

Shipowner support for Hong Kong kids

Bob Rust

Hong Kong's venerable Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) won the backing of an anonymous shipowner for its recent Po Leung Kuk charity ball.

The publicity-shy shipowner channelled his contribution through the Tribini Capital containership investment house, in which he is a shareholder. Tribini has made modest contributions to the annual orphanage ball since

2005 but this time got to rub elbows with the big financial names that are typically the main ball sponsors.

"He thought this time we needed a little more publicity than he did," Tribini's Thomas Soderberg told TradeWinds.

The sponsorship brought in 1980s hitmaker Huey Lewis and the News as entertainment for the evening, which raised over HKD 10m (\$1.3m) to pay for the university education of Po Leung Kuk orphanage kids.

"They bring in the kids, who greet you with 'You would like me to go to school, sir?' and sell you raffle tickets," said Soderberg. "I tell people to make sure they have HKD 200 in their socks for the taxi ride home."

The FCC dates back to 1943, when it was organised in pre-Revolutionary China before fleeing the Reds in 1949. But these days its members are Hong Kong's business and political elite rather than journalists.



► **STILL GOING STRONG:** Huey Lewis and the News get the crowd moving.



► **CAPITAL TIME:** From left, Julian Proctor of Tiger Group, Monica Proctor, Thomas Soderberg of Tribini Capital, Marianne Hald, Anders Hald of Maersk Broker and Barbara Yu Larsson.

Photos: TRIBINI





