|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| WEBDOCSHEADER.jpg | rcsrlogo.jpg |

for immediate release
26 March 2016

**Rolex China Sea Race 2016**

*Black Baza* takes IRC Overall
*Alive* second, *Seawolf* third

With 18 boats finished and four retired thus far in the 2016 Rolex China Sea Race, provisional results show Anthony Root and Steve Manning’s Ker42 *Black Baza* lifting the China Sea Race Trophy for corrected time on IRC handicap, with *Alive* posting a second overall to go with her record breaking Line Honours effort.

William Liu’s A40RC *Seawolf* has just finished and provisionally sits in 3rd Overall as well as 1st in IRC Racer 2, which means that their stated aim to “do better than last time (2014)” has well and truly been achieved.

*Black Baza* finished in the early hours of Saturday morning after just over 60 hours of racing, with crew member Wade Morgan enthusing about the previous 24 hours of racing, saying “we were coming in hot all the way, which was unexpected … we probably played the middle a little bit to the south and then we had good breeze so we managed to come straight in to the coast without having to do too much fancy work.” Asked if the crew were happy if they had caught *Alive* on corrected time, Jono Rankine confirmed “Absolutely! We weren’t expecting that at all..” and adding that the high point of the race for the crew was surfing in to the coast at 20kts.

Jono Mahony of *Zanzibar* also enjoyed sailing down the Luzon coast at 18-20kts, noting that “we finished 8 hours quicker than when we won (IRC Overall) in 2012 even though we hit a sticky patch at the finish which allowed EFG Mandrake to sneak past us – but they do that all the time!”

All the finishers have noted their surprise at the excellent conditions once on open water, although Li Li revealed that Swan 82 *UBOX* considered retiring 180nm into the race as they had suffered damage to the head of the mainsail which seemed unfixable.

“The crew managed to come up with a solution …. to lash the head and stay in the race, although it limited the load they could put on it. The first night a problem with the foot of the number one cost a lot of time in really tough weather. It was a tough first day, half of the crew were sea sick and had been working hard on the boat leading into the race, so possibly had not had enough sleep. On the positive side, UBOX finished the race and all the crew have taken it as a positive experience, as this race is practice for the team. The ultimate goal is the Rolex Sydney Hobart and, being realistic, we still have a lot of prep to do. It’s good and although we talk about all this damage, it has been a very positive experience for everybody.”

Eight boats remain on the water, with the last finishers expected in the early hours of Sunday morning, brought in by the tail of the strong monsoon which has given Rolex China Sea Race a record year.

* End -

**About Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club**
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) is one of the oldest sports clubs in Hong Kong and is proud of its rich, colourful history, which stretches back over 160 years of social and competitive sailing and rowing. RHKYC organises a full calendar of local and international racing for both keel boats and dinghies, ranging from round-the-cans to Category 1 offshore races. The Club also provides sailing courses for members and non-members at various levels to nurture the development of sailing.

**About Rolex**

Leading brand of the Swiss watch industry, Rolex, headquartered in Geneva, enjoys an unrivalled reputation for quality and expertise the world over. Its Oyster watches, all certified as chronometers for their precision, are symbols of excellence, performance and prestige. Pioneer in the development of the wristwatch as early as 1905, the brand is at the origin of numerous major watchmaking innovations, such as the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch, launched in 1926, and the Perpetual rotor self-winding mechanism introduced in 1931. Rolex has registered over 400 patents in the course of its history. A truly integrated and independent manu­facturing company, Rolex designs, develops and produces in-house all the essential components of its watches, from the casting of the gold alloys to the machining, crafting, assembly and finishing of the movement, case, dial and bracelet. Rolex is also actively involved in supporting the arts, sports, exploration, the spirit of enterprise, and the environment through a broad palette of sponsoring activities, as well as philanthropic programmes.

For enquiry:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Koko MuellerPR & Communications ManagerTel.: +852 2239 0342 / +852 9488 7497Fax: +852 2838 5738 +852 2572 5399email: Koko.Mueller@rhkyc.org.hkRoyal Hong Kong Yacht ClubKellett Island, Causeway BayHong KongRHKYC website: [www.rhkyc.org.hk](http://www.rhkyc.org.hk) | Lindsay LyonsAssistant Manager – Sailing and PromotionTel: +852 2239 0391Email: Lindsay.Lyons@rhkyc.org.hkFax: +852 2239 0364Royal Hong Kong Yacht ClubKellett IslandCauseway BayHong Kong |