

## J Class Returns to the Cup



The majesty of the J Class era will return to the America's Cup eighty years after the class last raced for the oldest trophy in international sport. The J Class Association (JCA) and the America's Cup Event Authority have agreed to stage a J Class regatta in Bermuda in June 2017 between the conclusion of the America's Cup Challenger Playoffs and the America's Cup Match. "The J Class era of the America's Cup is widely recognized as being among the high points in Cup history," said Russell Coutts, director of the America's Cup Event Authority (ACEA). "When racing for the America's Cup in the 1930s, the J Class boats embodied grace and power with cutting-edge design and engineering.

Having the J Class join us in Bermuda will create a spectacular blend between the old and new." The J Class boats will be moored in the America's Cup Village in

Dockyard at Bermuda, providing as elegant a sight at rest as their beauty and power are impressive under sail. Louise Morton from the J Class Association (JCA), commented: "The America's Cup organizers have offered the J Class a unique opportunity to be part of the America's Cup for the first time in eighty years.

On behalf of the Owners, Captains and crew, we are delighted to be part of this spectacular event." Racing in the J Class regatta will be organized by the America's Cup race management team with the final two days of racing expected to straddle the opening weekend of the America's Cup Match. The current J Class fleet comprises seven boats, including three original Js, two of which raced for the America's Cup. The seven J Class boats currently sailing are: Endeavour, Hanuman, Lionheart, Rainbow, Ranger, Shamrock V, Velsheda. An eighth J Class yacht is expected to be launched in May 2015.

## LANGKAWI REDEVELOPMENT



The Royal Langkawi Yacht Club (RLYC) is embarking on a major redevelopment of its clubhouse and marina to enhance its facilities and services and better meet the demands of the sailing and yachting community in the region and beyond. Established 18 years ago, the Club has maintained its status as a prominent destination for sailors by providing quality marina and berthing facilities as well as F&B services in an idyllic island setting.

"RLYC has a long history, and while we intend

to maintain the traditions that have been established, we believe that redeveloping will enable us to provide our loyal clientele - and future clients - with what they deserve: world-class marina facilities and boutique hospitality services," said Executive Director and General Manager, Wicky Sundram.

The redevelopment works, scheduled to begin in February 2015 and expected to be completed at the end of October 2015, will include the restructure and design of a new three-storey block of shop lots, lifestyle floor and boutique retail outlets.

The main clubhouse will also undergo major refurbishment, and level 1 will become a grand lobby and reception area. A completely new concept will take over Level 2, featuring eight boutique rooms for guest accommodation, four of which will have balconies overlooking the ocean and marina. The project will involve redevelopment of the marina, including the expansion of megayacht berths. The marina will be fitted out with new power systems, sanitation pumps, safety equipment and additional berths.

In order to accommodate the RLYC redevelopment project, club facilities at RLYC will temporarily cease operations from February 2015 until the end of October 2015. Marina operations will be unaffected.

## WEALTH PARTNERSHIP



The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club has appointed the Geneva-based and family-owned financial institution, Edmond de Rothschild Group, as the Club's first Official Wealth Management Partner.

In addition, Edmond de Rothschild Group has been named the title sponsor of both the Spring and Autumn Regattas as a new Regatta Series. The cumulative results of all classes of racing in both regattas will be used to determine an overall Regatta Series winners.

The Rothschild family has a remarkable history that dates back over 250 years, and their association with competitive sailing, which began in 1876, is truly unique. Baron Benjamin de Rothschild, Chairman of the Edmond de Rothschild Group, has inherited his family's keen passion for the sport, creating the Gitana Team in 2000, and has been actively involved in their success ever since.

Mark Bovaird, GM RHKYC stated, "This partnership with Edmond de Rothschild Group adds several new dimensions to the Club. Not only is this financial institution our first Official Wealth Management Partner, but they will also be the title sponsor of a new regatta series incorporating our Spring and Autumn Regattas. Edmond de Rothschild Group is also known for its fine champagnes, wines and cheeses, which we look forward to sharing with our members and guests at regatta parties, and they have a strong philanthropic vision, which is consistent with that of our own Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club Charity Foundation. Given the family's passion for sailing, we would certainly welcome the opportunity to see the Gitana team back in Hong Kong again soon!"

## Yacht Bonded Area



Nansha New District was recently included in the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone, and now it is announced that Nansha Marina has been issued with an On-Water Yacht Bonded Area Registration Certificate.

The Yacht Bonded Area (YBA) can "store yachts/boats waiting for re-export, imported yachts pending payment of Customs duties and tax payments, vessels temporarily placed in the warehouse by foreign traders, and dealers' yachts pending other Customs procedures and approval etc." This means that new boats arriving in China don't have to be lifted immediately and stored in a bonded warehouse pending all the various payment, that dealers can import boats as stock or display models and do not have to pay import duties until such time as the boats have been sold, and visiting boats from - say - Hong Kong, do not have to be 'imported' with all the financial commitment and bureaucracy that entails, for the sake of an overnight stay. Nansha Marina management are delighted, anticipating a growth in water sports events and races involving Nansha and the outside world, and expecting a tangible boost for the boating industry. "Customers will be more interested in buying a boat when they can see the real thing, rather than reading a brochure and then waiting for months (or longer) for it to arrive. In addition, simplification of Customs formalities will resolve one of the main issues currently limiting yacht movements in China." Making China more accessible can't be a bad thing. It's something that the boating industry and its observers have been waiting for a long time now. This is not a plan - it is here, and now, in Nansha.