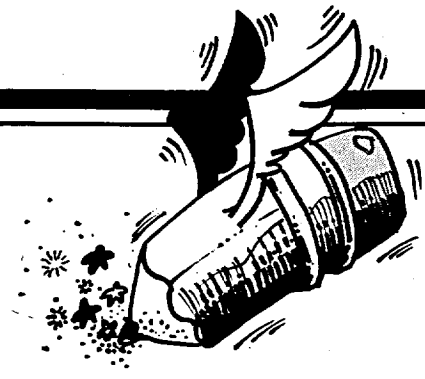


□ THE LETTER BOX... □



Some members of our High Commission in Hong Kong took part in the annual Hong Kong Rickshaw Race. *Liaison* has received the following report from P. Pigott.

THE CHARIOTS OF MAPLE

The first rickshaw races in the Colony were impromptu affairs run by American servicemen on leave from Vietnam to "let off steam". In an effort to raise money for their charities, the Round Tables of Hong Kong adapted this idea and now hold annual sponsored rickshaw races in the heart of the downtown area. On November 1, the Immigration Section of the Commission, possibly also to "let off steam" from their rigorous workload, entered male and female teams in the event.

Sponsored by the Canadian Club of Hong Kong, the teams were organised by the very capable Patricia Nicoll with rickshaws provided by the Round Table. Each team member was required to pull the device with a passenger in it (in this case the smallest, lightest local staff member they could persuade,) around a given part of the course before handing over to another in the relay. The race required fitness, agility and well-practised handing over techniques — none of which our teams had! But with those maple bedecked shorts, and the knowledge that the Canadian Club had raised a considerable sum for charity, our lads and lasses could not but win. The variety of teams entered represented the Fire Department, the Correctional Services, the noble "hongs", and the girls from a well known Kowloon nightclub.

The organisers estimated that over \$70 000 was raised by the event, as were the hopes of the professional rickshaw men at the Star Ferry who after



the Stock Market crash, hoped that the public would forsake their BMWs and return to this mode of transportation.

Finally, in recognition of the true spirit of international amateurism — and because they had never seen such shorts, either — the local newspaper featured our most athletic team member pulling away giving her all in living colour. Maple Leaves Forever! □

CREDITS

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