



The Royal Western Yacht Club of England

OSTAR 2013 NEWSLETTER NO 1

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A new Race Committee has now been formed for OSTAR 2013. Most of us have experience of organising many offshore races including the OSTAR and Round Britain & Ireland Race. We realise that we need to crack on to establish the foundation deserving of this great classic race. As you may know, two TRANSAT races were run in 2004 and 2008 for boats in excess of 50 feet while the RWYC ran the OSTAR in 2005 and 2009 for boats between 30 and 50 feet. You will have noted that OSTAR 2013 is back to normal and is open to boats of a minimum of 27' LOA up to a maximum of 60 foot LOA. This is the 14th edition of the race incepted in 1960. Hopefully, the next race will be in 2016 to bring us back into line in the usual four year cycle.

It is our intention to alter the published Notice of Race dated 13th February 2012 by the issuance of Amendments. These will be put on our website. Today we have issued Amendment No 1.

Skippers have until 31st January to enter the race paying the discounted booking fee. However, later entries will be accepted subject to a non discounted fee. I have been in contact with many potential competitors during the last few days. We will have a better idea on the possible number of entries at the end of the month. Even then, there will be latecomers who will of course be very welcome. Such is the nature of these things, especially in such poor economic times. All I can say to potential competitors is please keep in touch with me and we will do all we can to assist you get to the start line.

We intend to get the OSTAR 2013 website better populated with current information. It will be linked to Yellowbrick's tracking and reporting system with a race viewer during the actual race. We are very much alive to the problem so please be patient with us as we get up to speed. We are also in discussion with potential competitors about including a blog site and in setting up a skipper's google group.

There will be a Half Crown Club reunion at the RWYC on the Saturday evening 25th May before the Race Start which will give competitors the chance to meet up with veterans from past races. Even Val Howells from the first race in 1960 hopes to turn out again.

With very best wishes,

David Southwood