

## Race Officer's Report 2025

Racing has continued to be well supported in 2025, with a good amount of activity in the West Country and Solent especially, things being a bit quieter on the East Coast. There was a record Multihull entry for the centenary Fastnet race with 33 boats of all types, including 20 MOCRA, 9 Ocean 50s and 4 Ultimes. Multihull racing in the Caribbean and Med also seems to be in good health, with events being quite well supported.

The first big event of the season was the MOCRA Nationals, hosted by the Royal Western Yacht Club. The racing commenced with 3 round the cans races in Plymouth Sound on Friday 1st May and continued over the early May Bank holiday weekend with coastal races from Plymouth to Falmouth to Fowey and finally back to Plymouth. The event was sailed with lightish but fairly consistent SW winds in the 6 to 12Kts range on the Friday, swinging to NE in the range 5 to 15Kts for the longer races over the weekend. On Friday the racing was very tight, with a different winner for each race; Andy Sinclair and Brendan Seward on their F82 Panoramix for race 1, Steve Holmwood on his Maldives 32 Molly 5 for race 2 and Simon Baker on the Dazcat 1495 Hissy Fit for race 3. The rest of the podium spots were filled by the smaller more manoeuvrable tris. The longest leg to Falmouth, was mostly down wind in lightish winds was also a close affair with all boats finishing within 1.5 hours, with Molly 5 again coming out on top. The subsequent races were just as tight, with Hissy Fit winning into Fowey and Bruce Sutherland and Alison Bushfield in their Dazcat 1195 Bare Necessities taking both line honours and winning overall on the leg back to Plymouth. Andrew Fennel on his Shuttleworth 39 Morpheus took line honours on both of the legs he contested. On completion, only 3 points separated 1st from third, with Steve Holmwood in Molly 5 taking the win from Andy and Brendan in Panoramix in 2nd and Will Rogers and Oriel Butcher taking an excellent 3rd in their first races with the Dazcat 10 Belladonna.

The next significant event in the South West was the Royal Naval Sailing Association (RNSA) race to Guernsey over the late May bank holiday weekend, in which 7 boats participated. The course out to St Peter Port was extended via a turning mark off the French coast for the MOCRA entrants to yield sufficient mileage for a Fastnet qualifier when the return race, which the RNSA kindly laid on just for us, was taken into account. The race out was taken by Bare Necessities, followed by Hissy Fit and Suenos. After a good night ashore, the race back got underway. This was split to have finishes in both Plymouth for 5 boats and Falmouth for 2 boats, to facilitate boats getting to their home ports. Following a windy start, the wind died off making it a challenge to round the turning mark off the French coast against a strong tide. The wind then increased to quite a boisterous level mid-channel. The Plymouth race was taken on both line honours and corrected by Andy Fennel on Morpheus, who had managed to get round the turning mark before the tide changed, followed by Hissy Fit and Bare Necessities. The Falmouth race went to Suenos.

There were 3 multihull entries in the 3 Creeks Race, which combined sailing and running over the weekend of 7th and 8th of June, namely Easy Tiger, Arlette and Trillium. The race format was disrupted by strong winds on the Saturday, which confined the sailing to Start Bay rather than the planned passage from Dartmouth to Salcombe. The sailing was close with Easy Tiger coming out on top on Saturday and Arlette on Sunday for the race from Dartmouth to the Yealm, whilst Trilliums runners proved to be the quickest.

The Round the Island Race on 7th June had a decent number of multihull entries, at 20, out of some 800 entries in total. The weather forecast beforehand was quite uncertain, but in the event the weather was decent. Initially, there was a light to moderate South Westerly, which built and swung to a squally Westerly that brought some 30kt gusts; later in the day the wind started to die, causing some problems for later finishers beating into a building tide. The squally conditions caused quite a lot of retirements; there were some 550 finishers, including fifteen of the 20 multies. The MOD 70 Zoulu took line honours, and was steered the entire race by her 84 year old owner Peter Cunningham in 3h26mins (corrected 7h40). The MOCRA win was taken by Harvey Bowden in the smallest boat in the fleet, his Firebird Hyper, in an elapsed time of 5h13m (corrected 6h58m).

The RORC Fastnet race that started on 26th July from the Royal Yacht Squadron line off Cowes in light Westerly saw a record MOCRA entry ranging from the big MOD70 tris, down to the smallest boat a 9.95m Dazcat. The race saw generally moderate conditions with only a brief spell up to around 30 Kts in the Irish Sea on the way home from the Fastnet for most boats. The race was pretty much a 700 mile windward-leeward race. The various South Coast tidal gates and choice of route around the Scillies going both ways and finally around Alderney on the way back to Cherbourg, were the significant tactical elements. The mainly light to moderate conditions favoured the big tris, but some smart tactical sailing and pushing hard when the wind was up, especially by some of the smaller catamarans, meant the big tris didn't dominate the podium. The Ultimes had a close race with only 5 hours separating them and screamed round the course in 1day 17hs with SVR Lazatigue taking the win. The 2 MOD 70s were practically match racing around the whole course, finishing only 20 minutes apart, with the honours going to Argo in 2d 5hr. The MOCRA corrected time win went to Adam Davis on his Nigel Irens 63ft tri Paradox 3, which profited from the MOD 70's match race, especially when they both dropped into a hole off Start Point that Paradox avoided, allowing her to get a favourable tide past Alderney. The sub 50ft multies also saw very close racing with a Dazcat 1,2, with Didier Bouillard's 1295 Minor Swing winning, followed by Simon Baker's 1495 Hissy Fit.

The two 1295 Dazcats based in the Solent also enjoyed very successful seasons competing in various RORC events. With Didier Bouillard's Minor Swing winning the season points trophy and Slinky Malinky in her first year with new owner Peter Coote coming second. The placings were reversed in the newly inaugurated RORC Cowes Offshore Racing Series which includes 7 of the familiar channel races, namely: Cervantes Trophy, De Guinard Bowl, Myth of Malham, Morgan Cup, Cowes Dinard, Channel Race and Cherbourg Race, each of which usually had 4 or 5 entries, Minor Swing and Slinky Malinky being joined by Uno, Dogzhouse, and occasionally a couple of MOD 70. Didier's better Fastnet Race result and retirement from the Myth of Malham caused the reversal in results between the two competitions.

There were the usual coastal race series in the West Country, several of which were called off or modified due to unseasonably bad weather. Entry numbers were down on previous years due to the large number of West Country entries in the Fastnet, which also soaked up crew from the smaller boats that didn't enter. The Ullman Sails Coastal series which combines

results from these races was taken by Simon Baker's Hissy fit, from Andy and Brendand's Panoramix, with Neil Boughton's Easy Tiger in third.

The Royal Victoria YC kept racing ticking over in the Solent, with a combination of several season-spanning and individual events: The Commissioning Cup, Merry Down Regatta and Bank Holiday regattas plus an 180th year anniversary race and spring, autumn and evening series. Honours for the series were split with Strider, Richard Rae's Dragonfly 32 Evo winning the Spring, Bank holiday and Autumn series and Sanity Nigel Talbot's F82R winning The Commissioning Cup, The Merry Down Regatta and the Evening series. However, it was Milly Mo, Tim Haslam's Dragonfly 920, that put up the most consistent performance throughout the various series, logging 6 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

The main event on the East Coast was Burnham Week only had 2 MOCRA entries, both F27's and was won by Nick Wood on Origami from Nigel Stevens on Triassic.

In Scotland Ian Baird's Outremer 38 Opportune was the only multi-hull to compete in the Scottish Island Peaks Race, which is the main event of the season and combines sailing and running.

The MOCRA inshore points series was retained by Tim Haslam thanks to a decent performance in the Round the Island Race and consistent performances in the Royal Vic series. Using entries in this series as a barometer of racing health in the UK we see a consistent result with 30 boats scoring points in the past 2 years.

Interest in Multihull sailing and racing seems to be increasing worldwide. There is also a growing multi-hull scene in the Mediterranean, including the Multihull Cup in Menorca for 50ft plus boats, run using the ORC rating. There are now several Caribbean multi-hull regattas using both MOCRA and Caribbean Multi-hull Association (CSA) ratings. Apart from a one-design Diam class; these regattas mostly seem to attract, and indeed a couple are limited to larger boats (60ft plus). There is a growing series known as the Caribbean Multihull Challenge that includes: The St. Maarten (Heineken) Regatta, the RORC Caribbean 600 and the BVI Spring series. This year, the RORC Caribbean 600 had 9 entries and was won by Duncan Gladman's ORC 50 Malolo. One notable entrant was Greg Johnson's Dazcat 1495 Sulu Basana (ex Prismo/Apollo), which changed hands in South Africa and was sailed straight to the Caribbean to take part, before continuing to her new home in Canada. Another notable entrant was Thierry Roger's Perros Guirec (Black Cap), which, from her home in Northern France, completed the Transatlantic Race, Caribbean 600 and Fastnet Races in 2025.