



ROLEX FASTNET RACE 2013

SELECTED STORY LEADS + INTERNATIONAL & UK FOCUS

Pages 1-8 – General story leads
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A selection of story leads from some of the 22 countries represented by boats and crews in the race.

Note: The document will be updated until the start of the race.
August 2013

Images: Thanks to: Rolex/Carlo Borlenghi, Daniel Forster, Kurt Arrigo; Tim Wright/photoaction.com; Rick Tomlinson/ rick-tomlinson.com and other contributors

Please note: This document will be regularly updated with new stories added in the build up to the race. Please contact Katie Steiness (contact details below) for story ideas and features.

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ROLEX FASTNET RACE 2013 STORY LEADS

AIMING FOR THIRD WIN

Niklas Zennström, 21.94m/72-foot British Mini Maxi Rán 2 (GBR)

Fastnet Challenge Cup winner aims for three in a row. Niklas Zennström's 72' mini maxi Rán 2 is hoping to win the Rolex Fastnet Race for an unprecedented third time in a row.

Against mounting odds in 2011, Niklas Zennström's 72-foot Rán 2 became the fourth yacht to claim successive overall race wins. Securing a third victory this year would elevate Rán 2 to the most successful boat in the event's history.

- Should Rán 2 win this year, she will become only the second yacht to win the race overall three times (Jolie Brise is the other), and the first to do so three times in succession: a feat which, in the unpredictable and highly competitive world of offshore racing, would border on miraculous.
- Having won the Fastnet Challenge Trophy in two consecutive events (2009 and 2011), Rán 2 joined the elite club of Jolie Brise (1925, 1929 & 30), Dorade (1931 & 33), Myth of Malham (1947 & 49) and Carina (USA, 1955 & 57).
- Tim Powell, Rán 2's Team Manager, has competed in four round the world races: *"Experiencing the start of the Fastnet is unlike any other offshore race and this year with a record entry it will be a special moment for everybody in the race. I would especially like to wish the young crew of Jolie Brise a great race. I started racing offshore with The Youth Challenge and if you told me then that I would have the chance of winning it three times, I wouldn't have believed you. For me, The Fastnet will always be a very special race."*



LINE HONOUR BATTLE

Abu Dhabi Volvo 70 'Azzam' Defends Title (UAE)

In the 2011 Rolex Fastnet Race, Abu Dhabi - skippered by British yachtsman and double Olympic medallist Ian Walker - set a new monohull race record of 42 hours 39 minutes, proving that the bar is still capable of being moved.

The Abu Dhabi Volvo 70 boat 'Azzam' is back to defend its title as current monohull record holder. The crew onboard for the Rolex Fastnet Race 2013 will include a number of Emiratis representing Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi has confirmed its entry in the 2014-2015 Volvo Ocean Race, having come 5th in the 2011/12 Volvo Ocean Race. Skipper Ian Walker explains what they would like to get out of this Rolex Fastnet Race: *"We wish to defend our monohull course record and enjoy this great race again and to get some offshore race practice and test some potential new crew members for the next Volvo Ocean Race. We have no real expectations as we recognise that much depends on the weather gods."*



<http://www.volvoceanraceabudhabi.com>/<http://www.facebook.com/AbuDhabiOceanRacing>

Media contact: Sam Dulka: SDulka@tcaabudhabi.ae

OTHER VOLVO 70S

There will be two other Volvo 70s competing:

Monster Project (RUS), a second generation Volvo Open 70, originally commissioned by Team Russia, for the 2008/09 Volvo Ocean Race. She will sail with 6 regular crew on board plus 10 Russian sailors including Athens Olympic Silver Medalist, Rodian Luka.

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Team SCA (SWE) will sail with an all-female crew preparing for the 2014-15 Volvo Ocean Race (see notes later in doc).

ALL TOGETHER – FOR EUROPE FAST MONOHULL OUT TO GRAB LINE HONOURS

Esimit Europa 2: Maxi RP100: 30.48m (100ft), Jochen Schümann/ Igor Simcic (SLO)

Many of the yachts racing in the huge fleet will be dwarfed by the largest yacht competing, Esimit Europa 2 - one of the fastest and technologically most advanced sailing yachts in the world - with



a maximum speed over 38 knots. It is 30m (100 feet) in length, 5.3m wide, with a 44 metre high mast. This will be their first Rolex Fastnet Race. The 18 crew are an all-star cast of top sailors from 10 different European nations. The Esimit Europa project, represented by the Esimit Europa 2 yacht and Esimit Sailing Team, aims to promote pan-European cooperation and spread a sense of common European identity through the unifying power of sports.

The crew includes America's Cup, Volvo Ocean Race and Olympic sailors – all have their sights set on the prize for line honours. Esimit Europa 2's skipper, Jochen Schümann (GER), is one of the most outstanding sailors of all times. He is a two x America's Cup winner, three x Olympic champion and holds several world and European titles in different sailing classes.

Founded in 1995, the Esimit Europa project started as a visionary idea by owner, Igor Simcic from Slovenia. Since 2010, Esimit Europa 2 has claimed 22 line honours at all 22 races attended and set 6 course records (including Giraglia Rolex Cup). The Esimit Europa project is under the patronage of the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and is endorsed by Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, and Sergey Lavrov, Russian Foreign Minister.

<http://www.esimit.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/esimiteuropa>; <https://twitter.com/EsimitEuropa>

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Gazprom (main sponsor), BMW (official partner), Adidas (official sponsor), Medot (sponsor), Cinkarna (sponsor)

JOLIE BRISE: HISTORY AND YOUTH

Jolie Brise, Le Havre Pilot Cutter 1913, Dauntsey's School(GBR), West Lavington, Nr Devises, Wiltshire (GBR)

Jolie Brise won the very first Fastnet Race in 1925 when 7 boats entered the race. Owned by Commander Evelyn George Martin, the 56ft gaff-rigged pilot cutter finished the race in 6 days, 14 hours and 45 minutes. She went on to win again in 1929 and 1930 and is the only yacht (so far) to have won the prestigious Fastnet Challenge Cup three times. Built in 1913, she is competing this year to celebrate her 100th birthday. This most historic yacht will be sailed by pupils from Dauntsey's School, some as young as aged 15.



Skipper Toby Marris:

"Since Dauntsey's School started to sail Jolie Brise, over 9000 pupils have sailed on her. She sails about 220 days each year, clocking up about 10,000 miles. We have raced across the Atlantic with The Tall Ships Race, as far north as inside the Arctic Circle, east as far as Russia and south as far as the Cape Verde Islands. Jolie Brise is available for charter but during Dauntsey's School's holidays, the pupils have priority. For the Fastnet, we will have seven girls and boys from Dauntsey's School, all under 18 and two crew selected by The Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust. We believe we will be the oldest boat in the fleet with the youngest crew. This year's race will be a once in a lifetime experience. Our goal is always to enjoy sailing her, but this race will become part of her history, so it is very special."

Skipper/Owner: Toby Marris (Dauntsey's School) <http://www.joliebrise.com>

Contact email: marristr@dauntseys.wilts.sch.uk

LARGEST YACHT IN THE FLEET

LADY SKIPPER IN WORLD'S FASTEST OFFSHORE BOAT

Dona Bertarelli/Spindrift Racing, Maxi Trimaran Spindrift 2 (Ex Maxi Banque Populaire)
Spindrift 2: VPLP 140 Trimaran: 40.00m (131ft)

Leading the charge will be the world's fastest offshore boat. As *Banque Populaire V Maxi*, the 40m trimaran romped around the course in a record time of 1 day, 8 hours and 48 minutes in the hands of skipper Loick Peyron. This boat is also holder of the Jules Verne Trophy for sailing non-stop around the world and, in 2009, set the Eastbound North Atlantic sailing record of 3 days, 15 hours, 25 mins, 48 secs, covering the 907.9nm at an average speed of 32.94 knots.



The boat has since been sold to the Dona Bertarelli-backed *Spindrift Racing* campaign, where Bertarelli and Yann Guichard intend to continue and improve upon the amazing giant trimaran's record breaking career.

Sailing obviously runs in the family for Dona Bertarelli as she is not only the business and life partner of Yann Guichard, but she is also Ernesto Bertarelli's sister.



The Rolex Fastnet Race 2013 will be the first record breaking attempt of their campaign. Dona explains:

"I am proud and happy to be able to sail on this legendary boat; it will be a great and difficult challenge to improve on the records already achieved by this trimaran. The 2013 Rolex Fastnet Race will be the first race the maxi tri will do after its acquisition and refit. The boat is the current holder of the Fastnet record. It now belongs to the racing stable Spindrift Racing and will race with a

new crew and wearing new colours. It's a mythical race, renowned worldwide, where the best sailors and boats come together to challenge themselves. For our first race with Spindrift 2, we take the challenge to sail to the highest expectations: a victory."

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OTHER BIG TRIMARANS - Three other massive trimarans will join Spindrift 2:-

- Banque Populaire (formerly Franck Cammas' *Groupama 3*), skipper: Sebastien Duclos
- Edmond de Rothschild, skipper: Sebastien Josse
- Prince de Bretagne, skipper: Lionel Lemonchois
- Oman Air - Musandam, skipper: Sidney Gavignet

TRI-ING FOR RECORD ATTEMPT WITH BRAND NEW BOAT

Maxi-Multihull Prince de Bretagne, Lionel Lemonchois (Brittany)

"This race is the most important classic race around, we can't miss the Fastnet. The route is good and also technical. For us, it will be a perfect race to improve our new boat. "We are still in a phase of learning because the boat is very new. So our expectation is to sail with MOD 70 Class, Banque Populaire, Gitana 11 and try to be on the match with them," Lionel Lemonchois

The new maxi-multihull sponsored by Prince de Bretagne was first launched in October 2012. Bought as a 60ft ex-Orma 60, it is now 80 feet long and the three hulls are new along with the mast. Skipper, Lionel Lemonchois has raced in the Rolex Fastnet several times before in Maxi-Multihulls, IMOCA and Orma and won in 1999 with Catherine Chabaud on *Whirlpool* in the IMOCA class.

<http://www.princede Bretagne-mer.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/MaxiPrinceDeBretagne>,
<https://twitter.com/trimaranpdb>. **Press contact:** Fanny Evenat, Email: fanny@rivacom.fr,

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PREVIOUS RECORD HOLDER

ICAP Leopard, Maxi, Mike Slade (GBR), LONDON

Mike Slade's primarily British crewed 100ft Maxi ICAP Leopard has had a refit since she competed in the last Rolex Fastnet Race in 2011. She is a former record holder and has twice crossed the finish line first in 2007 and 2009 and will be tough to beat given the right mix of conditions. In 2007 ICAP Leopard became the first monohull yacht to reach Plymouth in less than 48 hours, breaking a totem barrier unimaginable back in 1925 when Jolie Brise completed the first race in just under 147 hours.



Mike Slade's record breaking Maxi ended the 2012 season in style, scorching across the Atlantic in just over 7 days, to win The International Maxi Association's Transatlantic Race. Line Honours in a tough RORC Caribbean 600 was to follow and after sailing back across the Atlantic, ICAP Leopard is now ready for an extensive racing and charter programme in Europe, including the historic Rolex Fastnet Race.

Contact: Louise White, louise@leopard3.com, M: +44 (0)7909 662233

SAM DAVIES AND ANNIE LUSH ON ALL-FEMALE TEAM SCA PREPARE FOR VOLVO OCEAN RACE (SWE)

To race around the planet is one of the greatest adventures on earth and one campaign ahead of the game for the 2014-2015 Volvo Ocean Race is Sweden's Team SCA who are already out on the water training from their base in Lanzarote, Canary Islands.

An all-female crew will be on board Team SCA's Volvo 70 yacht for the 45,000 mile race and are being trained and prepared for the race by 3 experienced coaches including Volvo Ocean Race veterans Brad Jackson and Joao "Joca" Signorini. In the last three editions of the Volvo Ocean Race, the team that was up and running first, won the race. If Team SCA win the race or secure a podium place, they will make ocean racing history because for the first time in 12 years an all-female crew will be on board.



First five crew members. (Left to right) Sophie Ciszek (AUS), Carolijn Brouwer (NED), Sam Davies (GBR), Liz Wardley (AUS) and Annie Lush (GBR)

The team will use the Rolex Fastnet Race as a vital training ground for their preparations for one of the sporting world's most challenging events.

The first five crew members have already been selected: (Left to right in photo above) Sophie Ciszek (AUS), Carolijn Brouwer (NED), Sam Davies (GBR), Liz Wardley (AUS) and Annie Lush (GBR). The rigorous selection process to find the best crew continues.

VETERAN FASTNET RACERS

Skippers who have competed the most times:

27 times – Ken Newman (GBR), Marinero, Swan 46 (GBR)

25 times – Piet Vroon (NED), Tonnerre de Breskens 3, Ker 46 (NED)

Six decades of offshore racing & 25th Fastnet as skipper

Dutchman Piet Vroon will be just 83 when he hikes his 46ft grand-prix racer, Tonnerre de Breskens 3 down the Solent for his 25th Fastnet. He's only missed out on one Fastnet Race in 1995. He took part in his first RORC race in 1955 and first Fastnet in 1963. Tonnerre de Breskens 3 has won the RORC season overall twice in a row (2010, when she was also Yacht of the Year) and again in 2011. She missed out in 2012 by a single point. Vroon was also awarded the Somerset Memorial Trophy for outstanding racing achievement.



27 Fastnet Races: Ken Newman has competed in the most Fastnets

Piet Vroon only has one great rival for the most Fastnet races and that's 83 year old Ken Newman, who has notched up 27 Fastnets and is going for his 28th this year.



Newman has sailed on many boats over his career, usually as navigator, but in 2009, he chartered a Swan 48 for the race, winning the Dennis Doyle Memorial Salver for the skipper who has sailed in the most Fastnets.

Photo Credit: Rolex/Carlo Borlenghi

AND THE YOUNG ACHIEVERS...

YOUNGEST SAILOR

Eos, Elan 410, 12 year old Angus Stuart/Dad (Rod Stuart), Glasgow, Scotland
Rod Stuart from Glasgow will be racing with Angus, his 12 year old son, who is likely to be the youngest crew member racing in the Rolex Fastnet Race this year. Angus Stuart has been sailing all his life. More recently, he has enjoyed yacht racing, after years of cruising with the family. Angus lives in Glasgow and often races on his Dad's boat on the Clyde. In 2012, he was also the youngest competitor in the Round Ireland Race. During that race there was some pretty rough weather, which he coped with well, even managing to sleep through a cabin door falling off and landing on top of him! Angus says he enjoys the excitement of racing, and the banter on the boat. He's really looking forward to the challenge of the Fastnet.



YOUNGEST-EVER VENDEE GLOBE SKIPPER

Macif, IMOCA 60, François Gabart (FRA)



At 29 years old, French Skipper, François Gabart is the youngest skipper to win the legendary 2012-13 Vendée Globe. He is also the current IMOCA World Champion. Gabart finished the round the world race in 78 days, two hours, 16 minutes, beating the previous mark of 84 days and three hours set by countryman Michel Desjoyeaux in 2009. He will compete in the Rolex Fastnet Race along with other Vendée Globe skippers competing in their IMOCA 60s including Bernard Stamm and Alex Thomson.

In total, eight IMOCA 60s will be on the start line:

Boat	Skipper	Website	Press contact
SUI2012 Cheminees Poujolat	Bernard Stamm	http://www.bernard-stamm.com/	Fanny EVENAT: fanny@rivacom.fr Regis RASSOULI: regis@rivacom.fr
GBR99 Hugo Boss	Alex Thomson	www.alexthomsonracing.com	Lara Ellsworth-Jones Lara@alexthomsonracing.com Team Manager: stew@alexthomsonracing.com
FRA301 Macif	François Gabart	http://www.francois-gabart.com/	Valérie Beaulieu: yb@windreport.com Aline BOURGEOIS: ab@windreport.com
FRA001 Maitre Coq	Jeremie Beyou	http://www.jeremie-beyou.com/	Laurence CARAES: laurence.caraes@kaori.fr Catherine ECARLAT: Catherine.ecarlat@kaori.fr You can copy Sylvain HAY (Team Manager) to your requests: sylvainhay1@gmail.com
GER101 Mare	Jörg Riechers	http://www.mare-racingteam.com/	Stephanie HAACK: haack@mare.de Maxime ARRONDEL: ma@windreport.com Zuzana NAVRATILOVA: zuzana@yacht-man.com
FRA25 Safran	Marc Guillemot	http://www.safransailingteam.com	Mathilde MERMOD: T: +33 1 55 38 98 20

FRA62 VOTRE NOM Bertrand de Broc <http://www.bertrand-de-broc.fr/>
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Catherine COQUIL: contact@bertrand-de-broc.fr

FRA85 PRB Vincent Riou www.prb.fr/voile

Fabienne MORIN: +33 1 77 12 52 42

HUGO BOSS, IMOCA 60, Alex Thomson

"I am really excited to be back on Hugo Boss racing against the other Imoca 60s in this year's Rolex Fastnet. The last time I was on a start line with a lot of those guys was to sail around the world in the Vendee Globe. There is bound to be some strong competition between us. It is a legendary race and I always enjoy being part of it."

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IMOCA

For more information about the IMOCA class, please contact:

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www.imoca.org



A SEPARATE FIGARO CLASS FOR FIRST TIME

Nine Figaro boats (33ft French racer) will be on the start line, racing in a separate class for the first time in the Rolex Fastnet.

YOUNG ACADEMY SAILORS SHOWCASE FIGARO CLASS

The Rolex Fastnet is the pinnacle event in the 2013 season for Artemis Offshore Academy double-handed duos Sam Matson and Robin Eley (Artemis 21) and Alex Gardner and Dyfrig Mon (Artemis 43). Having raced together as part of the Academy part-time Development Squad since

2011, student sailors Robin and Sam are looking forward to testing their mettle against more than one Figaro here in the UK as, for the first time in its history, the Rolex Fastnet opens its entry to the one-design Figaro Bénéteau II class.

With up to 10 Figaros expected on the start line in August, including five Artemis Offshore Academy boats, Academy graduates and a number of French competitors, the establishment of a Figaro class in the world's largest yacht race, held on the doorstep of the Artemis Offshore Academy, is a huge step forward for British short-handed offshore sailing. The Artemis Offshore Academy will be taking on the race in force, with usually solo Academy Solitaire du Figaro competitors Ed Hill and Jack Bouttell looking to team up for the race, and with Artemis Mini sailors Nikki Curwen and Lizzy Foreman. Sam Goodchild, Nick Cherry and Henry Bomby are also due on the start line for the race, with Henry set to storm to Plymouth for the opening of his title sponsor's restaurant, the RockFish, owned by well known TV chef Mitch Tonks.

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25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGMA 38

The Sigma 38 Class Association is delighted to announce that in its 25th Anniversary year the class will field one of the biggest one design entries in the 2013 Rolex Fastnet race. A fitting tribute to this British yacht specifically designed by David Thomas in the 1980s to handle tough offshore conditions in response to the tragic Fastnet of 1979 where force 10 gales decimated the fleet. Developed as a racer/cruiser, the Sigma 38 has more than demonstrated her staying power and versatility, both as a tough offshore racer as well as a highly competitive round the cans contender.



The Sigma 38 primary ethos is to maintain a competitive one design class, where sailing ability counts more than the size of one's wallet! The class demonstrates that you don't need the newest, most expensive toys to enjoy exciting, competitive, close quarter racing. Encouraging better and closer competition by sharing skills with new owners and building up the experience of younger members plays a vital role in this. Although highly competitive on the water, the class also prides itself on having a friendly, sociable approach off the water, sharing advice on optimising performance and boat maintenance and with numerous crew parties.

For further information and photos, please contact: Susan Rainger, raingersh@btinternet.com or telephone 07746 466841

HOT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR CLASS40 FLEET:



GBR90	40 Degrees	Peter Harding
FRA124	Al Bucq	Brieuc Maisonneuve
FRA131	Des Pieds Et Des Mains	Damien Seguin
FRA88	Eärwen	Catherine Pourre
GBR97	Fortissimo	Julian Metherell
FRA130	GDF Suez	Sébastien Rogues
FRA119	Lord Jiminy	Bruno Jourden
GBR93	Momentum Ocean Racing	Emma Creighton & Dan Dytch
NED75	Moonpalace	Adriaan van Oord
FRA60	Obportus 3	Olivier Roussey
FRA43	Palanade	Olivier Magre
FRA113	Partouche	Christophe Coatnoan
NOR12212	Solo	Rune Aasberg
GBR52	Swish	Roderick Knowles
FRA65	Tales	Louis Duc
ESP123	Tales II	Gonzalo Botin Sanz de Sautuola
AUT49	Vaquita	Vaquita Sailing GmbH
FRA61	Zahia	Cédric De Kervenael

BOATS BY DESIGN

J/Boats dominate fleet

The 2013 edition of the Rolex Fastnet Race promises to be a challenge again to navigators and crews. According to a report in J News, remarkably this will be the first time that J/Boats is the dominant brand with 44 boats sailing or nearly 13% of the fleet in IRC Class of 340 boats.

Other designs are well represented too:-

French company Beneteau has 38 First's sailing in the fleet

Nautor-Swan company from Finland has 17 Swan's-a-sailing

Danish X-Yachts has 14 teams participating

Italy's premiere Grand Soleil sees 8 "spaghetti-swans" cruising

French Archambault yard sees 9 teams engaged

The Sigma 38 was actually designed for the Fastnet 25 years ago – 15 boats are currently entered for their anniversary year.

JUST THE TWO OF US: RECORD NUMBER OF TWO-HANDERS

With 41 entries, there will be a record number of boats sailing Two-Handed this year. There will also be some boats in the separate Figaro class racing with just two crew. Watch out for Nick Martin's J/105 Diablo-J, currently RORC Yacht of the Year after winning the two-handed championship.

FIRST TIMERS, CORINTHIAN SAILORS & SEASONED RORC RACERS

For the large number of Corinthian competitors drawn to this prodigious event, some sailing for the first time and embarking on a personal adventure, others seasoned Rolex Fastnet campaigners, it is far from simply a question of making up the numbers. Recent race winners have included Jean-Yves Chateau's 33ft/10m Iromiguy from France and the 50ft/15.24m Irish yacht Chieftain, both crews embodying the spirit of dedicated, amateur sailing.



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

The rating system applied to the fleet means all yachts have a chance at the overall prize. Proving size is unimportant in 2005, Frenchman Jean-Yves Chateau etched his name on the honour roll winning in his 33-ft Iromiguy.

This year's smallest yachts are:

- (IRC): Brightwork: Rogers 30: 9.53m (31.3ft)
- (Non-IRC): Astelle and Makani: both Corsair 31- 01D: 9.40m (30.10ft)

LARGEST YACHTS IN THE FLEET:

- Largest yacht: (IRC): Esimit Europa 2: RP100: 30.48m (100ft), skippered by: Jochen Schümann, 2 x America's Cup winner and 3 x Olympic champion
- Largest yacht (Non-IRC): Spindrift 2: VPLP 140 Trimaran: 40.00m (131ft)

STORIES FROM ENTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA

SHIPPED IN TO FULFILL AMBITION

SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS 3.5, Reichel Pugh 51, Geoff Boettcher (Adelaide, South Australia)



The boat with the longest journey to Cowes is the Australian Secret Men's Business 3.5, which was winner of the 2010 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Race. Owner and skipper, Geoff Boettcher has competed in a total of 23 x Sydney to Hobart Races and his crew include America's Cup, Rolex Sydney Hobart, Admirals' Cup and Maxi Yacht World Championship veterans.

Commenting on their entry into the regatta, Geoff said:
"The crew are ecstatic about taking part as both Cowes Week and the Rolex Fastnet events as they have a reputation not

only for great sailing but great onshore events too. The only time I have raced in Cowes was as crew on an Australian entry in the 1996 Etchells Worlds. I loved the place then and my ambition was to come back with my own yacht. I'm now fulfilling that ambition!". Geoff's Australian crew consists of the team that have raced with him in the Sydney to Hobart and they'll be joined by UK sailors Will Best & Andy Meiklejohn who Geoff believes will be great assets. For the last 17 years, Geoff and his team have sailed most of the Australian regattas including Hamilton Island Race Week and Geelong Week and they're now ready to venture out!

"The crew of SMB 3.5 would really like to see which is the 'real deal' when it comes to the World's best Offshore Yacht Race. Will the Rolex Sydney Hobart stand up to the test or will the 'Poms' take away the title with their much talked-up Rolex Fastnet Yacht Race? SMB 3.5 has been shipped from the opposite of the world to be judge & jury on these highly acclaimed events."

Asked about his expectations for the Rolex Fastnet Race, Geoff replied:

- *We would like to walk away knowing we sailed our best in the conditions given to us*
- *A cold beer at the end of the race with mates*
- *And if the wind Gods are with us, a podium finish*

Vital Statistics for SMB 3.5:

1.Geoff Boettcher	Owner / Skipper
2.Steve Kemp	Navigator
3.Julian Freeman	Tactician/Watch Captain
4.Will Best	Local Tactician/Navigator
5.Andy Meiklejohn	Watch Captain
6.Ryan Godfrey	Helm/Trim
7.Silas Nolan	Bowman
8.Tim Cowen	Boat Manager/Trimmer
9.Adam Common	Mid Bowman
10. Caillin Howard	Trimmer
11.David Oliver	Pitman/trimmer
12 Andrew Van Essen	Pitman
13 Charles Kosecki	Mastman/Trimmer
14.Adam Hawkins	Trimmer

- Major achievement Overall Winner 2010 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race
- 2013 Overall winner Lexus Adelaide to Port Lincoln Race
- 2013 Rolex Sydney to Hobart, hit a whale (or shark) at 24knots while running 1st Div 1. Broke half rudder off & dropped to 10th Overall
- Represents Cruising Yacht Club South Australia (CYCSA)
- Crew include many Sydney-Hobart, Volvo Ocean Race, Admirals' Cup and America's Cup veterans

AUSTRIA

NEW GENERATION CLASS40 SAILS WITH MALTESE FLAG



VAQUITA, Humphreys Yacht Design Class40, Christof Petter (Bad Goisern, AUS)

Flying a Maltese flag - 4th Generation Class 40

"The offshore classic that is a must in a sailors career. Lots of fun, good competition and to do well."

In 2012 Andreas Hanakamp and Humphreys Yacht Design developed a 4th generation Class40 design for a Maltese client. The boat was built at the Ocean Tec yard in Slovenia and launched in June

1. Christof Petter	2 times ARC race winner, 2 times winner 500x2
2. Nico Delle-Kart	3 Olympics in 49er, 4 th London 2012
3. Nico Resch	3 Olympics in 49er, 4 th London 2012
4. Martin Mayer	
5. Udo Moser	Soling Masters World Champion crew
6. Jure Jerman	
7. Andreas Hanakamp	2 Olympics, Volvo Ocean Race 2008

Webcam to the yacht: http://www.yachtrevue.at/webcam_hanakamp/newest.jpg

HYD: <http://www.humphreysdesign.com/1719/humphreys-class-40/>

Sailing for WDC - Whale and Dolphin Conservation <http://www.wdcs.org/>

FRANCE

TAKING DIVERSITY TO ANOTHER LEVEL - DOCUMENTARY FILM CREW FOLLOW TEAM JOLOKIA

Volvo 60, <http://www.teamjolokia.com/>



'Difference is our strength': Over four years, Team Jolokia will line up with highly diverse crews at the start of the most prestigious ocean races in the world. Each member, in addition to their potential and abilities, will bring a unique difference to the team. The aim is to show that diversity, when well managed, can be a lever for progress that can push a sports team towards success, to innovation and excellence.

This experience gives researchers, managers, employees and athletes the chance to discover new ways to better integrate groups of people. Team Jolokia aims to be a 'laboratory of life dedicated to human beings'. The sea represents a rigorous taskmaster which can make or break the cohesion of a group.

Diversity means varied, atypical and different. Applied to a group of people, diversity can mean a variety of profiles – such as different nationalities, jobs, culture, religion, traditions and customs, age, sex, education, sexual orientation, physical appearance and many more identifiers.

Éric Bellion - Project Manager

Over a period of two years, Eric Bellion circumnavigated the globe, enabling 45 young people with cerebral palsy to enjoy the sailing experience of a lifetime. The adventures of the Kifouine have been widely publicised and have received numerous awards. Eric is a consultant in sponsorship, partnership and communication, collaborating closely with the Paul Ricard Oceanographic Institute. He also specialises in projects related to Corporate Social Responsibility.



FRANCE

Messages from just a couple of Team Jolokia's supporters:

Knut Frostad, CEO Volvo Ocean Race

"Raising self awareness can change the world we live in and there is no better place to do that than on an offshore sailing boat. On land we all have options when things don't work between us and we can choose to leave rather than facing our differences and live with them. Out in the ocean a crew of different people and personalities have to make it work as there is simply no alternative as long as they want to stay onboard. TEAM JOLOKIA is a great symbol of bringing great personalities with many different backgrounds together and showing everyone that it can be done as long as you have the spirit and motivation. I am very proud to support TEAM JOLOKIA."

Isabelle Autissier, Sailor:

"In our human world, the premier challenge is to live together. If we can respond to this question we will succeed in the twenty-first century. Living together is understanding, adapting to one another, following our consciences in the great global puzzle. Competitors know that the first and most essential component of victory is a tightly-knit crew. Solidarity is a weapon in the service of mankind and it's what TEAM JOLOKIA is all about."

Sarah Fraisse – Media contact: +33 6 33 37 22 81 - sarahfraisse@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/teamjolokia>

ENTRE AMIS – 'ONLY FRIENDS, PASSIONATE SAILORS' (FRA)

EARWEN, Class40, Catherine Pourre

French Owner Catherine Pourre commented: *"The Fastnet is a must in the calendar of sailing events every two years. We had some trouble in the last edition with our genoa so this time we are back to take revenge! We hope to be on the podium or at least in the first five."*

The Class 40 boat **Earwen** will sail with a crew of four friends. The boat has a winning history coming first in the Route du Rhum 2010 skippered by Thomas Ruyant and in the Grand Prix Guyader in 2011, 2nd in 2012. It came 15th in its class in the Rolex Fastnet Race 2011.

UNCOMMON SAILORS DOCUMENTED

LIBERTARIA, Volvo 60, Pierre Meisel (FRA, Lorient)

Eric Bellion (from Team Jolokia) and Pierre Meisel have put together a crew of very mixed sailing ability, some with disabilities too. Sailing is one of the very few sports in which able-bodied sailors and disabled sailors can participate on equal terms. A documentary film crew will follow the training and progress of the crew and show their courage and willpower to overcome every difficulty during the race.

The documentary presents each step of the crew's sailing adventure (two races have already been completed: *Tour de Belle Ile* and the *Armen Race*, where they finished in third place). Being filmed for the "Uncommon Sailors" project is a touching and realistic film directed by Robert Iseni for TF1 Reportages and Ushuaïa TV. Since November 2012 the sporting challenge and human adventure has been supported by international channels.

'79 FASTNET HERO RETURNS

LORELEI, Alain & Marie Catherineau, J/122 (FRA, Toulouse)

Veteran Fastnet sailor, Alain Catherineau has entered the race again on his latest Lorelei, a J/122. Alain Catherineau was awarded the YJA Yachtsman of the Year Trophy in 1979 for his seamanship during the rescue of yacht *Griffin* - a heroic feat that is still find hard to believe as he rescued so many people in such savage conditions in a rather modest She 36. In the teeth of the storm, the crew of *Griffin* abandoned ship, just before the boat sank. They were in the water for two hours with little hope of rescue, when they saw Alain Catherineau's French yacht, Lorelei. By a stroke of luck, they were in the same wave trough as the life raft and all of the crew were rescued. The story is legendary but most interestingly, Cowes Week CEO, Stuart Quarrie was on board *Griffin* and lost his wallet during the rescue. Some time later (months in fact), the wallet was hooked up in a fishing net and was returned intact via his bank! Alain and Marie will race their J/122 Lorelei in the 45th race and he has participated in the race many times.

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TWO-HANDED WIN AGAIN FOR FATHER AND SON IN BRAND NEW BOAT?**NIGHT AND DAY, JPK 10.10**, Pascal & Alexis Loison (FRA, Héauville)

Pascal Loison and son Alexis, won the Two-Handed division in the 2005 Fastnet Race with a J/105 named Night and Day. They are back with a brand new boat, a JPK 10.10, built for the race.

Pascal Loison says: *"I love short handed offshore racing,"* and this year the duo will compete once again. Son Alexis is now a professional Figaro sailor so there are fewer opportunities for them to race together, *"A few years ago I taught Alexis to sail and since he became professional, he has taught me a lot of things. This year's Rolex Fastnet Race seemed to be a good opportunity for us to race and with the challenge to do as well as we did in 2005."*

"The Fastnet Race is a very interesting race, you need good boat speed, good tidal streams analysis, and with the large number of boats entered, you always have another boat near yours to race against; The start in Solent and after is very impressive with lots of big boats which overtake yours; then along the South Coast of England, each headland (St Alban, Portland, Start, Lizard, etc...) is different, some of them with the tide, some of them against the tide, for all of them you need to fight with the other boats and you have the opportunity to re-deal your cards. For me it is much more interesting than a transatlantic race along trade winds for instance; in such races you see other boats during the first two days, and the last two days and in the middle you have a long trip without a direct opponent and it seems long."

"The challenge is to win the Two-Handed class again and also to race against the boats in IRC3 which are fully crewed."

Face book: Alexis LOISON-Groupe Fiva 2013

Twitter: @LOISONAlexis

Contact: Sophie Fremont, Sophie.fremont@gmail.com, +33620284906

2009 IRC 2 WINNER**PRIME TIME**, Archambault 35, Marc Alperovitch, Jérôme Alperovitch & Jérôme Huillard d'Aignaux
Skipper, Marc Alperovitch (Paris, France)

"The Fastnet is the most prestigious IRC offshore race. We are here to compete! In an ideal world, we would win it again but we have the feeling that it's going to be extremely difficult as the competition is very, very good."

The winning crew from the 2009 Rolex Fastnet Race will be together again to race this year after successful campaigns including wins at Spi Ouest-France, Obelix Trophy, Top French boat in the Commodores' Cup in 2008. After moving the boat to Marseille in 2001 and successfully competing, the boat is now in Brittany mainly due to their Rolex Fastnet campaign. The boat will travel by road from Marseille to Cherbourg after the Rolex Giraglia Race in June.

www.prime-time.fr

@PrimeTime34634

Full list on : <http://www.prime-time.fr/photo.php?album=mythiques>

SAME VALUES - IN TRAINING FOR THE TRANSAT JACQUES VABRE**SAFRAN, IMOCA 60**, Marc Guillemot (Saint Philibert, France)

www.safran-sailingteam.com

www.facebook.com/SafranSailingTeam

@SafranSailing

Vendée Globe, Transat Jacques Vabre and Route du Rhum ocean racer, Marc Guillemot returned to monohull boats in 2005 with the Safran project. With the boat designed by the team of Verdier-Lauriot Prévost having proven its speed and overall performance, plus



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an exceptional first Vendée Globe, finishing third against all odds, Marc Guillemot is more than ever ready to exercise his talents. Marc has now sailed more than 50,000 nautical miles on *Safran*, and is kicking off a new phase in the program.

Marc and Safran: *"We share the same values"*. Marc Guillemot has often spoken about the relationship he has formed with his team and an 'exceptional sponsor'. *"I soon saw that we shared the same human values, and we were able to establish a very privileged relationship, one that was sound, simple and open. Over time, more and more employees wanted to get involved in the technical aspects of the project. There are a lot of people at Safran who have a passion for their profession, just like in the world of sailing. And when two groups of passionate enthusiasts get together, things just click! In any case, for a skipper, it's extremely important to be able to count on a partner of this calibre."*

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CAP EXTREM, DEHLER 44 SQ, Thierry Ollivier Lamarque (Paris)

All but two of the eight French crew on Cap Extrem has raced in the Rolex Fastnet previously. Cap Extrem competed in 2009 and 2011 and is a regular in the RORC Cowes-Deauville and Cowes-Dinard races.

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TONNERRE DE BRESKENS, Ker 46, Piet Vroon (Breskens)

83 year old Dutchman, Piet Vroon will add his 25th Fastnet to more than 60 years of offshore racing. After 18 Fastnets, he won overall in 2001 and winning remains his proudest victory. In his many Fastnets – and he missed just one in 1995 when his mother died – Vroon has had one great rival, Ken Newman who at 84 is one year older than Vroon, has competed in 27 Fastnets and is going for his 28th this year.

IL CORVO, Grand Soleil '43 OT, Astrid de Vin, Skipper: Arnold 'Nol' Tas (Breskens)

Seasoned racer and skipper, Arnold 'Nol' Tas has sailed all his life and has been a boat captain for many years. He has competed in the Fastnet three times before on Mean Machine and was boat captain on Sotto Voce for Atlantic crossings and the Rolex Giraglia Race. He's raced with Bouwe Bekking and sailed for Willem Wester on this boat (Grand Soleil '43 OT) when it was the successful Antilope. It was sold in the summer of 2011. Nol sailed with him on its successor, a Grand Soleil 46, and then Antilope (Grand Soleil 43, at this very moment on the Med circuit). He's also a member of the Il Corvo crew for the North Sea circuit. Astrid started racing with Il Corvo in the summer of 2011.

"The appeal of the Fastnet is to push our boundaries and finish somewhere near the top or to win" says Nol.

ADDED DURABILITY FOR SHORTHANDED RACING

YETI, J/109, Paul van der Pol, (Den Bosch)

Reproduced from Seahorse magazine:

For Yeti, a J/109 entering the Fastnet, sail durability is perhaps even more important. Owner Paul van der Pol is taking on the Fastnet doublehanded, and so for long periods of the race there will only be one person on deck. Nic Bol, owner of Quantum Nederland, has been working closely with van der Pol on developing a set of sails suitable for such a specialised purpose.



'We have built a fully battened main for Yeti, with Fusion M plus single-sided taffeta for durability,' says Bol. *'When it's blowing hard, or maybe while you're putting a reef in, the sail is flogging badly, but the full-length battens really help to stabilise the sail.'*

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Paul experienced this in a recent shorthanded race when he moved ahead of another J/109 whose sail was flogging away for the better part of an hour: *"There is no rating penalty either for full battens, so it's a no-brainer really."*

Bearing in mind that there will be no weight on the rail compared with a fully crewed J/109, the mainsail was designed to be flatter than standard, and two reefs were added, the second reefing point being a deep reef in case *Yeti* encounters more fierce conditions during this year's big race.

J/111 XCENTRIC RIPPER goes two-handed again for Rolex Fastnet Race 2013

John van der Starre (Skipper), J/111 "Xcentric Ripper", NED 9111

Na de geweldige ervaring van onze Rolex Fastnet Race 2011 besloten Robin Verhoef en ik bijna meteen om wederom aan de editie van dit jaar deel te nemen. Uiteraard weer in de Two-Handed Class. In 2011 hadden we onze J/111 Xcentric Ripper, toen nog J-Xcentric, net 4 weken vaarklaar en wisten we nog niet alle ins en outs van de J/111. Met toen alleen een fully crewed Cowes Week achter de kiezen als voorbereiding, waarbij we wel zoveel mogelijk kleinigheden probeerden te elimineren, was dit niet echt een ideale voorbereiding voor deze offshore kraker.

Gelukkig was het toen een race met niet al te veel wind. We hebben alleen gedurende de tweede nacht even meer dan 30 knopen gehad. Dat was het moment dat de Rambler zijn kiel verloor bij Fastnet Rock. De rest was een tactische race op stroming en wind waarbij de downwind eigenschappen van onze boot helaas niet echt benut konden worden. Slechts een 40 van de 607 mijl kon met de gennaker gevaren worden.

Ondanks het prima resultaat van line-honours in de two-handed class en derde op handicap toch ook een beetje een kater van de finish in Plymouth. Op 100 meter van de finish moesten we zonder wind en met tegenstroom het anker droppen en 1,5 uur op wind wachten. Na vier dagen beulen en wetende dat de boten achter ons wel wind hadden, echt balen. Maar ja, it's all in the game!

Voor de editie van dit jaar hebben we gelukkig meer voorbereidingstijd en neem je de vorige als mooie bagage mee. Afgelopen jaar hebben we uiteraard ook veel ervaring met de boot opgedaan, met name met trim en mast settings zijn we nu veel verder. Vooral de Commodores' Cup met teamcaptain Bouwe Bekking was een eye-opener en heeft ons veel gebracht. De boot is gedurende het jaar steeds beter getuned en sneller geworden. Als specifieke voorbereiding op de Fastnet komen er nog wel veel extra's kijken. Zo moet je in hetzelfde jaar een 300 mijl kwalificerend varen met boot en crew en moet het OPST certificaat weer up to date zijn. Daarom besloten we als voorbereiding in het Shorthanded Circuit 2013 in ieder geval de belangrijkste wedstrijden als voorbereiding te varen. Zo werd deelname in de 50-mijls, Vuurschepenrace, North Sea Race en 40 mijls van Bru volbracht om zowel offshore ervaring op te doen, als ook op handling te trainen.

Geconcentreerd mijlen maken blijft belangrijk, ook nu kregen we nog een lesje dat je altijd scherp moet blijven. Tijdens de 50 mijls hadden we zeker een half uur voorsprong toen we een boei te vroeg richting de finish in Lelystad namen en zo 40 minuten omvoeren.. De overige wedstrijden verliepen gelukkig voorspoediger met twee tweede plaatsen en een eerste plek. Ze leerden ons de sterke en zwakke punten te zien. Zo heb ik in shorthanded modus een 10m2 kleinere gennaker en iets kleinere genua gemeten dan full-crew, ter optimalisatie van de rating en handling. In deze wedstrijden kunnen we dan goed kijken of dat werkt of niet. Een sterke steun hierin is ons softwareprogramma Expedition, waarbij ik na de race kan evalueren of de beoogde targets gehaald werden of niet. Ook wordt in de offshores de Iridium getest om grib-files te kunnen downloaden voor route optimalisatie.

Een ander heel belangrijk item is onze derde man, de stuurautomaat, bij ons "Fred" genaamd. We vinden natuurlijk allemaal dat we beter kunnen sturen dan een automaat. Nou, dan heb ik slecht nieuws, ik schat dat na een uur onze automaat op zeker beter gaat. Hij heeft geen last van concentratieverlies of andere menselijke missers. Het is uiteraard wel van belang dat hij super werkt. Het NKE systeem waarmee ik al sinds de J/109 "Xcentric Ripper" vaar voldoet volledig aan die eisen. Zo kunnen we op apparent en true wind sturen naast heading. True wind is belangrijk bij downwind en golven. De automaat heeft dan bij het afplaneren van een golf niet de neiging af te vallen als de

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schijnbare wind dan verder van voren in komt. Het juist afstellen van de automaat is dus zeer belangrijk en ook dit leren we steeds beter. Bovendien is er nu een NKE Regatta Processor in het systeem geplaatst om een nog betere performance van de automaat te krijgen. Dit werkt ongelooflijk, met 25 knopen wind downwind, snelheid 16 knopen, planerend op de automaat... Robin jij nog een koffie?

De concurrentie zit natuurlijk ook niet stil. Het belooft dit jaar een hele spannende strijd in de Two-Handed Class te worden. En vlak de Nederlandse deelnemers niet uit, de J/122 "Junique" van Chris Revelmans en Pascal Bakker wist al 2 jaar de North Sea Race two-handed te winnen, dus geduchte concurrenten. Ook de "Il Corvo" van Astrid de Vin met Nol Tas, de koploper in de IRC 1 Verbonsbezem Competitie, doet mee in de Two-Handed Class. Chris Schram met zijn nieuwe JPK1010 "So What" gaat steeds beter en kan nog hoge ogen gaan gooien. Dan is er nog de J/109 "Yeti" van Paul van der Pol, samen met ons thans aan de leiding in de Shorthanded Competitie.

De Yellowbrick tracker die we allemaal aan boord hebben, maakt het voor de thuisblijvers een prachtig schouwspel, dus kijk vanaf zondag 11 augustus op www.fastnet.rorc.org "live" wie uiteindelijk de winnaar gaat worden.

UNITED KINGDOM

ENABLING DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO SAIL DUET, Cirdan Sailing Trust's 100 year old Gaffer

Duet, the 100 year gaff rigged yawl is competing in the 2013 Fastnet Race. The vessel has been chartered by MCA Marine Surveyor and Naval Architect, David Cannell with the intention of raising Cirdan's profile and generally supporting their work with young people. Duet has taken part in the Fastnet Race once before, in 1975, winning three trophies in the Old Gaffers section.



Duet is believed to be Britain's longest serving sail training vessel. She has sailed more than 250,000 miles and taken over 8,000 young people to sea; a life changing experience for many of them. Last year she was awarded the Olympic Inspire Mark for her centenary Voyage to Success, drawing on the inspiration of London 2012 to raise the aspirations of the young participants from different communities across the UK on a voyage of 2,000 miles round Britain. She was also recently named 'Sail Training Vessel of the Year' by the MCA (Maritime & Coastguard Agency) & ASTO (Association of Sail Training Organisations). Owned by Christopher Courtauld and his father before him, she has since 1960 been lent for sail training for young people and is now one of the fleet of The Cirdan Sailing Trust.



The Cirdan Sailing Trust is raising funds for the Voyage of Discovery Fund to enable disadvantaged young people to sail with The Cirdan Sailing Trust. For the Rolex Fastnet, their target is: £60,800 (£100 per nautical mile). To donate, please visit: www.justgiving.com/duetfastnet

The Cirdan Sailing Trust is an established charity that helps to motivate, stimulate and discipline disadvantaged young people through the challenge and adventure of life at sea on large sailing vessels.

For more information on the Cirdan Sailing Trust, please visit <http://www.cirdantrust.org>
Contact: David Cannell, E: david@dmcmarine.com, Tel: +44 (0)1206 823337

UNITED KINGDOM

'TEAM ENDEAVOUR' ANNOUNCE ROLEX FASTNET RACE ENTRY SUPPORTED BY TOE IN THE WATER

A group of wounded and injured military personnel has confirmed their entry into the Rolex Fastnet Race. Despite their injuries, the crew are all still serving members of the armed forces, Project 'Team Endeavour' is jointly funded by the Team Army Sports Foundation and the Endeavour Fund, an initiative created by The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.



Tri service charity, TOE IN THE WATER, are providing their full support to the team of 'graduates' taking part in the iconic race by loaning their Farr 52 race yacht which was generously donated by previous owners, former BP Chairman Tony Hayward, Centrica Chief Executive Sam Laidlaw, and Rob Gray, in 2012.

The project will be led by TOE IN THE WATER graduate, Capt Pete Hayward, who was injured in Afghanistan in 2010 and the charity's Director of Racing and serving Royal Engineer, Capt Lloyd Hamilton MBE will be taking up the position of skipper. For Capt Hamilton, the Rolex Fastnet will be the last offshore race he competes in before being deployed to Afghanistan on his fourth tour in October 2013 and he is relishing the prospect of enabling the team of injured soldiers, sailors and airmen to compete in this epic challenge. TOE IN THE WATER'S usual remit does not include offshore racing as it focuses on using competitive day sailing as an extension of the rehabilitation programmes carried out by the military medical chain.

The crew will be 16 strong, with at least 50% having sailed 300 nautical miles in an offshore race. Capt Hamilton commented: *"We want to share the incredible journey these young men and women will be undertaking on the Rolex Fastnet and are fortunate to have the technology available to bring this adventure to life. Throughout the race, we plan to post blogs, images and videos so that followers and supporters can follow the crew's progress every step of the way."*

For further information, interview requests or hi res images, please contact:

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WINNING KER, ONE TO WATCH

MAGNUM 3, Ker 40, Andrew Pearce, Loudwater, Herts

After winning overall in the 2006 Royal Ocean Racing Club's Season's Points Championship, Andrew Pearce's new Magnum 3 is currently fourth overall in the 2013 Championship. The Ker 40 was new at the beginning of last season and won The Warsash Spring Series in 2012 by a clear 22 points. With an entry of 31, IRC1 was the largest IRC class. Magnum 3 also won class in the IRC Nationals last year as well as the RORC Morgan Cup overall and in Class. The Ker 40 was also second overall as well as in IRC 1 in the tough Myth of Malham Race which took place on 25 May this year. In the 2012 Brewin Dolphin Commodores' Cup, the boat was in the GBR white team and took 2nd overall.



Much of their racing is showing on Youtube on the Magnum Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Magnum3Ker40?feature=mhee>

UNITED KINGDOM

ECHO ZULU, Frers CM45, David Rider (Arundel, West Sussex)



Skipper David Rider will be taking part in his third and last Rolex Fastnet Race, this time fulfilling an ambition to sail the Fastnet onboard his own yacht, a Frers CM 45, Echo Zulu.

His previous experiences of the Fastnet race have been mixed as he describes here:

"My first Fastnet was 1979 as navigator on a UFO 34 Kamisado; we experienced several knockdowns, lost and recovered crew overboard, but eventually got away with some damage and all crew intact. An incredible 48 hours for a small yacht. In 1981, it was painfully slow which dampened the achievement; this time, must do better!"

"This will be the 1st time in my own yacht, one of a series of ambitions with the current boat. I have gathered a good crew around me who have been with me on previous boats, all share the same ambition and we sail well together and add to the fun. It will be the 3rd and last Fastnet for me and I want to do well. We have the boat and the experienced crew to finish well up in the class and possibly overall depending on conditions. An aerial photo of us rounding the Rock and a decent result would crown the achievement."

The boat, formerly known as Ostar 2005, was previously American owned and based in Charleston SC. During a Transat to the UK in 2011, Echo Zulu lost her rudder 500nm north of the Azores, but under the guidance of skipper John Mcnaughton, who will be first mate for the Rolex Fastnet Race 2013, the crew showed incredible seamanship and managed to sail back to Horta where a new rudder was fitted.

The boat eventually arrived in the UK in May 2012 then underwent a major refit over winter 2012/13 with the Rolex Fastnet Race 2013 in mind.

CV: 2 Fastnet Races '79 and '81 (David Rider); Cowes Week many times top 10 in class, Cork Week 3rd in class, RORC Offshore various wins, Solent Points wins, Hamble River and Warsash series wins. None of the crew is professional, some like David are ex Royal Navy and one is still serving.

www.echo-zulu.com

UNITED KINGDOM

RYA CHIEF EXEC ON BOARD FAMILY CRUISER ANNIKA, Malo 43 Classic, John Burns (London)



Annika is a Malo 43 Classic, "a big, heavy cruising boat, and I doubt we will be challenging for any line honours," says owner, John Burns.

"She is our family boat, and our entry will include at least two family members. We will also have Mark Preedy, a Clipper Round the World Race Skipper and the Chief Executive of the Royal Yachting Association, Sarah Treseder racing with us."

SOCIAL MEDIA SUCCESS FOR AMATEUR TEAM WITH A LOVE OF SAILING BELLA OF LONDON, Grand Soleil 50, Mike Surridge (Haywards Heath, West Sussex)



"Our crew is a triumph for social media – our crew has been assembled using LinkedIn, Twitter and all modern things like that."

Bella is a 2005-registered Grand Soleil 50. Mike Surridge purchased her in March 2013 and has invested an enormous amount of time and effort in getting her fully prepared for this year's Fastnet.

She was lying in Portimao, Portugal and Mike flew over to Portugal to bring her home to Royal Clarence in time for the Myth of Malham Race which was their first Fastnet Qualifier.

"We are an amateur sailing team; we love sailing and relish this opportunity to take part in the Fastnet and RORC Qualifiers on a slippy boat ... at last! Past Fastnets have been on a 25 year old Mystic 60 (a beautiful, beautiful yacht that was as sturdy as a castle if a little prone to leaking and really in need of big winds to make her go) and a Clipper 60 (rather like the Mystic 60, but totally without any of the finesse and plenty of egos instead!)."

"The Rolex Fastnet Race is an all time classic – we have entered because we want to do it this year on a competitive boat and with people we like. My personal ambition is to compete in the Fastnet as a Skipper (hence buying Bella). We are really keen to make it to the party and to see the fireworks from the shore this year! Last time (2011) we watched the fireworks from a wind hole off Lizard!"

New Toy

"We've only ever chartered yachts in the past. We have generally chartered Jeanneau 49s so we have taken part in (rather than competed in!) RORC races including the cross channel events for several years. This year will be fantastic – Mike's new toy means we have the opportunity to actually race (but still in comfort, which is really important too!) in all of the Fastnet Qualifiers and, hopefully, the ARC later. The JP Morgan Asset Management Round the Island Race is now an annual event for us – sometimes with chums as crew and sometimes with corporate guests – and is always huge fun."

www.bella111.co.uk, Twitter: @bella_sailing

UNITED KINGDOM

PARALLEL BLUE, Beneteau First 40.7, Snell Consultancy, Ivan Snell (London)

Hoping for a place in the top 1/3rd in their class, IRC 2, the 10 crew will be racing on the Beneteau First 40.7, Parallel Blue, with a mainly British crew as well as two Dutchmen and a Canadian Olympic squad Laser sailor, Jeremy Millar.

Usually racing a J109 in the Solent out of Hamble, Ivan Snell says: *"The competitive nature and intensity of yacht racing, particularly with such a challenging race as the Fastnet, is renowned for testing leadership and teamwork to the limit. The development of these skills is also fundamental to the successful delivery of the complex, global business or IT change programmes that the Snell Consultancy delivers for its international clients"*. <http://www.ivansnell.com/other-interests/corporate-sailing/>

MEDICAL TEAM EMBRACES CORINTHIAN SPIRIT

BREAKOUT, Swan 42, Simon Crawford (Brockenhurst, Hampshire)

"An iconic race to be done in the Corinthian spirit. I like the idea of the race, the history, the adventure and the uncertainty. I respect the characteristics of imagination, ambition and tenacity to overcome difficulty and I think that the Fastnet embodies this," comments Simon Crawford.

The medically-orientated team includes owner and surgeon, Simon Crawford. Breakout was previously called Assuage and owned by Terry Robinson [who became RORC Commodore] in the early 1990's.

The current owner found an old chart on board with navigation markings around the Fastnet Rock so assumes she has taken part in the race before. The boat has been entered for the Whirlwind Trophy [Swan yachts].

LLOYD'S OF LONDON YACHT CLUB: Sailing since 1938

Lutine, Swan 53, London (GBR809)

Skipper for the 14 crew on board Lloyd's of London Yacht Club's Swan 53 will be Ian Conchie, ex skipper of Round the World Race, Clipper Qingdao. Lutine has competed previously in 2003 (54th in class), 2005 (DNF, forced to retired), 2007 (2nd in class), 2009 (15th in class), 2011 (33rd in class).

- The youngest sailor on board will be 16 year old Ed Davison: Sailing CV includes: Men of Kent Team Racing, National Schools Championships (Firefly), RORC Offshore racing, JOG Racing, Warsash Spring Series. Ed is also in charge of media for the boat! - ed.davison.sailing@gmail.com



"The Fastnet is an iconic race on the sailing calendar and tests a huge range of sailors abilities. When people think of sailing, they often think of a relaxing cruise in the Med, but not the Fastnet! You have barely any idea what the weather will be and what challenges you will face. I think that is why so many people do it... it is completely unpredictable. Several of the crew see it as being on the "bucket list" - just one of those things you have to do (along with things like running a marathon!)" says Ed.

Lloyd's Yacht Club (LLYC) began much like Lloyd's itself, with five individual members of Lloyd's sailing an informal race to Cherbourg, with the idea of forming a club being discussed over dinner on their arrival. In 1938, the club was officially formed, with membership restricted to Members of Lloyd's and those who had a ticket to work in the room. Today, club members come from across the financial services industries, many of whom join the club in order to build contacts within the community and to have fun on the water during club weekends on Lutine - food and drink is still prevalent during these weekends!

Cont'd over..

UNITED KINGDOM

What are you hoping to get out of the Race and what are your expectations?

Teamwork, the experience, the satisfaction of completing a race such as the Fastnet. I think that the Fastnet will expand our team's knowledge and help their sailing in the future. Hopefully it will open more doors in the sailing world for members of the crew.

<http://www.lloydsyachtclub.com/> @LutineGBR809, @EDavisonSailing

SIMON RACES IN MEMORY OF A GREAT FRIEND - <http://www.sail4cancer.org>

Vixter, XP 38, Andrew Arthur (Berkshire)



Simon Trayling from Reading, Berkshire has joined a crew of 10 sailors to participate in the Rolex Fastnet Race and is determined to complete his personal Fastnet challenge in the memory of his dear friend Gary Copland. It was Gary who first introduced Simon to their shared passion for sailing. They often spoke about taking on the challenge of the Fastnet together and Gary's dream was to buy a racing yacht for that purpose. Sadly this was not to be - Gary lost his short but aggressive battle with Leukaemia on 24 May 2012, leaving behind his beloved wife and young family.

Simon will be fundraising for Sail 4 Cancer, a charity which aims to improve the quality of life for families in the UK who are living with the effects of cancer. From the moment you are diagnosed with cancer, life is taken over by hospital visits, treatments, tests, uncertainty, and financial worries. For a single day, or a few weeks, Sail 4 Cancer takes cancer patients and their families away from the disease and the nightmare that they are living through. Having seen first hand the harsh impact cancer has on a family, Simon is keen to support this charity in its work to make life just a little more bearable for other families living through their own cancer nightmare.

<http://www.sail4cancer.org>

CELEBRITY CHEF SUPPORTS HENRY BOMBY, ARTEMIS ACADEMY GRADUATE

Mitch Tonks is driven by a passion to enthuse, cook for and inspire others to enjoy seafood. Henry Bomby is equally driven to battle all that the elements has to throw at him in order to achieve his ambition to race in some of the toughest singlehanded races on the planet.

It's perhaps for this reason that award-winning Devon food writer, restaurateur and fishmonger Mitch Tonks has supported Henry Bomby, one of the Artemis Offshore Academy 22 year old graduates. For the Fastnet, his boat will be named after Mitch's RockFish brand as title sponsor. Mitch, who has tried his hand at sailing a Figaro with Henry, recently expanded his empire and the finish of the Rolex Fastnet 2013 will see the opening of his new project, the 200-seater RockFish Diner, located next to the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth. It's sure to be a huge hit with visiting sailors after the race and once Henry is over the finish line, the celebrations will begin!



The RockFish brand already operates successful restaurants in Dartmouth and Bristol, and Mr Tonks' other Dartmouth venue, the Seahorse, won Best UK Restaurant in the Observer Food Magazine awards and Best Seafood Restaurant in the Good Food Guide. Mr Tonks, described as "a legend" by TV chef Jamie Oliver, is the latest high-profile chef attracted to Plymouth.

Laura Cowan, Communications - laura@mitchtonks.co.uk - <http://www.mitchtonks.co.uk>

UNITED KINGDOM

YOUNG ADVENTURER PERHAM ON TALL SHIPS CHALLENGER



Mike Perham who was the youngest person to sail single handed around the world in 2009 will be joining one of the Tall Ships Adventures 72ft Challenger Yachts as volunteer Mate to compete in the Rolex Fastnet Race 2013. As a valuable member of the crew, Mike also took part in RORC qualifying offshore races including The Morgan Cup at the end of June.

Mike will be joining crew from all walks of life who are getting ready for the Rolex Fastnet Race 2013. Most of the crew joining the Tall Ships Adventures Rolex Fastnet Race campaign have not taken part in the race before and many have little to no sail racing experience. Mike will be using his extensive knowledge of offshore sailing to help train the crew and build their skills so they are able to compete in this infamous race, led by professional and experienced crew.

As a regular supporter of the Trust, Mike became a volunteer to give him the opportunity to teach other young people how to sail, how to greater their ambitions and to give them a fantastic sail training experience with Tall Ships Adventures.

Mike, who is currently planning his next adventure to become the first person to sail, drive and fly solo around the world commented: *"When I was given the chance of sailing on a Challenge boat with Tall Ships Adventures in the Fastnet, I leapt at the opportunity. This will be a totally different experience to sailing the Open 50 that I sailed around the world. The crew on Challenger 1 are a great bunch and we are all determined to win against the other Challenger Yachts."*

Mike has been a strong supporter of the Tall Ships Youth Trust ever since his solo circumnavigation during which he raised thousands of pounds for the charity, helping to fund bursaries for disadvantaged and disabled young people to go sailing with the Trust and gain life changing skills and experiences. Tall Ships Youth Trust has a fleet of four 'Around the World' 72ft Challenger Yachts.

Contact: Kathy Lucking , PR & Events Officer, Tall Ships Youth Trust, Tel: 02392 832055, Mob: 07876 815769, kathy.lucking@tallships.org www.tallships.org

FORCES FIELD FULL FLEET OF SERVICES YACHTS

In total, ten Services yacht clubs will be taking part in this year's race. The Royal Engineer Yacht Club (REYC) have been involved in the race since 1925 when their yacht Fulmar came second. The first Ilex won the race the following year and it is believed that they have been competing in every race since – one of their entries this year is the latest iteration of Ilex, Ilex of Upnor, an X-332.

This year the REYC will be entering two yachts, Ilex and the Dehler 32, Right Royal of Upnor. The crews will primarily be made of up serving Royal Engineers who are using the race as the culmination of a programme of Adventurous Training. In addition to the military benefits of such training – team work, decision making, working in arduous conditions – the boats will be competing for the Inter-Regimental Cup which they won in 2011 with the Sigma 38 Redcoat.



HMSTV Chaser circumnavigating Great Britain (via the Caledonian canal). Chaser's crew come from 26 Engineer Regiment as part of adventurous training following an operational tour in Afghanistan.

UNITED KINGDOM

Others Services clubs include:

British Solder (J111) – the Army Sailing Association

Redcoat (Sigma 38) – The ASA all female team, skippered by Captain Lucinda Allaway

Chaser (Nicholson 55) – The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers YC

Dasher – (Nicholson 55) - The Royal Naval Sailing Association

Endeavour (Challenge 67) – The Royal Signals YC

Red Arrow (J109) – The Royal Air Force Sailing Association

Skywave – (Elan 333) – The Adjutants General Corps Yacht Club

St Barbara V (Rustler 42) – The Royal Artillery YC

Toe in the Water (Farr 52) – The Tri-Service Injured Service persons sailing initiative

White Knight 6 (Beneteau 34.7) – The Royal Armoured Corps Yacht Club

Contact: Murray Smith - reycoffshoreracing@yahoo.co.uk

REYC Offshore Racing Secretary

BIG BOAT SERIES AT COWES WEEK

Cowes Week Limited (CWL) reported that of the entries received to this year's Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week to date, almost 20% are from overseas. It's no coincidence that in "odd" years, when the Rolex Fastnet Race starts immediately after this historic regatta, international participation increases. Regatta organisers are pleased to be welcoming back familiar faces, as well as some exciting newcomers to Cowes Week: The Mini Maxi *Bella Mente* is travelling from the USA to take part in the special three-day Big Boat Series (Tuesday 6 – Thursday 8 August), and will face the Slovenian entry *Esimit Europa 2* (both of whom are racing in UK waters for the first time), the Spanish X612 *Hansa*, as well as regular Cowes Week competitor Niklas Zennström with his British Mini Maxi *Rán 2*.

CEO Stuart Quarrie said "We're particularly pleased to be welcoming such an international fleet and so many new faces, many of whom will be taking part in Cowes Week prior to the start of the Fastnet".

<http://www.aamcowesweek.co.uk>

CLIPPER VENTURES



The Clipper 68s are the second generation of Clipper Race yacht and made their debut in the Clipper 05-06 Race. Making their final circumnavigation in the last edition of the Clipper Race, this will be the first time that they have taken part in the Rolex Fastnet Race.

The boats will be skippered by former Clipper Race skippers Ben Bowley (GB) and Juan Coetzer (South Africa). Ben is no stranger to the challenging racing conditions of the Fastnet Race. He has been a technical advisor to a BBC documentary about the event in 2007 and was one of just 20 per cent of the entries that finished the race.

Ben also raced team *Singapore* to third place in the Clipper 11-12 Round the World Yacht Race.

It was an easy decision for Juan to make sailing his full time career and moving to the UK he has worked extensively at Clipper's HQ, first as a training mate and then as a training skipper in order to get the experience he would need to lead a team of sailing novices around the world. His yacht, *Geraldton Western Australia* took seventh place in the Clipper 11-2 Race.

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www.clipperroundtheworld.com

UNITED KINGDOM

COMPETITIVE ALL FEMALE CREW ON SOUTHERN CHILD (GBR)

SOUTHERN CHILD, First 40 (GBR), Lucy Reynolds (Skipper), Portsmouth

25 year old Lucy Reynolds will be skippering Southern Child with an all-female crew of 12 in this year's race. The inspiration behind this campaign was a comment by one of Lucy's regular crew after hearing the 2009 Fastnet Prizegiving that the all-female crew prize couldn't be awarded as the team were still racing.



at

Owner of Performance Yacht Charter, and with five transatlantic crossings, two Rolex Fastnets ('09 and '11), two RORC Caribbean 600s and a Rolex Middle Sea Race under her belt, Lucy's offshore experience and professionalism as a skipper speak for themselves:

"It would be great to think that we could engage a new generation of women to break into competitive, crewed offshore racing," comments Reynolds. *"A competitive female team in this race should be the norm, not something unusual. It's not just enabling female sailors to go and do it, but to do it well. Two years ago in the RORC Caribbean 600 race we had a lot more women on the boat than we did men and the number of women coming into sailing is increasing, so are their ambitions. Most don't just want to take part in easy races or regattas, they actually want to go offshore."*

"Our goal is to do well by finishing in the top 25% of the fleet; to beat Northern Child (the Swan 51 she also owns with husband, Christian) and to finish in a respectable position in the race. We'll provide the tools and structure to give female crew a chance at competing on an equal footing in this testing offshore race."

"The loads on Southern Child are much more manageable than on the Swan (Northern Child), it's a fast, performance boat," says Lucy. *"She's the right kind of boat for an all-female campaign in this race. A First 40 won the Rolex Sydney-Hobart last year and if we can get some good training in, the boat (and crew) has the potential to achieve our goal of being in the top quarter."*

Lucy and her husband Christian Reynolds have successfully campaigned Northern Child in the UK, Mediterranean and Caribbean and last year bought the First 40, Smile and Wave which already had a winning track record on the regatta circuit.

Contact details: Lucy Reynolds, lucy@performanceyachtcharter.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – 'PAY TO PLAY'



'Paying to play' in such adventures and challenges as the Rolex Fastnet Race is a popular way to secure a place on board one of the participating yachts. Several companies offer the chance for novices or experienced sailors, individuals or groups, to race and provide the necessary training weekends and mile building-experience prior to the start. One such company, Sailing Logic provides offshore sailing opportunities and has 11 boats entered in the race. The company has won RORC Sailing School Boat of the year every year since 2005-2012.

Over the past few years, Sailing Logic has enjoyed considerable success at offshore racing. Allie Smith of Sailing Logic explains more: *"Sailing Logic has won the 'Best School Boat Trophy' in the Fastnet Race for the past four races, as well as achieving outstanding race results. All this is a testimony to the quality of the tuition and structure of our racing campaigns, which actively encourages new-comers to the sport as well providing competitive racing for more experienced sailors."*

"We have 4 yachts of individuals on board our boats: Puma Logic, Jaguar Logic, Lion Logic (all Reflex 38's) and Buccaneer Logic (Beneteau 40.7). We then have two group yachts with Barclays Capital on

Profile Logic (40.7) and the Relentless Sailing Team on board Rocketdog 2. They last competed in the Sevenstar Round Britain & Ireland Race in 2010. The other five teams are : Three boats for Attenda – Dusty P, Winston (both First40's) plus Addiction logic (40.7). Scarlet Logic (Oyster 48 – Ross Applebey) has more Sailing Logic individuals on-board and starts his campaign on the De Guingand Bowl, plus Lancelot 2 (First 40) has a private team aboard co-skippered by Chris Jackson and Tim Thubron, the same skipper team that sailed in the Rolex Middle Sea Race in 2012.”

“Amongst the individual yachts we have age ranges from 23 to 62; from Doctors, to Company directors, Forensic account, IT Consultant, garage owner, lifeguard and a surgeon. We have a really good ratio of women onboard, with at least three on every yacht. All the Mates on the Reflex 38's are women, who are all ex-clients of Sailing Logic who have become good enough to then start teaching to others less experienced.”

The RORC's Myth of Malham Race in May was the first of their four qualifying races for all of the individual teams, followed by the Morgan Cup, St Malo and Channel Race.

Allie continues: *“We have already had delivered over 1000 pouches of gourmet boil in the bag meals, and will be placing another order during July just for the Fastnet Race.... Meals will include: beef meatballs with mash, and Chicken Balti Curry with rice... mmm.....!!”*

Contact: Allie Smith, Sailing Logic Events Ltd, allie@sailinglogic.co.uk , M: 07770 560950, T: 02380 330999

CORNISH KATISHA

Contessa 32, James Moore, St Germans, Cornwall

Cornish Doctor, James Moore has owned his Contessa 32, Katisha for 9 years. During that time he has completed several long distance short handed races including an AZAB and the 2009 Rolex Fastnet. He and Phillip Pryor from Dowerry, Cornwall will compete in the race double-handed. They are both Ocean Yachtmasters who have sailed all their lives and enjoy long distance short-handed races. *“To date, we have yet to win any significant prizes – but we live in hope! The Fastnet is the ultimate challenge to ocean racing in UK waters – we enjoy the challenge of keeping the boat going as fast as possible 24hrs a day.”* says James.

IRELAND

Around a dozen entries from Ireland will take part in the race:

Adelie	Peter Hall/Conor Haughton	First 34.7	Wicklow
Alchimiste	Mike Murphy	JPK 9.60	Waterford
Antix	Anthony O'Leary	Ker 39	Crosshaven
Aquelina	James Tyrrell	J/122	Arklow
Danu Technologies	Glen Ward	IRM 35	Ranelagh
David Kenefick Sailing	Marcus Hutchinson	Figaro II	Kinsale
Desert Star	Ronan O Siochru	Sun Fast 37	Dun Laoghaire
Discover Ireland	Martin Breen/Aodhan Fitzgerald	Reflex 38	Oranmore
Jedi	Andrew Sarratt	J/109	Rathmichael
Joker	David Gibbons	Sigma 38	Kinsale
Lula Belle	Liam Coyne	First 36.7	Dublin
Raging Bull	Matt Davis	Sigma 400	Skerries

DISCOVER IRELAND's summer campaign will culminate in Rolex Fastnet

Discover Ireland, Reflex 38, Aodhan Fitzgerald, Galway

A group of sailors from Galway are taking to the water for a busy summer campaign that will culminate with the Rolex Fastnet Race.



Skipped by former Round Ireland race winner, Aodhan Fitzgerald, the campaign is supported by Discoverireland.ie and The Gathering Ireland 2013.



The team of 15 sailors, with a mix of offshore and inshore experience, will sail a Reflex 38, which previously won the Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race in 2011.

The campaign got underway with Galway Bay Sailing Club's annual Clarenbridge Crystal Trophy race, followed by the annual Scottish Series regatta from May 24-27 at Tarbert, Loch Fyne, the bi-annual 300 mile Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race, the National Championships in Fenit (June 13 - 15) and the Sovereigns Week regatta in Kinsale (end of June).

It will then take part in "The Gathering Cruise" which will see more than 100 sail and power boats cruising in company from Dublin to Kinsale, and on to Dingle, as part of The Gathering 2013 festivities.

The boat will then be delivered to Cowes, Isle of Wight, where it will start as "Discover Ireland" in the Rolex Fastnet race.

The team can be followed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Discover-Ireland-Sailing-Team/164484757041252>

Get updates on their progress from Discover Ireland on Twitter: www.twitter.com/discoverirl

From W M Nixon's Afloat column:

At least three other boats have special Irish interest – Nick Martin's J/105 *Diablo-J*, 2012 RORC Yacht of the Year after winning the two-handed championship including the double handed division in the round Ireland, with Dun Laoghaire's Andrew Boyle signed on to crew again, and the two recent round Ireland winners - Laurent Gouy's Ker 39 *Inis Mor*, and Piet Vroon's Ker 46 *Tonnerre de Breskens*.

Of the directly Irish boats, we note that the O'Leary family's *Antix* – a sister-ship of *Inis Mor* – has never done a major long offshore race before, not even the Round Ireland, but she's won oodles of stuff round the cans and in shorter offshores, so her transference to the wide open spaces will be interesting.

Further down the line, *Discover Ireland*, entered by Aodhan Fitzgerald is of course *NUI Galway*, the Reflex 38 which is current ICRA Boat of the Year. And it's good to see Matt Davis's successful Sigma 400 *Raging Bull* (ISORA Champion 2011) back in the lists – she missed 2012 completely through coming ashore in Skerries in a nor'east gale in May, but has now been restored by Noonan Boats down Wicklow way.

Young David Kenefick's Figaro programme under the tutelage of Marcus Hutchinson will be well under way by Fastnet time, and this should provide useful publicity and unmatched experience. As for the hot J/109s of Dublin Bay, two of them – *Jedi* and *Joker* – have made the cut, while their bigger sister, the Douglas brothers' J/133 *Spirit of Jacana* from Carrickfergus, is back again to defend her position as top-placed Irish boat in 2011.

Smallest of all the Irish entries is Mike Murphy's JPK 9.60 *Alchimiste* – at 31ft she has one of the shortest overall lengths in the entire fleet, but with her beam upwards of 11ft she's a big-hearted little 'un, an impressive French creation.

<http://afloat.ie/blogs/sailing-saturday-with-wm-nixon/item/20661-rock-breaking-records>

IRELAND

LILLA RETURNS TO HOME WATERS

LILLA, C.N.B Briand 76, Nancy and Simon de Pietro (IRELAND AND MASS. USA)



This summer saw the return to Ireland for Lilla, who left Kinsale Yacht Club on 1st Dec 2008 bound for the Caribbean. "We are no strangers to the southern Irish coast, Baltimore, or the Fastnet Rock," says owner Nancy de Pietro. "However, Lilla will be returning a different girl. She left just another Charter Chart in search of warmer weather and is returning with an offshore racing pedigree."

"Team Lilla's racing tour has focused on the longer 600 mile races where she can stretch her legs and our crew can push her and each other to perform. With a multi-national group of friends and family driven to compete, we have collected a few trophies including our record breaking overall win in the 2011 Marion-Bermuda Race, overall Cruising Division in the 2012 Newport-Bermuda Race, and most recently IRC Class 1,2,3 in the 2013 RORC Caribbean 600."

"This is Lilla's first Rolex Fastnet Race and we do not take it lightly. We will be racing with a strong group of returning veterans, including our biggest contributor and driving force Ian Martin (based in St. Maarten/born S. Africa). We are also fortunate to count in John Martin, who is a recent Commodore of the Royal Cape Yacht Club, flying in to join his brother Ian for their 2nd Fastnet Race together." Other returning Team Lilla veterans include Irish based owner Simon De Pietro (born Sheffield, UK), his wife Nancy De Pietro (MA, USA), Ian's son Jake Martin (St. Maarten/Germany), D. Randy West (FL, USA), Colin Campbell (Toronto, Canada), Bruce Kuryla (CT, USA), Howard Edwards (London, UK), and Guillaume Bihet (Brittany). Joining the team for the first time is Andre Swart (St. Maarten/S. Africa), and our luck of the Irish Eoghan O' Mahoney and Noel Cullen both from County Cork.

ITALY

Three Italian entries racing in IRC:

ITA	2011	A-Team, TP 52	Giorgio Martin	Caorle
ITA	16134	Duffy, Dufour 34e Performance	Enrico Calvi	Giugliano In Campania
GBR	7360	Quinta, First 40.7	Stan Davies/Alberto Scicchitano	Milan

GERMANY

Best Buddies	Susann Wrede	Swan 441 R (mod)
Charisma	Constantin Claviez	Swan 441
Chosi 6	Jan Matthies	J/35
Dessert D'Alcyone	Werner Landwehr	Figaro II
Makani	Mischa Kellner	Corsair 31-1D
Mare	Jörg Riechers	IMOCA 60
Norddeutsche Vermögen Hamburg	Hamburgische Verein Seefahrt e.V.	Andrews 56
Pogo I	Markus Seebich	Class40

Red (fbc)	Matthias Müller v. Blumencron	Class40
Sagitta	Tillmann Frank	Albin Stratus
Shakti	Hagen Ross	Rogers 46
Sjambok	Jens Kuehne	Reichel Pugh 48

BEST BUDDIES WITH QUANTUM SAILS

Susann Wrede, Swan 441 R (mod), (Hamburg)

From Seahorse magazine: The Rolex Fastnet Race is often a light-wind affair. But as anyone who knows their Fastnet history is aware, the race of 1979 was very different indeed, while the 1985 edition was also no picnic with severe gales and driving rain for more than 80 per cent of the event's duration.

Quantum Germany's Sven Krause, a veteran of 'four and a half' Fastnet races, recalls the '85 event very well. 'The "half" was in '85 when we were caught in Force 10 winds; all our electrics were wiped out and we had to retire,' he says. 'We later found out we were just a few miles from where the Maxi yacht *Drum* had capsized in the same storm.'

Still, Krause's four and a half Fastnets stand him in good stead for designing sails for those taking part in this summer's 605-mile classic. *"We have designed some new sails for a Swan 441 Racing version, Best Buddies. The owners, Kay and Susann Wrede, have put a lot of time and energy into getting as much speed out of her as they can. We have focused on sails that are fast and strong enough for a busy season."*

"The boat competes in Germany under ORCi, but the Fastnet is under IRC. The owners sat down with the designers at Judel- Vrolijk and worked out some different headsail areas to find out which set-up would be best for them. Now they are sailing with a 137% genoa instead of the original larger 150% sail. This allows proper sheeting angles and, with the new mainsail, gives them enough power across the range, as borne out by the fact they have been beating their main rivals on the Swan racing scene."

The sails are constructed from Quantum's Fusion M membrane technology. *"Rather than building the sail on a shaped mould in 3D form,"* explains Krause, *"we laminate the membrane sail in flat form on a workbench. This enables us to apply more pressure and direct heat and use a thermo-setting adhesive that achieves superior lamination. This means we are able to deliver a better laminate, which results in a longer-lasting product."*

"Ultimately, we have more control over the result. Whenever you use a lamination process, the film will always shrink in an uncontrolled manner when you expose it to heat."

"Fusion M comes in five or six sections which are laminated together to induce shape. We don't have a one-piece membrane sail; the advantage of constructing it from sections is that the shrinkage has already taken place before we assemble the final sail. This makes it much easier to achieve the shape that the sail was designed to be."

Bearing in mind that *Best Buddies* could well encounter another 55kt storm in this year's Fastnet Race, Krause says an additional set of transverse yarns have been added in the horizontal plane, so the sails will stand up much better to any flogging and flexing. *"This maybe adds a maximum of 10% of weight to an inshore layout, but the sails are still very light and the added structure will most likely add an extra season to the performance life of the sails,"* he adds.

CHARISMA, Nautor Swan 441, Constantin Claviez (Hamburg)

Charisma will have 8 Crew onboard for the Rolex Fastnet Race, Constantin himself has sailed over 200,000 nautical miles but has never raced in the Fastnet before. Sailing experience includes heavy weather training in the North Sea, Atlantic Ocean between Arctic, Canaries, Caribbean, East Coast America, Newfoundland, Atlantic Rally for Cruisers, Ocean Races Newport, R.I. to Hamburg.

<http://www.charisma4sea.de>

SWITZERLAND

Society Ladies Loved OUTRAGEOUS.

Outrageous, Swan S & S 47, Mark Stevenson & Keith Ballantine, (Menzingen, Switzerland) racing in the Two-Handed division

Outrageous, a Swan S&S 47, was owned by the Wathne family, 3 New York society sisters of Icelandic origins, in the 1980/90s. The sisters first sailed into Nantucket Harbor on the sloop and fell in love with the place so much that after they docked they stayed on the boat for several years, before eventually looking for property in the area. Outrageous was discovered in a boat store with charts still on table by a previous owner and shipped back to UK.



The spinnaker still carries the coat of arms of the Wathne sisters – a fish keeping company with a crown – as their passion was fly-fishing. Outrageous has been massively renovated over last 6 years by the current owner, Mark Stevenson.

Mark will be sailing Outrageous double-handed in this year's race is looking forward to the sense of achievement and collegiality at end of race party: *"Getting a classic cruiser racer 2-handed round a course where sister boats sailed in the infamous race of 1979, the year when Outrageous was launched, is an exciting challenge."*

<http://www.outrageous.ch>

USA

BELLE OF THE BALL

BELLA MENTE, Mini Maxi 72-foot Judel/Vrolijk, Hap Fauth (Minneapolis, Minn./Naples, Fla.)

"This is a world-class distance race. The race has a reputation for being multifaceted and extremely challenging and the Bella Team loves the idea of challenging conditions as well as great competition." says owner, Hap Fauth.

Launched in Spring 2012, Bella Mente is the second racing yacht built for owner Hap Fauth. This latest Mini Maxi is 72 feet long and was designed by Judel/Vrolijk.



Hap has been building "Bella Mente Racing" since 2005 when he purchased the first of the three racing yachts that have been part of the program. With his team, Hap has raced throughout the U.S. and all around Europe. When he is not competing on the water, Fauth runs a number of businesses that span many industries – from agriculture to aerospace – and brings many of the same principles and tactics that he uses in the boardroom to the development of his sailing campaign.

Hap Fauth purchased his first Bella Mente (a Judel/Vrolijk 66 built in 2002) in late 2005 and still has many members of the original team sailing with him today. The team won the Newport Bermuda Race in 2006 on the original Bella Mente and the 2011 Transpac on the second Bella Mente (a modified Reichel/Pugh 69 built in 2009). In 2012, the team captured the Mini Maxi Rolex World Championship with the current Bella Mente, and in 2013 plan to defend that title at the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup in September and also go after the Rolex Fastnet.

USA

Bella Mente Crew includes:

Michele "Mickey" Cannoni's sailing background includes working as mid-bow for Luna Rossa at the 32nd America's Cup where the team made it into the Luis Vuitton Cup finals.

John Cutler is best known for winning the bronze medal in the Finn Class at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea. In 1992, he was selected to be a sailing coach for the New Zealand team for the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

Daniel Fong's major sailing accomplishments include winning the 2011 America's Cup onboard Oracle as the headsail trimmer. Fong also sailed in the Whitbread Round-the-World race in 1997.

Hartwell "Hart" Jordan's career highlights include seven world championship titles and the bronze medal at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia in the Soling Class. He also has been involved in four America's Cup campaigns.

Ian "Soapy" Moore has been a navigator in the Volvo Ocean Race and as navigator and performance manager for America's Cup Campaigns.

Mark Newbrook has worked for two America's Cup syndicates as a grinder.

Romolo Ranieri's sailing accomplishments include racing in three America's Cup campaigns with the Italian syndicate Luna Rossa, which won the Louis Vuitton Trophy in 2000.

Mike Sanderson is a two-time winner of the Volvo Ocean Race and has held numerous World Records. Mike has been involved in four America's Cup campaigns and was ISAF World Sailor of the Year in 2007.

Grant Spanhake has been involved in six America's Cup and four Whitbread campaigns. Grant has also been involved in three Olympic campaigns where he was sail designer and trim coach.

<http://bellamenteracing.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bella-Mente/86086079984>

<https://twitter.com/US45bellamente>

Kirsten Ferguson (PR Manager) 401-330-7889 (Not onsite) - Kirsten.ferguson@mediapronewport.com)

TICKING THE ROCK OFF!

Momentum Ocean Racing, Class40 GBR93

Emma Creighton (Deer Island, Maine, USA), Dan Dytch (Lymington, Hants) and Skip McCormack



"Dan and I met in France during the 2011 season while we were both preparing for the Mini Transat. After racing against each other for the year, we decided we should start sailing together. In 2012, I had a Class 40 for the summer, and competed in The Atlantic Cup (up the East Coast of the US) and Dan joined me for the inshore crewed portion of the race. I joined him for some racing at Maxi Worlds and Les Voiles de Saint Tropez on the Wally he was running. Two years later and we're engaged, living together and have our own Class 40 (an Akilaria RC2, ex-Concise II)."

"Joining us for Fastnet will be our friend Skip McCormack (USA)- who also raced with us in Newport, RI for the inshore portion of the Atlantic Cup in 2012. Dan's been around Fastnet Rock a number of times before. I've competed in two races that were supposed to go around the Fastnet but had a course change at the last minute due to weather (2011 Mini Fastnet and 2013 Normandy Channel Race), and Skip's never been there either- so we're looking forward to ticking it off the bucket list."

"The Class40 fleet should be a really competitive one this year, the race will be great training for the Transat Jacques Vabre (France to Brazil in November) and a chance to see how much we've learned about our new boat this season!"

Website: <http://momentumocianracing.com>

Facebook: Emma's Sailing Exploits and Dan Dythch Ocean Racing

Twitter: EmmasSailing

<http://emmacreighton.net/>

ROLEX FASTNET RACE

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