

**Christopher Douglas HOWARTH**  
1948 - 2023



By Hong Kong, China Waterski Association

# Eulogy from Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China



## SPORTS FEDERATION & OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF HONG KONG, CHINA

( 198 ) in SFOC/ADM/2023/GC/NSA

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4 September 2023

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Chairman  
Hong Kong, China Waterski Association Limited  
Room 1025, Olympic House  
1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

HON. SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr. Edgar J.T. YANG PDSM

Dear Mr. CHOW,

HON. DEPUTY  
SECRETARIES GENERAL

Mr. WONG Po Kee AM  
Ms. Fay K.F. HO  
Mr. Philip K.Y. MOK

We are deeply saddened to learn the passing away of Mr. Chris HOWARTH, Hon. Secretary of Hong Kong, China Waterski Association and Secretary General of International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation Asia. On behalf of the Federation, I write to extend our deepest sympathies to his family and your Association. May we all remember his contribution to your sport in Hong Kong.

HON. TREASURER

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Our deepest condolence.

Edgar J. T. YANG, PDSM  
Hon. Secretary General

c.c. Mr. Timothy T. T. FOK, GBS, JP, President of SF&OC

# Eulogy from Clement YEUNG (former HKCWA chairman)

## IN MEMORY OF CHRIS HOWARTH

I am deeply saddened that Chris Howarth is no longer with us as we have known each other for over 40 years. He has been an old friend as well as a trusted comrade in serving the Hong Kong Water Ski Association (HKWSA) for the past decades.

I still remember meeting Chris the first time on a sunny weekend in the early 1980's during ski practice at the West Sea Cofferdam of the High Island Reservoir (which was renamed Chong Hing Water Sports Centre a few years later). At that time, Chris was already quite involved in various HKWSA events and activities. At the encouragement of Chris and other association leaders, I started to help out in some of the activities. Over the years, under Chris' mentorship, I gradually took up more responsible roles within HKWSA and also in the Asia region and the rest is history.

Chris' contribution to the development of the sport of water skiing in Hong Kong has been monumental. He has served for a long time as the association's Hon Treasurer besides other roles. He was instrumental in getting HKWSA's acceptance by the government in the 1990's as a recognized sport association for receiving funding. With the support, HKWSA was able to move into its own office in the Olympic House, hire administrative staff, acquire its first inboard ski boat and be able to provide funding for squad training and overseas competitions. The association's annual reporting and budget for funding application were entirely to Chris' credit.

We have worked closely with IWWF and federations in the region to lobby relentlessly on the inclusion of Water Ski in the Olympic and regional games and eventually made it happen in the 2010 Asian Beach Games in Muscat, Oman. Chris was also appointed as the Water Ski Technical Delegate of the 2012 Asian Beach Games in Haiyang, China.

Chris was very industrious, wearing multiple hats, managing the finances for both HKWSA and IWWF as well as serving in other IWWF roles aside from his day time job. I always wondered how he could find that time to accommodate all these important duties. Chris and I used to live close by, so I often visited his home late in the evening to review and sign documents for submission to the government. I am still amazed by the big piles of documents and files on his table, even after all these years.

Chris was a very humble person, never takes credit and always kept a low profile. His gentle and soft spoken manner and work dedication are very much respected by the people around him. Chris will long be missed by the water ski community in Hong Kong and those who know him around the world.

May Chris rest in peace.

### **Clement Yeung**

(Former Chairman of HKWSA & former President of AWWF)



## Eulogy from Gerhard KUTT (former HKCWA Chairman)

I first met Chris Howarth when he was the CFO of Outboard Marine Corporation in Hong Kong under John Beavon. John Beavon got Chris involved with the Water Ski Association, which he loved being part of since the early 1980's. He worked tirelessly writing manuals on how to water ski for the Association, participating in all of the events including ski races, water ski tournaments we held and helped when we transitioned from 3 events, racing, show skiing to wake boarding.

He was the main copywriter and editor of the Fragrant Harbour, Hong Kong's premier boating magazine that served all of the recreational boating crowd that included sailing, cruising, small boats, all divisions of competitive sailing in all classes of boats both local and regional including windsurfing in Hong Kong and the region. He wrote broadly on all matters involving water sports, the politics around it, the challenges that clubs and organizations faced and never took credit for any of his work. He never sought credit. A humble man who - was unbeknownst to most - probably the smartest person you never knew. He was simply brilliant - a genius when it came to financial matters according John Beavon said that of him way back in the early 1980's.

Chris Howarth was also treasurer of the Rugby Union - he actually ran the Rugby Union ensuring that the monies raised all went towards developing the sport and the many tournaments they hosted including the Rugby Sevens - which was more or less born in Hong Kong!

I have known him for nearly 50 years !!

As a former South East Asian Water Ski Champion 1977, and a 3 event water skier, it was Chris who got us recognition and arranged for formal coaching training for me and other members of the Hong Kong Water Ski team to become qualified coaches in the sport. I was happy to have reconnected with Chris after many years of absence. He told me that HKCWA needed coaches and drivers and with Paul Fong, because of Chris's encouragement I am returning to the sport I love to continue to help in the development of the sport with more organized events and competitions, which I will gladly be a part of. It is due to Chris's warm welcome, encouragement and inspiration he is for me that I am now becoming active in this sport again after many years absence.

He had integrity, worked hard, always kept his word, was kind and generous - and someone everyone including me - looked up to for the human being he was.

### **Gerhard KUTT**

(former HKCWA Chairman)



Photo with Gerhard and Clement  
(Former Chairman Trio of HKCWA) in April 2023

## Eulogy from Michael CHOW (current HKCWA Chairman)

我與何雲史（Chris Howarth）已相識多年，他是一位令人難以忘懷的人，以他的聰明才智、善良和慷慨而為人所知。

他的離去對香港滑水界，甚至是國際滑水界來說是個巨大的損失，但我們應該要懷念他是上帝賜予我們的禮物。他過去四十多年來帶給本會無盡的智慧和堅持。他的離開也是上帝為他安排的一份安寧與舒適，希望他能毫無痛苦地離開這個世界。

我們應該慶幸並感激上帝賜予我們與他相處的時光，他的存在豐富了本會的發展，他的慈愛和無私的精神將永遠在我們心中留下深深的烙印。

讓我們在悼念的同時，保持對他美好回憶的珍惜，並將他的精神傳承下去。讓我們彼此支持和鼓勵，以他的榜樣為我們的生活增添更多善良、智慧和仁愛。

在這個悲痛的時刻，讓我們團結在一起，共同追憶他的一生，向他致以最深的敬意和感激之情。他將永遠留在我們的心中，直到我們再次相聚。

願上帝賜予我們安慰和力量，面對這次的失去，並幫助我們繼續前進。

### 周志仁

中國香港滑水總會主席

Chris Howarth, known for his intelligence, kindness, and generosity, has been a cherished acquaintance of mine for many years.

His departure is a significant loss for the waterski and wakesports community in Hong Kong and internationally. We should remember him as a precious gift from God. Over the past four decades, he has brought endless wisdom and dedication to our association.

Let us treasure the memories and carry forward his spirit. Together, let us support and encourage one another, following his example of kindness, wisdom, and love.

In this moment of sorrow, let us unite in remembrance, offering our deepest respect and gratitude. He will forever remain in our hearts until we meet again.

### CHOW Chi Yan Michael

Chairman

Hong Kong, China Waterski Association



Receiving Coach of the Year Award from Michael CHOW in 2019

## Eulogy from Ivy JUNG (Ex-Hon Sec & Staff of HKCWA)

Hi Chris,

It's been one month since you left us in peace, and I still have not figured how to feel about it, except shocked and sad. I always blame myself for not coming back early.

Thank you for treating me like your daughter and spoiling me, for always believing in me during the times where I honestly doubt myself. I was never a confident person but a defensive, dumb, impulsive, impatient person. You never forced me to tell you about my past, instead you treated me so kind, patient and helped me a lot. You were the kindest, wisest, calmest gentleman we know.

You were such a low profile and humble person. You never take credits for what you've done, never brag about all your achievements. I still remember when I got admitted to my master degree, the first one I told was you. I was so excited, saying that without you I couldn't make it happen. You were just smiling telling me that I deserved it.

You were an inspiration to me, thank you so much for your lots of encouragement in my life.

You were patiently teaching me to waterski, motivating me to try adaptive waterskiing/ wakeboarding. The life jacket you sewed for me, I still have it.

Words can never express how grateful I am for everything you've done for me. Without all of your support, I wouldn't be the person that I am today. Thank you for your courage, trust and protection.

I am so blessed to have had you in my life. All the credits went to you for my achievements. "You raise me up to more than I can be."

Goodbye for now, we will meet again in heaven when my time comes. Farewell to our beloved, we shall forever love and miss you.

With love

**Ivy JUNG**

(Former Staff in 2011-2017 & Hon. Sec. in 2017-2019)



Celebrating Ivy achieved her Master Degree in early 2018

## Eulogy from Daisy CHEN, Chairlady of Chinese Taipei Waterski & Wakeboard Federation

親愛的 Chris：

當我得知你離世的消息時，我實在不敢相信，所以不斷地確認這個消息的真實性！還記得第一次在 2017 香港 Wakefest 結束時在場外和你聊天時就覺得你非常的紳士，說話輕聲細語的非常溫柔，我就陪這你一路撿完周邊落下的菸蒂。此後，每年在 Wakefest 的賽程中總是看見你揹著相機忙裡忙外～ 2023 的 3 月在奧運大樓辦公室和你聊天後更發現你是如此細心且全力支持滑水運動且很有耐心地指導這個英文不好的我如何可以更加推廣及承辦滑水運動。2023 的 7 月份我們終於促成 New Taipei Wakefest 及國際教練研習課程的計畫和活動，還沒開始你卻離開了我們，真的令我非常的惋惜。千言萬語都無法表達我的你的尊敬及思念，希望你能在另一端美好的世界裡更美好。

永遠想念你的

**Daisy CHEN**

中華民國滑水總會會長

(Chairlady of Chinese Taipei Waterski & Wakeboard Federation)



Discussion for organizing the next competition (Jul, 2023)

## Eulogy from David Robinson, Fragrant Harbour

### EULOGY

Fragrant Harbour's association with Chris Howarth began many years ago when he was a senior member of the Outboard Marine Corporation's team on Tsing Yi Island. Through Chris, OMC supported Fragrant Harbour with advertising and high end products.

When OMC was bought by Bombardier Recreational Products in 2001, Chris moved into other things, focusing on water skiing and trying his hand in other areas where he could make use of his marine knowledge.

In October 2002, Chris wrote his first article for Fragrant Harbour. It was about the 14th Asian Games held in Busan, Korea, and appeared in our Number 199 issue.

Since then, for 21 years, Chris has fronted up for the magazine at countless local sailing, paddling, wakeboarding and waterskiing events, spreading the good name of Fragrant Harbour through his writing and keen eye for a good picture.

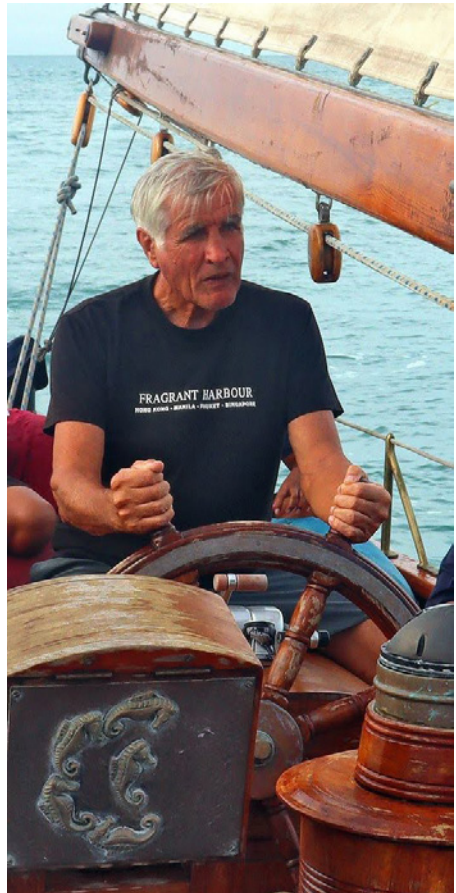
Chris' work for Fragrant Harbour also extended overseas where he made firm friends through his coverage of big events in Malaysia, Thailand the Philippines and China.

His photo images, can also be seen framed on the walls of the Aberdeen Boat Club, Hebe Haven Yacht Club and in the homes and offices of sailors and paddlers far and wide.

Chris was a gentle man and will be missed by all who knew him.

### David Robinson

Proprietor – Fragrant Harbour



## Christopher Douglas HOWARTH

DOB: 24 Oct 1948

City of Born: Cheltenham, England

### Position in Hong Kong, China Waterski Association:

- Chairman or Hon. Treasurer (before 2019)
- Hon. Secretary (2019-2023)
- Coaching Director of HK Team (2019-2023)
- Person in charge of Waterskiing

### Position in International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (IWWF):

- Media & Communication Unit
- Sports Business Unit

### Position in IWWF Asia:

- Secretary General
- Coach & Development Unit
- Environment Unit

### Other business he involved in Hong Kong:

- Hong Kong Rugby Union
- Hong Kong Sailing Federation
- Fragrant Harbour



 NAUTIQUE



# WATERSKI SERIES 2023



HONG KONG, CHINA

28th & 29th October 2023

# Hong Kong Open Water Ski Championships 2023

Part of the IWWF Asia Waterski Series 2023 featuring Slalom & Tricks,  
in memory of Chris Howarth,



**VENUE** CHONG HING WATER SPORTS CENTRE, SAI KUNG  
**DATE** 27-29 OCTOBER 2023 **TIME** 9:00AM – 4:00 P.M.

**Title Sponsor**

  
ASIA YACHTING  
A SIGNATURE OF LUXURY

 NAUTIQUE

**Sanctioned By**

  
INTERNATIONAL WATERSKI & WINDSPORT FEDERATION

**Organizer**



**Subvented By**

文化體育及旅遊局  
藝術及體育發展基金  
CULTURE, SPORTS AND TOURISM BUREAU  
Arts & Sport Development Fund



## Overseas Competition



Team Photo during 2002 China National Waterski Championships



Chris with the Senior Hong Kong team (Nigel Talamo, Michael CHOW, Julian SHAMDAS, Vincent LAW) at the 2016 Asian Championships. Yeonggwang, Korea

# Overseas Competition



Team Photos with Hong Kong Team during the IWWF Asian Waterski & Wakesports Championships 2022

## Hong Kong Team Training & Youth Development



Coaching during the Beginner Training Course

## Hong Kong Team Training & Youth Development



Coaching during the Beginner Training Course



Skiing in one of the competition in 2000s

## Local Competition



Skiing in one of the competitions in 2000s



2002 Ski Racing Competition

## Local Competition



2003 Hong Kong National Water Ski & Wakeboard Championships



Presenting Team Award during Island Wake 2005 Hong Kong National Open Water Ski & Wakeboard Championships

## Local Competition



2006 Hong Kong National Waterski and Wakeboard Championships



2007 Round Kau Sai Chau Water Ski Racing Competition

## Local Competition



2016 Nautique Wakefest Hong Kong



Prize Presenting 2019 Hong Kong Open Water Ski Championships

## Local Competition



Skiing during 2019 Hong Kong Open Water Ski Championships



64<sup>th</sup> Festival of Sports – Water Ski Competition in 2021

## Local Competition



Preparing the handle during 2019 Hong Kong Water Ski Open Championships



Photo with Carrie CHAN, the representative of MasterCraft & Islandwake during the MasterCraft 2023 Hong Kong National Wakesurf Championships

## Local Competition



Presenting award during Nautique Wakefest Hong Kong 2023



Nautique IWWF Waterski Series 2023 – Hong Kong Open Water Ski Championships 2023 – in memory of Chris Howarth

## Meeting and Conference for HKCWA/IWWF/IWWF Asia



2001 IWSF Ceremony with Paul, Ron, Max



With Bill Yeargin, CEO of Correct Craft, Clement Yeung & Frankie Mak  
at the pier of the Jumbo Floating Restaurant in 2011

## Meeting and Conference for HKCWA/IWWF/IWWF Asia



Asian Beach Games, Haiyang, 2012



2012 with IWWF and AWWF leaders Kuno Ritschard, Max Kirwin, Ron Ferguson, Thomas Lin, Paul Fong, Clement Yeung in Korea

## Meeting and Conference for HKCWA/IWWF/IWWF Asia



Asian Beach Games Phuket 2014 with Thomas LIN



On a train to China in 2017 for IWWF Event

## Meeting and Conference for HKCWA/IWWF/IWWF Asia



Photos during IWWF Coaching Clinics in Pyongyang in June 2017

# Meeting and Conference for HKCWA/IWWF/IWWF Asia



2017 2<sup>nd</sup> IWWF Asia & Oceania Cable Wakeboard & Wakeskate Championships



Technical Officials of the 2019 Singha IWWF Asia Waterski & Wakesports Championships

## Meeting and Conference for HKCWA/IWWF/IWWF Asia



Chris introducing delegates from Iran, Japan and Saudi Arabia. Congress in Chuncheon Korea. 2022



IWWF Delegates in recent years

## Meeting and Conference for HKCWA/IWWF/IWWF Asia



With the Waterski Association of Jammu and Kashmir, Lake Dal, Srinagar in 2023



Training Camp in Chandigarh, India in 2023



Presenting wakeboards to the Indian Jammu & Kashmir Waterski Association in 2023

# Memorial Service for Chris Howarth, 24 Sep 2023 organized by Hebe Haven Yacht Club





***Chris Howarth (1948-2023)***

***We all miss you!***

**Acknowledge**

Michael CHOW, Gerhard KUTT, Nigel TALAMO, Clement YEUNG, Sportsoho  
Friends of Chris HOWARTH

