

2017Q3 SRC Review

In this quarter the fleet was offered not one but two series of buddied Tall Ships races (the Canada Rendezvous and the Baltic) series. Both series, after a light wind start on the return to Europe, experienced decent winds that offered alternative routes that varied widely on crossing the pond from Canada towards the Le Havre finishing mark. This had been located by the Sail Training International management to near Plymouth to avoid the Tall Ships interfering with the busy Channel shipping lanes prior to the tall ship closing festival in Le Havre. As a buddied race we were pleased to share their finishing line. The overall Rendezvous series result sailed in 240' Clippers was dominated by Italians (Franci, aner59 and RICOTINA) so they know something that the rest of us need to discover. In fact 1st and 2nd were tied on points and a countback was required. The three race Baltic series in 90m Barques was spread between Kenza, Alexandria and longreach (i.e. Russia, South and North America).

The second major activity in this quarter was completing our circuit of North America in our Supermaxi 100' for the Red Dot Series initiated by SOLer Renegade that included a non-scoring passage of the Panama Canal and thus eligibility to claim the Panama Canal Honours Badge. SCARABOCCHIO of Italy won this series chased closely by Rumskib of Germany and Jawz of South Africa.

Reflecting catamaran foiling in Bermuda for the America's Cup, a Timed race was set around the island of Bermuda. Now that the cup has been won by Team New Zealand and indications are that the contest will revert to monohulls, built in country and crewed by nationals; SRC will have to consider resting our foiling monster - unless there are calls of a 'need for speed' and more speed. As I write, the Timed series for Q3 is yet to conclude with racing on the circuit out of Auckland.

Also incomplete are the 40' series in Q3 and Q4 with only two races yet sailed but with the Hawaiian Zig-Zag having just commenced. The first two races of this series saw the Class 40 and the SOTO40 defeat the all-conquering Kerr using their speed margin in lighter airs. As always the choice of the right boat for the right race seems to be significant. May I please take this opportunity to remind racers **not to use one design more than twice** in this Series? You will be identified and disqualified from that race but such carelessness places a wholly unnecessary protest workload on SRC and our race coordinator. In real life would you really enter your yacht for a race when you knew that you and your crew would be disqualified? Please pay more attention to the designs still available to you once you have completed the first two races.

On the same topic, skippers have requested an earlier declaration of the race locations for the second half of the six month 40' series and such information is now included in the Notice of Race for 2017 40' Series Championship Q3 & Q4 that is available from the forum.

<http://www.sailonline.org/board/thread/14805/2017-championships/?page=1#post-15237>

Your technical team has received and has processed the polar of another 40' fixed keel yacht (Farr400). This yacht is being trialled early in 2017Q4 to see if and how it could integrate into the 40' Series for 2018.

In the Sprint series I would like to apologise on behalf of SRC for the very slow Seoul2Seoul race where the wind just did not appear with the leaders taking 20 hours to complete a Sprint! SRC cannot predict the wind two or three months in advance but such race duration is excessive and course length/boat design selection will be reviewed.

The Caribbean Rum Run was sailed in an Open 60 this year and the usual proliferation of pirate names and profanities (in the best possible taste) enlivened the event over 'Speak Like a Pirate Day' and 'Barts Bash'.

The Short Handed Sailing Association of New Zealand (SSANZ) provided three races which were held as buddied races out of Auckland along with excellent wind. Our continued buddy-up with this association is much appreciated.

On the subject of buddy-ups, SOLers will have noticed that SRC slipped in a new buddy-up race in September in the southern Baltic, in response to an approach from the Czech offshore sailing community, called the CANY-LANEX Offshore Cup. Departing in our X-35 from Kühlungsborn in northern Germany on the Baltic the race took in a circuit around an island NE of Bornholm before returning to Kühlungsborn. Hopefully this participation will become an annual event and will result in increased SOL activity from the Czech Republic.

Also on the subject of buddy-ups it would be hugely remiss if great mention and indeed praise was not heaped upon **Finn/Bimmer**, **Hagen/rumskib** and **Gilles/Gilberto** for attending the Silverrudder live event in Denmark with a stand in the event hall manned 24 hours a day over three days providing access to competitors, friends and family before and after the event and the sale of SOL caps, T-shirts and burgees. As if this was not enough, with the winds on the race course at the start being light, Danish TV2 took Finn to their studio and conducted a seven minute interview live on TV!!! Whilst many of us would not have understood the conversation – there is no such thing as bad publicity - and these brave souls are to be commended for greatly advancing the case of Sailonline in Scandinavia. Could thoughts turn to providing a presence at other buddy events such as The Vineyard and no doubt other events? Just an idea!

Meanwhile, prepare yourselves and your boats for some serious long distance high speed racing starting in Q4 that will last for some eight months and take us around the World. Not long to wait.

Richard Hardcastle / Go4iT

Chair – SRC

27th September 2017