bilingual book, *The Ocean has been my Greatest Teacher*.

Prin Subying (Women’s ILCA 4 Gold): Prin’s dominance in the women’s fleet was nothing short of spectacular. A familiar face at our club’s podiums during the Eastern Seaboard Regattas, Prin displayed incredible composure and speed throughout the series, solidifying her reputation as one of the brightest talents in the YRAT and RVYC circles.



"Watching Darwin and Prin stand atop the podium is a moment of immense pride for everyone at Royal Varuna. They embody the spirit of our club—sportsmanship, excellence, and a deep love for the sea. Their success is a result of years of hard training and the incredible support system of their families and coaches."



The 52 SUPER SERIES continues to go from strength to strength, with the 2026 season featuring two Lanzarote showcase regattas

Looking to deliver fantastic high-octane racing, inspirational images such as have underpinned the 2025 season’s output whilst continuing to share a truly unique ambience ashore, the 52 SUPER SERIES will travel to Lanzarote for two back-to-back midseason regattas in 2026

The Canary Islands’ reputation for strong winds and waves has long since been a magnet to top sailing, windsurfing and kite events. As summer sea breezes become less reliable in the Mediterranean and daytime become unpleasant it is logical to take the world’s leading grand prix monohull circuit to a renowned location where the winds are reliable year round. Not only are the conditions excellent for racing but the breezes also create a more pleasant ambience ashore. In particular Lanzarote has continued to invest in excellent infrastructure ashore as the demands for leisure marine and high grade competition facilities have grown accordingly. It makes sense to run back-to-back events a month apart which, because of the slightly extended shipping time, allows owners and crews more time in the summer months to spend at home. It is the first time that the 52 SUPER SERIES ventures to Lanzarote. Otherwise the 2026 regattas are hosted at tried-and-tested, favoured clubs and venues. The season opens in Mallorca at Puerto Portals – no year would be complete without a trip to the Bay of Palma – followed by the Rolex TP52 World Championship in Sardinia, at the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda. And then the climax of the season will be back in Valencia where the 2023 finale proved to be a nailbiter right to the end of the final race of the year.

Source 52 Super Series News, October 2nd, 2025

Vāyu team is ready for the 2026 season



PUERTO PORTALS
52 SUPER SERIES
SAILING WEEK

MAY 4TH – MAY 9TH
PUERTO PORTALS



ROLEX TP52 WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP
PORTO CERVO 2026

JUNE 15TH – JUNE 20TH
PORTO CERVO



MARINA RUBICON
LANZAROTE
52 SUPER SERIES
SAILING WEEK

JULY 20TH – JULY 25TH
LANZAROTE



PUERTO CALERO
LANZAROTE
52 SUPER SERIES
ROYAL CUP

AUGUST 24TH – AUGUST 29TH
LANZAROTE



52 SUPER SERIES
VALENCIA SAILING
WEEK

OCTOBER 5TH – OCTOBER 10TH
VALENCIA

The First Siamese Cat Cup 2025 - December 14, 2025

On December 14th, the first edition of the Siamese Cat Cup was raced in a beautiful 15-knot long course around the three cardinal marks surrounding the Varuna club. The race began with a picture-perfect start as the fleet of catamarans charged downwind to the Jomtien cardinal mark, keeping the group compact. The second long upwind leg saw conditions turn tactical. Pieri & James (Hobie16) were leading until a sudden, powerful gust caught them hard on the beam, resulting in a remarkable capsized that ended their victory challenge. After turning the eastern cardinal mark, David & Suzy (Dart18) took the race leadership, followed by Will & Bovy (Dart18) and Fish & Joshua (Hobie16) till the finishing line. The most compelling battle was for 4th place, where Simon & Ja-ae (Dart18) and Lynden & William (Hobie16) traded tacks and luffs for the final mile, crossing the line mere seconds apart. Simon & Ja-ae ultimately claimed 4th place on handicap. In the far back of the race, another amazing capsized by Nat & Heather (Hobie16) allowed Phil & Karl (Hobie16) and Carlo (Dart18) to move ahead. The race was valid for the 2026 IB Super Series RVC Championship. This best-of-11 regatta series will continue in January with the French Cup, setting the stage for a tight battle between the Hobie Cat and Dart Varuna fleets.



The French Cup 2026 - January 10 – 11, 2026

On January 10 and 11, the Royal Varuna Yacht Club transformed into a slice of the French Riviera. The French Cup returned with its signature "simple and oh-so-French" format, graced by a steady 9–12 knot breeze that provided near-perfect conditions for the fleet. The turnout was impressive, with over 18 double-handed multihulls hitting the start line. Saturday's long-distance course was a true test of skill, requiring sailors to navigate the chaotic "speedboat highway" before rounding the technical markers near the rocks. However, the real challenge began back on shore. The "third leg" of the race - the Pétanque Tournament and Blind Wine Tasting - proved to be the most gruelling of all. Fuelled by pastis, music, and a massive spread of delicacies, the international and local Thai communities celebrated deep into the evening. The event concluded Sunday with tight racing in front of the club and a lively prize-giving, marking another unforgettable chapter of sailing and friendship.



Multihull - Florent & Roch



Monohull - Christian Wiedmann



Optimist - Mina Oish



Hobie/Dart - David & Suzy



CHRISTMAS

HERE ARE SOME PICTURES FROM
OUR LOVELY CHRISTMAS DINNER

DATE
25 DECEMBER 2025

ADDRESS
ROYAL VARUNA YACHT CLUB

DRESS CODE
CASUAL SAILING DRESS
OR CHRISTMAS THEME
THANKS "KAI" FOR THIS SPECIAL

PARTY

Christmas Memories



Holidays Cruise at Kho Phai - December 27, 2025



2026 Chandler Challenger – Jan 1, 2026



Every New Year's Day at RVYC, the Chandler Challenger takes place. Organised by the Chandler family, this storied tradition sees sailors downing a Bloody Mary (or tomato juice for the youths) before sprinting to their boats on the beach. Participants race to the eastern cardinal mark off Koh Krok island and back to the club. The final leg is a dash to the veranda for one last drink and the ceremonial ringing of the bell. This year, overall victory belonged to **Henry Wiedman**. His unique reliance on tomato juice for energy earned him the new nickname **'Tomato Popeye.'** Henry and the visiting reciprocal club member **Hart Buck** of the Royal

Royal Vancouver Yacht Club raced the fun Chandler Challenge 2026 in true Al Chandler style - singlehandedly whipping their respective catamarans around the course. Hart was particularly impressive, given he had not sailed a Hobie 16 in decades. ILCA sailor **Lucas Collins** (training in the ILCA 6 for a Youth Worlds event) was granted an hour by his coach to score among the first to shore. Young duo **Alex Ross** and **Tranvisit Kitchanasiri** aka **Phupha**, also had a notable finish on the leaderboard in their 420 class. Special credit should also be given to **Matias** for ditching his wing foil for an RS Zest and being the first back to shore, an hour ahead of the second.. and the **Pedersen** family of four on the club's Cat 16 who celebrated **Tania's** 55th birthday without telling anyone (if they had, there would have been at least birthday candles on something when they came to shore).





Alert – Admiral’s Cup 2026

Event Details:

- February 21 - February 24, 2026
- Venue: Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC), Pattaya, Thailand
- Eligible Classes: Optimist

The sails will return to the Gulf of Thailand this February as the Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) prepares to host the 2026 Admiral's Cup. Scheduled for February 21–24, the regatta remains a cornerstone of the youth sailing circuit, drawing the region's most promising Optimist sailors to the world-class waters of Pattaya. The Admiral's Cup is not just a local trophy; it is a high-stakes ranking regatta. Historically attracting over 100 competitors from across Asia and Europe, the event serves as a proving ground for junior sailors before the IODA World and Asian Championships.



Key Highlights for 2026:

Elite Youth Competition: Focused exclusively on the Optimist class, the event will feature intense tactical racing in both Gold and Silver fleets.

Prime Conditions: February offers the "sweet spot" for Thai sailing—reliable thermal breezes and the signature Varuna hospitality.

Strategic Road to the Worlds: With the 2026 Optimist World Championship on the horizon in Morocco, the Admiral's Cup is a critical mid-season test for national teams.

Registration & Information: The Official Notice of Race (NOR) and registration portals are hosted on the Royal Varuna Yacht Club's official website and on the Racing Rules of Sailing platform.

Stay tuned for live results and podium updates as the next generation of Olympic hopefuls takes to the water.

Alert – Commodore Cup 2026

Event Details

- February 14 - 15, 2026
- Venue: Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC), Pattaya, Thailand
- Eligible Classes: Optimist, Monohull, Multihull, Hobie/Dart Fleets



The Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) has officially scheduled the Commodore Cup 2026 for the weekend of February 14–15, 2026. Known as one of the club's most festive and inclusive regattas, this event brings together the entire sailing community—from junior racers in Optimists to seasoned masters on high-performance catamarans. On behalf of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, we extend a warm invitation to sailors of all ages and backgrounds to join us for the Commodore Cup 2026. Whether you are a local member returning to familiar waters or an international guest visiting the Gulf of Thailand for the first time, we welcome you to our shores. This regatta is more than just a race; it is a celebration of the sportsmanship, community, and the shared passion for the sea that defines the Varuna spirit. We look forward to seeing your sails on the horizon!



Alert - ILCA Thailand National Championship 2026

Event Details

- **Dates:** January 24 – January 26, 2026
- **Eligible Classes:** ILCA 4, ILCA 6, and ILCA 7

The 2026 ILCA Thailand National Championship is scheduled to take place in early 2026. This regatta is the premier event for ILCA (Laser) sailors in the region and often attracts a strong international field.

Important Participation Notes

- **National Champion Status:** While international sailors are welcome to compete, only **Thai Nationals** or residents who have lived in Thailand for more than 180 days in the previous 12 months are eligible to be crowned "Thai National Champion."
- **Membership:** Thai citizens and residents must be current members of the **ILCA Thailand Association**. Membership can usually be purchased during event registration for approximately 500 THB.
- **Sailing Instructions:** The official Sailing Instructions (SIs) are expected to be posted on the online Official Notice Board (ONB) by **January 16, 2026**.

Alert - Royal Varuna Open Masters Championship 2026



- **Dates:** 30 January - 1 February 2026
- **Classes:** ILCA 4 & 6, 7, OK DINGHY

The **Royal Varuna Open Masters Championship 2026** is scheduled to take place between the ILCA Thailand National Championship (the preceding weekend) and the OK Open Nationals the following weekend. This brand-new event has been conceived and organised by five of the club's master sailors, who asked themselves what kind of regatta they would genuinely enjoy competing in. Building on the success of the 2023 ILCA Masters World Championship, the event is open to sailors aged 35 and over. The current entry list already includes more than 30 masters representing at least 10 different countries.

Why Attend?

- **The "Masters" Experience:** Known for its social atmosphere, the event usually features sunset social hours and a dedicated regatta dinner at the RVYC clubhouse.
- **Ideal Conditions:** January and February offer the best sailing conditions in Pattaya, with steady thermal winds (10–18 knots) and warm waters.
- **Back-to-Back Racing:** Many international sailors are combining this event with either the ILCA Thailand National Championship or the OK Dinghy Open Nationals, creating a full week of high-level racing. It offers an excellent opportunity to compete against new opponents while forging new friendships on and off the water.

Logistics & Registration

- **Charter Boats:** RVYC and the Thai OK Dinghy Society have a limited number of ILCA and OK Dinghy charter boats available. Sailors are strongly encouraged to reserve early by contacting (sailing@varuna.org) for ILCAs and Matt Norton (mattanorton@hotmail.com) for OK Dinghies.
- **Accommodation:** The club offers on-site rooms, but they fill up months in advance for the Masters. There are numerous hotels within walking distance.

**ILCA Thailand National Championship &
Royal Varuna Open Masters Championship
are cordially sponsored by:**

ELEMENTSIX
E V O L U T I O N

Latest from your OK Dinghy Fleet Captain - Morten Jakobsen

Welcome to the Royal Varuna Yacht Club OK Dinghy fleet. Whether you are a seasoned sailor looking for a new challenge or a newcomer drawn to the class's rich history in Thailand, you've found one of the most passionate sailing communities in Southeast Asia. As the fleet grows, we are seeing a significant "revival" of the OK Dinghy here in Pattaya, driven by high-quality equipment and the club's deep connection to the class. The OK Dinghy holds a sacred place in Thai sports history. Our late King, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), was an avid OK sailor who famously built his own boats and won a gold medal in the class at the 1967 SEAP Games. Today, we honour that legacy by maintaining a vibrant fleet that welcomes sailors of all nationalities. We are currently working toward hosting the OK Dinghy World Championships in early 2027, which underscores the world-class conditions we enjoy right here in the Gulf of Thailand. If you are interested in joining the fleet or trying out a boat, please reach out to the sailing office at sailcoach@varuna.org or myself at morten.jakobs@gmail.com. See you on the water!



Alert - 2026 OK DINGHY Thailand Open Nationals

- **Dates:** 6 - 8 February 2026
- **Classes:** OK DINGHY

The 2026 OK Dinghy Thailand Open Nationals will be held at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) in Pattaya. The event takes place shortly after the Varuna Open Masters and forms part of a significant winter sailing circuit in Thailand, supporting the recent growth of the OK Dinghy class both nationally and at RVYC.

Key Highlights

- **International Participation:** Although designated as a "National" championship, the event is **Open**, and international sailors are welcome to compete. It is expected to be a popular warm-weather training opportunity for sailors from Europe and Oceania.
- **Path to the Worlds:** RVYC and the Thailand OK Dinghy Society will host the **OK Dinghy World Championship in early 2027**. As a result, the 2026 Nationals are regarded as a key *pre-event* for sailors wishing to familiarise themselves with the conditions in Pattaya. It is therefore no coincidence that at least one former OK Dinghy World Champion is expected to attend and compete in the event.



Logistics

- **Charters:** OK Dinghy charters are limited in Thailand; however, the organiser has five boats available for this event. Sailors requiring a charter are strongly advised to contact the RVYC Sailing Office (sailing@varuna.org) or Mr. Matt Norton (mattanorton@hotmail.com) as early as possible.
- **Rules:** The event will be governed by the **Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025–2028**. All competitors must be members of their respective National Class Association.

Latest from Your Hobies Fleet Captain - Grahame Southwick



Greetings all. It's a great pleasure to be able to try and whip the growing Hobie fleet into some semblance of a racing team. We have great conditions off Varuna that lends itself to island hopping lunch stops and competition racing. I am pleased to see good progress from many of the "new" sailors who are getting better by the day. As we approach the new year, and the good events ahead, French Cup, Thai Fiji Adventure to start the year, I intend to do some intensive short-course racing with our own set of marks, and more clinics to fast-track you all. The best training for boat handling and racing, and even getting off a lunch-break beach, is to do multiple, short, one-lap starts/finishes. This short leg racing will teach you as much as possible about boat handling, tacks, and gybes in the shortest possible time. Cruising to lunch break beaches doesn't teach you much, so let's get a bit more professional in 2026. To those of you who seem to think you are getting too old and a Hobie 16 is getting hard, get your boats out and on the water. When you hit 81 like me, I will start to pay attention to your moaning and complaining, not now!! Great to see some new young crew joining in and doing very well. We will get them to helm too as soon as possible. Needless to say, all Darts are invited to join in the short course training runs. Welcome!!

Grahame Southwick, aka "Fish" - *Hobie Fleet*



Thai Fiji Adventure 2026 – Work in Progress

This year's Thai Fiji event has received many registrations from around the world, and a preliminary racing schedule has already been developed. This year's racing will feature a challenging mix of long-distance races around the beautiful islands surrounding Pattaya, alongside competitive short-course action for the Hobie 16 and Dart 18 fleets. Sailors will also be granted two well-deserved layoff days for rest. Additionally, the no-entry-fee "Drifter Dash" race will be part of the event and open to all sailors registered with the Varuna Yacht Club. For additional information, boat charter details, registration, and sponsorship inquiries, please contact "Fish" at grahame@fijifish.com.fj

20-29 March, 2026

THAI FIJI  
ADVENTURE

2026



GO HARD OR GO DOWN!

Latest from your F18 Fleet Captain – Florent Herson

Discover the thrill of F18 Catamaran sailing at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club. Are you looking for speed, excitement, and a vibrant sailing community? The F18 Catamaran fleet at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club offers all that and more! Why choose the F18? This high-performance catamaran, known worldwide for its performance and versatility, is a modern boat. It combines speed, stability and allows tactical races as well as long raids. At the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, you will find a welcoming group of passionate sailors ready to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. Whether you are an experienced racer or just starting, our fleet welcomes sailors from 15 years old up to 75+, starting to fly their hulls above the water in 8 knots of wind. The stunning waters of Pattaya offer ideal conditions for catamaran sailing, warm breezes, clear skies and unforgettable sunsets. Contact us if you are interested in joining.



Alert - 2026 Prince Bira's Firebird Trophy

Event Details

- Dates: January 17, 2026
- Venue: Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC)
- Eligible Classes: Monohull, Multihull, Hobie/Dart Fleets

Attention sailors and guests!

Get ready for the Bira Trophy — one day of competitive racing across Monohull, F18 and Hobie/Dart fleets on January 17, 2026.

The Firebird - Prince Bira's Trophy is a prestigious, historic sailing trophy donated by HRH Prince Birabongse Bhanudej (Prince Bira) in 1970. While Prince Bira is world-famous as Thailand's first Formula One driver, he was also an elite yachtsman who represented Thailand in four Olympic Games. This trophy connects his royal heritage with his passion for the sea.



Don't miss the action on the water and the chance to race for this prestigious club trophy!

Latest from your Darts Fleet Captain - Dirk Janovsky



Welcome to the heart of catamaran sailing in Thailand! The Dart 18 fleet at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) in Pattaya is one of the most vibrant and welcoming sailing communities in Southeast Asia. Known for its simplicity, speed, and durability, the Dart is the perfect match for the Gulf of Thailand's tropical conditions. The fleet is a mix of high-level competitive racers (including former World Champions and Asian Games medalists) and social sailors who enjoy the "blast" of a reach toward Koh Larn. The fleet is incredibly supportive of new sailors. If you're looking to get into a trapeze for the first time, there is always an experienced helm or crew willing to show you the ropes (or lack thereof, given the Dart's simple design!). The Dart 18s will also lead the multihull charge with upcoming races. Welcome to join us anytime.



Alert - The 2026 Hobie/Dart Thai National Championship

Event Details

- **Dates:** March 07 - 08, 2026
- **Venue:** Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC)
- **Eligible Classes:** Hobie 16 and Dart 18 Fleets

The Hobie/Dart Thai National Championship is one of the most prestigious multihull events in the region, traditionally held at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) in Pattaya. The regatta typically consists of multiple short, high-intensity "buoy races" throughout the day, testing both speed and tactical manoeuvring in the steady winds of the Gulf of Thailand.

Why This Event Matters:

- **National Recognition:** It is the official National Championship for the Dart 18 class in Thailand.
- **Competitive Field:** The event attracts a mix of top-tier local sailors (including former Olympians and World Championship contenders) and international expatriates.
- **Venue Excellence:** Royal Varuna is world-renowned for its catamaran facilities and hosted the Dart 18 World Championships in 2019.

Varuna technical support at the 33rd SEA Games

The Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) technical team has been entrusted with the race management for the sailing events at the 33rd SEA Games. The team's involvement is a cornerstone of the sailing competition, particularly in managing the high-profile races hosted at Ocean Marina Yacht Club and Jomtien Beach in Chonburi.

The Varuna team managed the first-ever inclusion of the SSL47 Keelboat class in the SEA Games. This high-performance category has drawn international attention, especially with Her Majesty Queen Suthida competing as a strategist and navigator for the Thai team.

Beyond the keelboats, the team oversees race management for a variety of disciplines, including Dinghy racing, Windsurfing, and Kiteboarding.

The selection is a result of Varuna's long history of hosting international regattas, such as the Optimist Worlds and the Phuket King's Cup, ensuring that the 33rd SEA Games meet World Sailing's rigorous technical standards.



SSL47 race management - Varuna mark layers and ROs



IQFoil and Techno race management team with Head Race Officer K Nattawut 'Oat' Vongrak

A Varunian at the Helm: Rut Subniran's Vital Role at the SEA Games

The Royal Varuna Yacht Club has a long-standing tradition of producing not just world-class sailors, but world-class officials. This legacy continues with our very own Past Commodore and International Juror, Rut Subniran, who recently took on the formidable responsibility of Technical Delegate for the SEA Games. Khun Rut's appointment as TD is a testament to his decades of service to the sport. As a former Commodore of RVYC, he has always been a champion for both the spirit of competition and the rules that govern it. His presence at the SEA Games not only provided a steady hand for the regatta but also served as an inspiration for younger Varuna members looking to contribute to the sport beyond the tiller. We are incredibly honoured to see Khun Rut representing the Royal Varuna Yacht Club with such distinction. His work ensures that the SEA Games continues to be a premier platform for Southeast Asian sailing excellence.



SEA Games juries and umpires deserved a wonderful dinner at Varuna's

RYA Certified Training Centre

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) is an internationally recognised organisation for all forms of boating. Founded in 1957 and headquartered in Hamble, England, the RYA is ‘committed to providing equal opportunities for all’. RVYC espouses the same policy, with membership open to all ages and nationalities and instruction in Thai or English. **Royal Varuna Yacht Club is RYA accredited** to provide training in dinghy, multihull sailing and powerboat courses. All RVYC instructors are RYA qualified and certified, making RVYC the most professional base for quality sailing classes in the region.

RYA Youth Courses 2026

(16 years old and under)
*This price starts from 1 January 2026 onwards.



DATES	COURSES AVAILABLE	PRICES
April	MON 13- FRI 17 MON 20- FRI 24	5 Day : Member 9,260 THB Non-Member 13,780 THB

STAGE 1
Learn launching and recovery, sailing across the wind, steering, turning around, and basic parts of the boat.

STAGE 2
Improve your sailing skills on all points of sail. Learn tacking, gybing, rope work, and collision avoidance.

STAGE 3
Practice and improve your skills in rigging, launching and recovery, sailing techniques on all points of sail, capsizing recovery, and sailing theory.

STAGE 4
Transfer your sailing skills, techniques and manoeuvres to sail crewed boats. Enhance your rigging, launching, recovery and practical skills to recover a man overboard.

The number of students per instructor is limited to 6, so book soon!

Course fees include boat hire, tuition, safety equipment, logbooks and certificates.
For enquiries and further details, please contact sailcoach@varuna.org & reception@varuna.org or call +66 3825 0116

RYA Adult Courses 2026

Adult courses are open to sailors who are at least 16 years old.
Each course requires two days. To check course availability and reserve your spot, please check with Reception.
*This price starts from 1 January 2026 onwards.



LEVEL 1
Learn how to sail in all directions, including an awareness of launching and recovering. Tuition is available in dinghies or catamarans.

LEVEL 2
Refine your knowledge of sailing dinghies or catamarans from Level 1. Learn skills in rigging, launching, and sailing in all directions. Learn capsizing recovery and essential safety knowledge.

LEVEL 3
Enhance your skills and explore new techniques in dinghies or catamarans from Level 2

COURSE PRICE		
Number of students	Member	Non-member
Three or more	6,725	8,070
Two	10,200	12,240
One	13,450	16,140

Course fees include boat hire, tuition, safety equipment, logbooks and certificates.

The number of students per sailing instructor is limited to 6, and powerboat courses are limited to 3, so book soon!

For enquiries and further information, please contact sailcoach@varuna.org and sailing@varuna.org or call +66 3825 0116

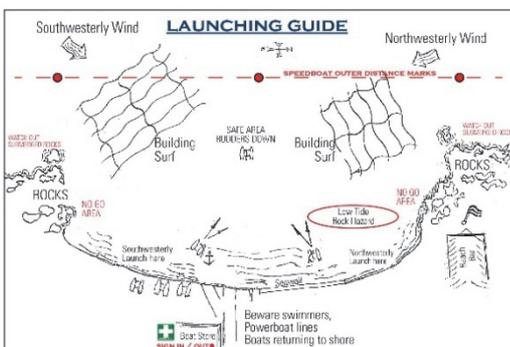
SAFETY AT SEA

SAFETY CHECKLIST

- BUOYANCY AID**
- PHONE / RADIO (CH.69)**
- CHECK WEATHER CONDITIONS**
- SIGNED OUT / IN**

Other safety equipment to consider carrying:
Knife
Water
Spares (tape, rope, shackles)
Sun protection
Quick release trapeze harness

LAUNCHING GUIDE



Coming Ashore:

- Return with the wind and waves on windward side of boat
- Stop in deep water beyond the surf break. Look - is it clear of swimmers? Is it clear of boats? Are there other boats coming in? Be prepared to wait offshore until deemed safe to come ashore.
- Prepare the boat and crew for coming ashore such as depower rig and unlock rudders
- Run into a clear area of the beach, well clear of rocks or other users
- Get off the boat on the windward side to avoid injury
- Quickly pull your boat up the beach

Maintain correct sailing etiquette at all times:
Respect boats ahead of you. Beware of junior and beginner sailors. Slow down!
Help Boat Staff during launching / recovery and hauling up
Avoid the race course area(s) while cruising

Emergency Contacts:
RVYC Office: 038-250-116
RVYC Office (Mob): 082-214-7047
Radio Channel 69

Beach Opening Times:
Monday - Thursday 09:00 - 16:00
Friday 09:00 - 17:30
Saturday & Sunday 08:00 - 17:30
If you expect to arrive back later please inform the RVYC office / Boat Staff team

First Aid Boxes
Office / Clubhouse / Boat Store

INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS SIGNAL



Club Rules

- Clubhouse:** No running and no yelling, please. Shirts on at all times.
- Wet clothing:** Hang this on the drying racks near the changing rooms. Do not hang wet gear in the clubhouse.
- Members' boats and equipment:** Do not use, play on, sit on, or touch privately owned boats or equipment without the owner's permission.
- Restricted areas:** Junior students are not permitted in the carparks, behind the kitchen, or in the boatshed areas behind the club without adult supervision. Junior students are not permitted in the Boatmen's shed unless accompanied by their instructor.



THE PIGGY SHIRT 2025 COMPETITION

Final Results & Winner Coronation



The Piggy Shirt Committee, together with RVYC, is proud to announce the winner of the 2025 competition:

THE FLYING YORKSHIREMAN AKA “Capt. TYKE PHIL” EVERY SAILOR’S NIGHTMARE

Renowned for his *highly skilled sailing contradictions*, our very friendly Yorkshire member devoted last season’s sailing activities to producing some of the most memorable “talks of the day” at the veranda’s chatting club. From an incredible flip-over, to a special WWII memorial capsizing on top of a poor OK Dinghy, and the enthusiastic infringement of almost every known sailing rule, Philip has truly left his mark on the season. For these outstanding achievements, the Committee unanimously awarded him the honorary title of *Captain Tyke*. We look forward to Captain Tyke’s performance during the 2026 season and wish him nothing but the best winds.

The Best Picture
A Piggy Year
of Memories
At Varuna



Overall Standing

Philip Yorkshire Capel	5
Grahame Southwick (Fish)	4
Nat Mulford	3
Jon Sims	3
Lynden Thomas Astill	2
Pieri Gualtieri	2
Karl Simpson	2
Steve Timms	1
Joshua Kurtz	1
Damiano Grillo	1
William Astill	1
Zoe Hurrell	1
Carlo "Beluga" Pagano	1
James Young	1
Morton Jakobsen	1
Dirk Janovsky	1
Jonathan Sims	1
Rick Stanton	1
Tobias Kurtz	1
Vello Ehvert	1
Marco Manganelli	1
Levis Marino	1
Pongpun "Kai" Polyote	1



26 December 2025

80th ROLEX Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

Get to know the 628 Nautical Mile Challenge

It all started in 1945, nine yachts set off on Boxing Day for what was meant to be a casual cruise to Hobart - until friendly rivalry turned it into a race. The rest? Is history. Each year, sailors from around the world descend on Sydney Harbour to compete in one of the world's toughest offshore challenges, and it is the most professional base for quality sailing classes in the region. Today, more than a hundred yachts — from 100-foot maxis to Corinthian crews — take on the 628-nautical-mile challenge each year. The Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race remains a symbol of adventure, endurance, and camaraderie — an enduring legend of the sea.



FIVE TEAMS ENTER HISTORIC AMERICA'S CUP ALLIANCE TO SUPERCHARGE FUTURE OF SPORT'S OLDEST TROPHY - Founding teams unite to unleash the potential of the America's Cup, introducing a professional structure and stable sporting calendar to the 174-year-old competition.

Joining the Defender Emirates Team New Zealand and the official Challenger of Record, Athena Racing (GBR), are three teams from AC37: Italy's Luna Rossa, the French K-Challenge, and the Swiss syndicate Tudor Team Alinghi. These five teams are the founding members in the newly introduced America's Cup Partnership Agreement (ACP), an initiative aimed at creating a sustainable infrastructure for sailing's oldest and most prestigious competition. Under the ACP, the event will run on a two-year cycle – a key benefit to teams and commercial partners looking to invest in the long term. AC38 and future America's Cups will be run by an independent management team with oversight from a board of directors made up of representatives of the ACP members. Newly introduced budget caps and revenue sharing amongst the competing teams are hoped to make the event more accessible to new teams for long-term campaigns. A core element of the ACP is a commitment to the long-term future of the Women's and Youth America's Cup and to creating accessible and diverse pathways into the competition. This new era of collaboration between the teams presents an opportunity for the America's Cup to uniquely position itself in the international professional sporting landscape, as one of sport's most demanding technical challenges. Throughout its long and storied history, only four nations – the United States, Australia, Switzerland, and New Zealand – have lifted the 174-year-old trophy. While the America's Cup has always been about designing and building the most technologically advanced boats of the era, recent cycles have seen a breathtaking step change in the complexity and performance of the yachts. Case in point: the AC75 foiling monohulls, now on their third AC cycle, represent the fastest and most technologically advanced sailboats the world has ever seen. These remarkable boats are capable of reaching speeds of 55.6 knots (102.9 km/h), and operate using computing power equivalent to five Formula 1 cars, monitoring over 30,000 data channels, and requiring more than one trillion simulation core hours during design and development.



Source: Yacht Racing Life © 2025

Introducing new members:



Varuna is delighted to welcome our newest member, **Karl Simpson**, a retired engineer, Class of 1961, and an American with extensive experience across Asia. Karl first visited the club for a few sailing lessons and quickly fell in love with our facilities and, most of all, our friendly community. In just a few short weeks, he became a very active sailor in the Hobie fleet.

Sailing alongside **Phil "Yorkshire" Capel**, Karl went on to win the **IB Super Series (Bronze Fleet)** at the **Siamese Cat Cup**, an impressive achievement so soon after joining. Welcome to Varuna, Karl! Fair winds and many more victories ahead!

Coming Soon, March 22!



Reciprocals:



RNZYS Home of the America's Cup

If you plan to visit New Zealand, as a Varuna member, you can access the "Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron

(RNZYS)" in Auckland and visit their facilities, including their trophy room, where you can admire the real America's Cup. Established in 1871, RNZYS remains the official home of the America's Cup after Emirates Team New Zealand defended the oldest sporting trophy in the world at the 37th America's Cup in Barcelona in 2024. If you are interested to visit RNZYS, contact Royal Varuna Yacht Club reception for reciprocal protocol application.



Hot news from the sailing world



Latest news from the America's Cup 38th edition

The Protocol for AC38 introduces several "Next Gen" changes aimed at cost-cutting and performance:

Crew Size: The number of sailors on the AC75 yachts will be reduced from eight to five.

Diversity Mandate: At least one of the three national sailors on board must be female.

Sustainability: Teams with existing AC75 yachts from the 2024 cycle are required to reuse those hulls rather than building entirely new ones.

Youth & Women's Cups: Both the Youth and Women's America's Cups are confirmed to return in Naples for 2027.