

Contessa 26 Class Racing Newsletter (March 2015).

2015 Nationals.

One of the ISC top Race Officers Phil Haggan has been appointed as Principal Race Officer for the Nationals. Phil is a local top race administrator and is looking forward to the event. He will give us expert on the water attention and we are lucky with this appointment. Entries have started to come in. It makes our job easier if early entries are received so please don't delay and get you form in ASAP.

Charles Stanley Classics Week (20 to 24 July 2015)

In advance of the Class celebrations for our 50th anniversary next year the Association has received an invitation to take part in the Charles Stanley Classics Week to be held between 20 and 24 July. Whilst it is not part of the Class Racing Programme it is an attractive event and I am planning to enter Jiminy Cricket and would love to see some other Contessa 26s there. It is a 5 day event; the racing is not over arduous and a high emphasis on the social side, which the organisers describe as a key component. Royal London Yacht Club who are very supportive of the CO 26 class are the lead organising club with input from Cowes Combined Clubs.

There is lots of information on the Royal London and Cowes Classic Week websites and some nice photos of the various other classes who are taking part. This used to be the Metre Week and dayboat event but is growing to encompass many classic classes including yachts.

There are a number of large classics (quite a sight) expected in Cowes at the same time as this event which is being held in parallel with the Panerai Classic Week. Immediately following it is the Americas Cup Challenge regatta at Portsmouth and then the Royal Yacht Squadron 200th anniversary regatta so there will be lots of interesting sights in the Solent at that time.

If any other 26s might be interested please have a look at the online info and do let me know. If we have 6 plus boats separate class and series results will be available, and we can have our own class supper gathering. I will also be happy to enquire about group mooring arrangements. Whilst the handicap system is a Classic Yacht one the organisers have agreed we can make some class input to try and recognise the different specifications of our boats.

Sail the Wight 2015

Another event that may be of interest is East Cowes Sailing Club's annual Sail the Wight charity race and cruise in company east-about around the Isle of Wight, on Saturday 6th June 2015.

There are 3 classes, with classes 1 and 2 starting from the iconic Royal Yacht Squadron Line, Cowes the first start is 0700 hrs., followed by class 2 at 0710 and Class 3 at 10.00 hrs., for boats preferring a shorter inshore Solent course. Class 3 starts from the East Cowes Sailing Club line.

Participating yachts in classes 1 and 2 will replicate the course of the yacht "America", winner of the Royal Yacht Squadron's annual 100 Guinea Cup race in 1851, an east-about race around the Isle of Wight. The Sail the Wight full east-about circumnavigation is a voyage of roughly 55 nautical miles. The shorter Class 3 course takes in roughly 12 nautical miles of the Solent and will be as far as possible configured in the shape of the Island.

Following on from a good day's sailing all skippers, crews, family and friends are invited to East Cowes Sailing Club for an evening celebration and awards presentation with bar, BBQ and music into the night. More details at www.sailthewight.org.uk or on Facebook.com/SailtheWight and Twitter.com/Sail_the_Wight

Other classes actively give it support and we have been approached for possible participation.

REGIONAL.

Whilst there is continuing and growing support for class participation racing in the Solent region we would be interested to hear from other clubs and regions who are holding class racing in any format. Reports will be appreciated and please do contact Mike Harrison if there is any guidance or help we can give to clubs or members wishing to organise events in other parts of the country. Taking part is fun and we have a south coast model that provides for cruising participants and non spinnaker entrants. The social get togethers and fellowship are great fun.

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