

2018 IRC Congress Report from Hong Kong

As in past years the total number of IRC Certificates issued remains fairly constant. Having had a surge of new “fast 40’s” arrive over the past few years, we are seeing a fairly active group of yachts in that band who are competing regularly both inshore and offshore.

There also seems to be a regular turnover of yachts being sold with the new owners continuing to race them in IRC. There also seems to be an increasing number of “local” owners that are now racing regularly within the IRC fleet which is a positive development. We also seem to be attracting a number of mainland China boats to racing in Hong Kong waters on a regular basis.

There continues to be a perception that certain types / designs of boat win more regularly than others. Each divisional split seems to have its favoured winners, whether that is down to design, the presence of “professionals” or \$\$\$ spent on the programme is as always open to interpretation!

ORC has been used for dual scoring in HK over the past year, primarily in the 20-30ft sportsboat fleet against SMS that they currently use. There a number of Magic 25's in HK that race within the Sportsboat fleet and as trapeze keel boats are unable to get an IRC rating. All other boats within that fleets either have or have had in the past, IRC certificates.

The RHKYC intends to run a Sportsboat Asia Pacs in November 2019 and it is a possibility that it will be scored under ORC. Though nothing has yet been officially announced via the regatta website <https://www.asiapacs.com/> If ORC is used it may well open the door to further events in HK using ORC and increased competition to IRC.

There is interest from the RHKYC to run an IRC Asian Championships at some point in the future. The HK IRC Owners' Association which has seen the past committee re elected will first seek to have an inaugural IRC HK Nationals run. From there they will then consider the merits of an Asian Championships and bring any proposal to the IRC Congress at the appropriate time.

Gideon Mowser
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