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For immediate release
26 March 2018

# **Rolex China Sea Race**

**Youngest skipper to take on the 2018 Rolex China Sea Race!**

Celebrating his 25th birthday on the eve of the Race, Gordon Liu may be one of the youngest skippers in Rolex China Sea Race history. Gordon, a fresh graduate from the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, will make the crossing on the Sydney 38 Kingsman with his crew of seven.  Kingsman is co-owned and supported by Cowen Chiu, Gordon’s Godfather and Chairman of the Hong Kong Sea School.

Gordon caught the sailing bug in Hong Kong, “I started sailing in 2000 when Optimists were first introduced to the Tai Tam Scout Centre. The Hong Kong Island Region of the Scout Association of Hong Kong held their very first youth sail training lessons and I was one of the participants. I remember there was a sudden thunderstorm and the instructor asked us to sail back while he was recovering some capsized Optimists. It was very windy which frightened me at first but I soon realised that the only way to get myself out from the situation was to take control of the boat and sail back in. Once the boat was under control, it was not scary after all. These principles continue to play an important part in my life and sailing; if you are in an unwanted situation take control and deal with it.”

This will be Gordon’s very first offshore race as skipper and his crew is made up of a combination of experienced sailors and university students. Gordon’s experience comes from offshore passage cruising and he has acquired a few thousand miles as skipper thanks to cruises between Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Kota Kinabalu, Singapore, Pangkor, Langkawi and Phuket.

“As a skipper and co-owner, the biggest challenge has been to build a strong offshore team and knowing our limits. There has been lots of training to get the team and boat prepared.” he said.

Kingsman (previously called Stella owned by Roland Buser (2008) and then Fred Kinmonth (2004)) has taken part in two previous editions of the China Sea Race, placing 3rd in her division and 10th Overall in 2008 and 7th in division and 7th overall in 2004.

In closing, we asked Gordon how the boat name came about and if Kingsman was his favourite movie, “Kingsman is a good movie, I like it. We came up with different options, and when Karl Kwok, owner of MOD Beau Geste (who is also racing in the 2018 Rolex China Sea Race), came up with the name Kingsman. We all liked it!

The Notice of Race for the 2018 Rolex China Sea Race starting on 28 March 2018 is available online at [www.rolexchinasearace.com](http://www.rolexchinasearace.com/).

Video Preview: <https://hkstrategies.egnyte.com/fl/d7ZNqw0Zdq>

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**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.  For more information on the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club please visit [www.rhkyc.org.hk](http://www.rhkyc.org.hk/).

**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 and Cellini watches, all certified as Superlative Chronometers for their precision, performance and reliability, are symbols of excellence, elegance and prestige. Founded by Hans Wilsdorf in 1905, the brand pioneered the development of the wristwatch and 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 invented 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.

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