

## 2018Q1 – SRC Review

The first quarter of a new year was accompanied by the Board dictating changes to the number of races per month for the sundry Series, by a direction from the Board to extend the duration to Timed races to run more than 6 hours, and so beyond one weather forecast, and to make start times as convenient as possible for the majority of SOLers, failing which they were to be DC'able. You will have noticed that where start times are dictated either by buddied race times or major Ocean races that starts have been relocated outside of confined areas.

SRC has tried to comply with these changes and we trust that you have enjoyed the racing that has been offered. We have certainly seen a few new names on the podium for some of the races and that is most encouraging.

SRC must apologise for what has been, in hindsight, a mistake in adding the Farr400 to the 40' fleet racing. Whilst the Ker40 had a speed advantage over the Class40 and the SOTO40, the Farr400 polar appears to have had an overdrive performance that has made it effectively unbeatable on the water. However everybody will get their turn to sail the Farr400 during the twelve race series. And if they do not use their full entitlement of three uses then they will only be handicapping themselves. Use it or lose it! Let us see if those currently in the Series lead, having in part benefited from the Farr400 polar on the early races, begin to tremble as others take their chance in that design over the balance of the Series.

Another feature of Q1 has been the eight Buddied races we have hosted that must in part reflect SOL's popularity with the real world and the hard work of our marketing team. If only the yacht clubs would not all schedule their races at the same time! To have three buddied races at the same time as the Lada round-the-world race kept us all very busy at the end of March.

There has been one other change that SRC would like to bring to your attention. After sterling service, MustangMark and Wolff have retired from SRC and applications from Zoe, Renegade and Patrick70119 have been accepted with Patrick70119 as a trainee for the moment. Their addition is much welcomed by SRC and their presence is already being felt. For example, look out for some new Timed courses being proposed by Zoe. The precise responsibilities for SRC members in 2018 are listed on the SOL home page under Race Committee.

Once the Lada race finishes at the end of June, Tall Ship racing will have recommenced and the Golden Globe Race (GGR), where SOL is the named NavSim partner, will be starting on 1<sup>st</sup> July. In line with the Notice of Race for the GGR, SRC will be inviting SOLers to commit to emulate the real racers by committing **in the SOL Forum** to race your SOL boat without any outside assistance, i.e. as a Non-Router. See what they have to experience whilst still availing yourself of confirmed six-hour weather forecasts (be most grateful), dry clothes, a warm and steady bunk, hot food, showers, a country walk and some company etc.! As Chair of SRC I will be committing in the Forum to race as a Non-Router for the feeder leg from Falmouth to Les Sables d'Olonne, and then in the fleet race to Storm Bay Tasmania from which, after a compulsory 90 minute stopover, yachts can start their Timed race back to Les Sables d'Olonne. The winner will be the yacht with the shortest elapsed time (fleet race + timed race). The Non-Routers will have the satisfaction of challenging the real fleet with the race closing at 15:00 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, 50 years after Sir Robin Knox Johnson finished after 300 days at sea.

**Richard / Go4iT**  
**Chair – SRC**

**11<sup>th</sup> April 2018**