



## The Royal Western Yacht Club of England

### OSTAR 2013 NEWSLETTER NO 2

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February I attended the RWYC Board Meeting in order to brief them about our proposals and plans for OSTAR 2013. I am pleased to report that the new Race Committee has their full support. Therefore, we look forward to organising a great race.

Some 20 skippers have now confirmed to me their intention to take part in the race. Among them are JanKees Lampe winner of OSTAR 2009 and Andrea Mura who won 2STAR 2012. Veterans from previous OSTARS such as Peter Crowther, Mervyn Wheatley, Geoff Alcorn and Christian Chalandre are entering again, as are several skippers who have taken part in the RWYC Round Britain & Ireland Race. We have decided to extend the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January for payment of the full fee. We have issued NOR Amendment No 2 accordingly. While entrants have paid their £500 deposit, it is felt that allowing more time for the balance to be paid will assist skippers to organise their financial planning and perhaps encourage more entries.

We have obtained the current guidance issued by the US Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border Protection in regard to Pleasure Boats. We have put this on the race website. Please refer to this because each boat arriving in Newport has to be cleared by US Customs before the skipper is allowed ashore. Those without a visa or incorrect documentation cause big problems for us and themselves. **If you arrive in the US by yacht you need a visa.**

We are in active discussion with various website designers to ensure that when we do re-design the current website that we incorporate everything that is required. This takes a bit of time to process the ideas and cost quotations. The present website is functional for the moment but we hope it will be much better. A good wine takes time to mature!

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May is a public holiday so is part of a long weekend in England. We are hoping to have a Royal Navy warship as the start vessel and intend to have a celebrity aboard to fire the gun.

Please note the race logo at the top right of this page. This will be on our race clothing but in a lighter blue compared to 2009. We do not intend to have roundels stuck on hulls in this race. Apparently, skippers prefer not to have them.

With very best wishes,

David Southwood