



**The ROYAL WESTERN YACHT CLUB of ENGLAND**

# **OSTAR 2009**



**the**  
**ROYAL WESTERN**  
**ORIGINAL SINGLEHANDED**  
**TRANSATLANTIC RACE**

**25th May 2009**  
**12:00**

Organising Authority: **The Royal Western Yacht Club of England**

## 2009 ROYAL WESTERN OSTAR

They say the major achievement of any OSTAR competitor is to get to the start. There were 67 potential competitors for OSTAR 2009 but in the end just 31 boats crossed the line on the 25th May. This was during the worst financial recession for a generation when sponsors and money were almost impossible to raise. Younger skippers found it difficult to take such a long break from their jobs. One even resigned his job when refused leave and faces an uncertain future after the race. Skippers had to complete a 500 nm qualifier. Some only achieved this after more than one attempt. Among the starters was a Class 50 trimaran and a junk rigged monohull which were expected to be first and last to Newport.

At 1130 UT on 25th May HRH ordered the two Vendée skippers Mike Golding and Dee Caffari to fire the start guns and the OSTAR fleet was off. After 24 hours the Class 50 trimaran was in the lead and the junk was, as expected, at the back. Gale force winds then came as the fleet entered the Atlantic as a result of which the two trimarans suffered damage forcing retirement together with two monohulls and the junk. Pip Hildesley put into Southern Ireland for rigging repairs and Jacques Bouchacourt took up the lead in his Futura 50. Why he later turned round and headed back to France is still a mystery but we understand that he had a domestic problem. Pip bravely rejoined the race and started her own campaign to overhaul the back markers one by one. She overtook seven yachts before arriving in Newport.

Unusually, in this race there were strong easterly winds for about a week as the fleet sailed north of a depression resulting in some fast and exhilarating surf sailing. Records were for the taking. As the fleet approached Nova Scotia there was a deep depression resulting in severe gale force winds and big seas. Ice was further south than usual and many competitors found themselves being squeezed between the depression to the south and ice to the north. As usual, most competitors had to contend with calms which are more difficult to bear than gales.

In heavy seas 300nm south east of Halifax Gianfranco Tortolani's boat rolled 360 degrees. He had been hand steering for a week. The mast broke but the boat righted itself although it was awash. His EPIRB had been set off automatically some hours earlier by a big wave so the coastguard in Rome and the race office were alerted. We tried to tell him to turn it off but luckily he left it on. We knew his position both from the EPIRB and tracker. A helicopter was despatched but turned back due to bad weather. A C130 aircraft went out at dawn and found the boat. It was able to divert a US container ship, Maersk Missouri, bound for Newark, New Jersey which rescued Gianfranco at midday Newport time. His Adventure Open 30 *Città di Salerno* was abandoned. It subsequently created some alarm when it was found by a fishing boat who mistakenly reported it giving Huib Swet's identification number - he was by then sailing home via the Azores but was eventually able to confirm he was safe.

Some great results were achieved:

- Oscar Mead in *King of Shaves*, aged only 18 years, became the youngest person ever to finish the race.
- Katie Miller in *bluQube*, aged 22 years, became the youngest woman ever to finish the race.
- Hannah White in *Pure Solo* had a great sail and nearly broke the 35 foot record set by Mary Falk in *QII* in 1996 of 19 days 22 hours and 57 minutes. She missed it by 1 hour and 25 minutes.
- Barry Hurley in *Dinah* beat Luca Zoccoli 3,000nm across the North Atlantic by just four minutes as he went rock hopping across Brenton Reef.
- Jerry Freeman completed his third, and Peter Crowther his eighth, OSTAR.
- JanKees Lampe in his Open 40 *La Promesse* broke the 40 foot record set by Simon Van Hagen in *Seatalk* in 1992 of 19 days 11 hours and 19 minutes with a fantastic time of 17 days 17 hours and 40 minutes. He is the first Dutchman to win the OSTAR.

**ROYAL WESTERN SINGLE-HANDED TRANSATLANTIC RACE 2009 --- The Thirteenth OSTAR**

Plymouth - Newport  
 25-May-09  
 Started: 31  
 Finished: 24

Classes

Pen Duick - IRC 1  
 Gipsy Moth - IRC 1  
 Jester - IRC 2  
 Eira - IRC 3

Manureva - Open 50  
 Three Cheers - MOCRA 1

Skipper	Yacht	Type	LOA	Class	Elapsed Time	Corrected Time	O/A Place	Class Place	Corr Place	Nation
LAMPE, JanKees	LA PROMESSE		40	PD	17 17 40	21 15 18	1	1	3	NED
CRAIGIE, Rob	JBELLINO		40	PD	19 00 10	20 13 34	2	2	1	GBR
WESTERMAN, Roberto	SPINNING WHEEL		40	PD	19 03 14	23 09 10	3	3	4	ITA
WHITE, Hannah	PURE SOLO		40	PD	20 00 22	21 15 16	4	4	2	GBR
HURLEY, Barry	DINAH		35	GM	20 22 35	21 06 37	5	1	1	IRL
ZOCCOLI, Luca	IN DIREZIONE OSTINATA E		35	PD	20 22 39	26 11 51	6	5	7	ITA
FREEMAN, Jerry	QII		35	PD	21 02 49	23 16 08	7	6	5	GBR
MEAD, Oscar	KING OF SHAVES		34	GM	21 12 24	21 18 36	8	2	2	GBR
MILLER, Katie	BLUQUBE		33	PD	21 18 53	23 18 59	9	7	6	GBR
ROTTGERING, Uwe	FANFAN!		40	GM	21 22 42	22 06 36	10	3	3	GER
NANNINI, Marco	BRITISH BEAGLE		36	J	21 23 44	20 16 04	11	1	1	ITA
SWETS, Huib	VIJAYA		42	GM	22 03 41	22 10 35	12	4	4	NED
KOOPMANS, Dick	JAGER		35	J	22 04 35	21 21 39	13	2	3	NED
BOOSMAN, Bart	DE FRANSCHMAN		30	J	22 21 04	21 18 09	14	3	2	NED
SAYER, Will	ELMARLEEN		32	E	23 01 30	19 22 46	15	1	1	GBR
HILDESLEY, Pip	CAZENOVE CAPITAL		39	GM	23 14 05	23 14 38	16	5	5	GBR
CHALANDRE, Christian	OLBIA		33	E	24 09 06	21 21 25	17	2	2	FRA
FALLA, John	BANJAARD		37	J	24 20 55	23 22 49	18	5	4	GBR
COLLINS, Michael	FLAMINGO LADY		33	E	27 05 31	24 10 51	19	3	3	GBR
PETTY, Andrew	JEMIMA NICHOLAS		40	J	28 15 57	27 13 48	20	6	6	GBR
CROWTHER, Peter	SUOMI KUDU		38	J	29 02 15	27 07 39	21	7	5	GBR

BOURKE, Peter	RUBICON	45	GM	39 07 56	41 00 31	22	6	6	USA
ALCORN, Geoff	WIND OF LORNE II	36	E	43 07 55	Over time limit				GBR
WHEATLEY, Mervyn	TAMARIND	42	J	22 05 47	retired				GBR
BOUCHACOURT, Jacques	OKAMI	50	PD	retired				FRA	
CUMMING, Rob	EGOTRIPP	40	PD	Power failure				GBR	
TORTOLANI, Gianfranco	CITTÀ DI SALERNO	30	PD	Capsized, rescued by ship				ITA	
BRANT, Paul	NINJOD	35	GM	Cracked bulkhead and other problems				GBR	
SNODGRASS, Jonathan	LEXIA	32	E	retired				GBR	
CASENEUVE, Anne	CROISIÈRES ANNE CASENEUVE	40	TC	Broken rudder				FRA	
GELDER, Reini	LIGHT FOR THE WORLD	40	TC	Rigging failure				AUT	

### OSTAR 2009 Tracks

