



Here we are now well into the New Year, as I write this, and we still have had little time on the water . We understand that Western Europe is or has been in the grip of freezing weather after the horrendous flooding of late December and early January. We hope you have all got through that “El Nino” weather and look forward to the Spring wether that is to be in Cyprus or in your home countries.

Cypriot Sailors at Youth World’s Langkawi, Malaysia



Cyprus Youth World’s sailors

More international success for Cyprus Sailing. Onisiforos Neofytou and Nikolas Protopapas performed excellently at the Youth Sailing World Championships held in Langkawi, Malaysia from 27 December to 3 January. The duo took seventh place overall in the SL16 class.

Haris Papazoglou and Rafail Theoharous competed in the 420 class and finished 25th overall while Orestis Germanos in the Laser radial class finished 42nd overall. The positions taken by the specific athletes are considered quite satisfactory, given the high level of the opposition.

425 athletes from 76 countries participated in the event, held at the International Sailing Centre of Malaysia. The number of participants as well as the level of organization indicates the size of the success for the Cyprus national team, as well as the systematic work done all the year round by the athletes and their coaches. It was an effort that gives much hope for further progress and a better future.

The sailors, who were accompanied by Fotis Protopapas, returned to Cyprus on the 5th of January.

Congratulations to them all from PISC!

Article courtesy: Cysaf Web site

Jules Verne Trophy



(January 8, 2015) – Two maxi-trimarans started November 22 in an attempt to claim the Jules Verne Trophy, a prize for the fastest circumnavigation of the world. Today they both finished... defeated.

The combatants were the 40m maxi-trimaran Spindrift 2, led by Yann Guichard and Dona Bertarelli, and Francis Joyon’s 31.5m maxi-trimaran IDEC SPORT. They sought to grab the trophy held since January 2012 by Loïck Peyron and his crew on Banque Populaire V (which is now Spindrift 2). The time to beat was 45 days, 13 hours, 42 minutes and 53 seconds. Neither made it. The Jules Verne Trophy has an official start-finish line between the Le Créac’h Lighthouse off the tip of Brittany and the Lizard Point in Cornwall. IDEC SPORT had originally started at 02:02:22 UTC with Spindrift 2 starting nearly two hours later at 04:01:58 UTC. They finished in reverse order. Spindrift 2 crossed the line at 15:01 UTC after 47 days 10 hours 59 minutes and 02 seconds at sea. This was the second best time in the history of the Jules Verne Trophy. IDEC SPORT crossed the line at 16:50 UTC after 47 days 14 hours and 47 minutes at sea. This was the third best time in the history of the Jules Verne Trophy.

Article: sailingscuttlebutt.com

PISC EGM February 5th 2016

An EGM has been called in February. This has been called to discuss several major agenda items.

- A. Proposed changes to the club financial year and subscription year.
- B. Proposed changes to the Club Constitution
- C. Proposed initial training with children from TLC school, Agios Georgios
- D. Proposed new Club Rules.

Members should look at the Club website for the details of these changes. Once you have read them, if you are off Island please get a full member who is on

Island to act as your proxy and make sure the Club Secretary has your proxy details. Your proxy will front your Issues or comments for you.

London Boat Show - Green Environment

The U.K. Minister of State for Marine Environment, George Eustice MP, today visited London Boat Show, meeting The Green Blue team on the RYA stand (D007), to discuss ways in which business and government can work together to develop and support the marine industry.

Seafaring nation

Speaking at the Show, Marine Minister, George Eustice, said: "As a seafaring nation, it is vital we protect our coast and waters for generations to come.

"It was a pleasure to visit the London Boat Show and meet leaders in the leisure marine sector who are continuing to focus on environmental conservation, while driving the growth of this important industry that makes a significant contribution to the UK's economy."

Dan Reading, The Green Blue's Sustainability Officer, met with the minister on the RYA stand to explain how the innovative environmental awareness programme set up by the RYA and British Marine is helping boaters and boating businesses minimise their impact on the environment.

He said: "It was good to meet the minister today and to see him show such a keen interest in our activities. Our mission is to promote the sustainable use of coastal and inland waters by boating and watersports participants, as well as the sustainable operation and development of the recreational boating industry.

"By raising awareness amongst industry and users we're able to reduce harmful discharges and environmental disturbance, as well as encouraging sustainable choices."

Maritime growth

Howard Pridding, Chief Executive of British Marine, commented: "We were delighted to host the Minister today at the London Boat Show. The UK's leisure marine industry is a vibrant and growing sector, worth almost £3bn to UK PLC and supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs.

"We welcome the Government's renewed focus on marine and maritime issues and we are working with departments to meet the ambitions set out in the Maritime Growth Study. We look forward to working with him, the Department for Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs and colleagues across government to further the success of the sector."

New Green Guide!

The Green Blue (TGB) also today published The Green Guide to Holding Tank Installation, featuring a host of top tips on how to prevent system blockages and holding tank pong! The environmental guide also provides advice on which construction material is best for holding tanks, as well as installation and maintenance best practice.

Jane Swan, The Green Blue Project Manager, explained: "Having a holding tank on your boat enables you and your crew to enjoy your time on the water knowing that you are comfortable, responsible and compliant with relevant, local legislation.

"Environmental initiatives have never been so easy to implement and we hope that our new guide will answer the common questions if you're thinking of installing a holding tank, whether you choose to self-install or find a company to do it for you."

The Green Blue is the environment initiative of the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) and British Marine. The Green Guide for Holding Tank Installation is the latest addition to The Green Blue's suite of handy guides. To download your free copy or to find out more about sustainable boating visit.

By Editor: There we are then, the leisure marine sector where Cyprus is significantly a central point in the middle East is where there could be a huge increase in the economy . Marinas and extensive facilities for boats is what is needed every few miles all around the coast.

Sad statement regarding U.K. 470 sailor Elliot Willis

Rio 2016-selected sailor to undergo cancer treatment



Elliot Willis - GBR 470 Class

Following medical tests, it has been confirmed that the British Sailing Team's 470 Olympic campaigner Elliot Willis has unfortunately been diagnosed with bowel cancer. Willis, 32, campaigns alongside 2012 silver medallist Luke Patience, with the world number two-ranked pair among the first athletes in any sport

to be selected to Team GB for the Rio 2016 Games in September.

An appropriate course of treatment is currently being determined for the Sevenoaks sailor – a two-time World Champion in the double-handed Olympic 470 Class – with Willis inevitably set to take some time out of the boat.

The longer term impact on his and Patience's 470 campaign for Rio will be assessed in due course depending on the treatment recommended by medical professionals.

Elliot Willis said:

"Clearly it's pretty shocking news to receive, as I'm sure anyone who's been affected by a similar thing would understand.

"It's still my dream to win Olympic gold but right now my focus and energy needs to be on getting better. My health is my number one concern and I will take advice and recommendations of the medical professionals as they establish the right course of treatment for me."

Article courtesy: RYA news

London Boat unveils latest RIVA "Bentley of the seas"



Courtesy: Venturer U.K./Rex/Shutterstock
Beautiful new Riva

At the London Boat Show 2016 the 'Bentley Blue' colour Aquariva Super, which is sold exclusively by Ventura in the UK, was on display. This unique craft was commissioned by an enthusiastic Bentley owner, naturally enough to match his favourite car!

The Aquariva Super is the modern-day, spiritual descendant of Riva's legendary, classic mahogany runabouts of the 1950s and '60s. Some say she is actually even more beautiful. Her gleaming wooden decks are certainly every bit as stunning as her illustrious forebears', and with two 380hp engines tucked away below the sunbed, this particular example will hit close to 50mph without breaking a sweat. A new Bentley to match this Aquariva is of course readily available should anyone wish to

recreate the set! But there's unlikely ever to be another boat like this. The Bentley Blue Aquariva is offered for sale with an asking price of €395,000 tax paid



This Riva is finished with 20 coats of Stoppani varnish and looks fabulous.

Dufour 40

The Dufour 40 has been boat of the year in previous years. It is extremely well built and apparently the Commodore says he quite fancies one!



The Dufour 40 off the South of France
Toot toot for the open sea!

PISC Team attends the ISAF Technical Course in Limassol



ISAF is now



Five members attended the six day ISAF/ World Sailing Level 1 Coaches course. We were all very pleased and excited to attend the comprehensive course at the Sailing Centre Limassol. 16 students attended from the 9 Cypriot Clubs. Top sailors from the Cyprus Sailing Federation clubs, Kyrenia S.C., Famagusta S.C. and Begafigo S.C. as well as PISC were

challenged by top World Sailing Coach Rob Holden from South Africa.



PISC Instructors Chris, Mike, John, V Cdre Phil and Chas
 Some fascinating sessions were run and many great instructional tips were gained. Cysaf kindly offered an excellent lunch and snacks throughout the sessions which kept us all going.



Coaches collect their diplomas and certificates
 To some of our team's dismay we regretted not taking our comfortable two man Wayfarers and so we had to carry out all the sailing using single handed Laser dinghies in rough seas! We also had no two man boats to practise the shore drills on either. Despite this we all did what we could to stay on the Lasers in the rough waters. The Coptic storm did what it could to spoil the event but we managed our tasks and lectures well, however John Lay became ill on day 3 so he pulled out, though he had completed a lot of his tasks. Candidates had to instruct students, give presentations in various yachting subjects and discuss issues such as suitable dinghies for junior training. The aim of the course was for the Cyprus Sailing Federation to train a tranche of Level 1 dinghy instructors to a standard that World Sailing finds acceptable.



CySaF Secretary Chris Comititis and Olympic Committee Member Damianos Hadjidamianou presents a certificate to Chris Cuthbert. IOC Solidarity kindly funded the course

The Cyprus Federation will be visited again in a year to pull together official training standards and courses so that future courses can be approved by World Sailing and come under CySaF.

PISC would then alter our training regimes in line with the Cyprus Federations requirements. Emphasis throughout was on learning to sail for those who have not sailed before.

Bowling Evening at Cosmic Bowl

The winter bowling session went well at the Cosmic bowl. The terrible coptic weather gave a very wet evening to go out. Over 30 members attended this meeting and Tony Davenport won the men's competition with his wife Brigitte winning the women's prize. Well done to them. Food was available in the Club House afterwards thanks to our caterers.

Kontides athlete of the Year 2015



Pavlos Kontides top Cypriot Athlete 2015
 Pavlos Kontides has been named the Top Cypriot Athlete of 2015. The title was awarded to him by the Cyprus Sports Writers Union for the fourth

consecutive year, in an award ceremony held on Tuesday January 12th.

The Cypriot Olympic medalist continued in 2015 his spectacular performances. He finished second in the ISAF Sailing World Cup Final that was held in Abu Dhabi, last November, while in September at the ISAF Sailing World Championship, held in, Tsingkntao in September he took third position. He also finished fourth in in the ISAF Sailing World Cup held in Weymouth and Portland, in Great Britain last June. He is currently in third place in the ISAF World Ranking.

Pavlos Kontides commented as following during the event: "I would like to thank the Cyprus Sports Writers Union for the award. It is a fact I have put high expectations ahead of Rio for myself. On tonight's event slogan that 'we honor the past, we support the future' I would like to alter it as say that 'we honor the past, we live the present and we invest to the future'. Youth and sports people can manage a lot. I would like to thank my family, my girlfriend and my coaches for their support. I would also like to thank the Cyprus Sports Organization, the Cyprus Olympic Committee, my sponsors OPAP Cyprus, Leventis Foundation and my supporters, VITA Constructions Ltd, AJK Wealth Management and Stelios Foundation". Pavlos Kontides travels to Croatia on Wednesday, January 14th, to continue his preparation for the upcoming obligations and the Olympic challenge

Article courtesy: Cysaf News

CYSAF congratulates Pavlos



Pavlos sailing in the World Cup

Pavlos Kontides was named athlete of the year in the Cyprus Sportswriters Union award ceremony held on Tuesday, January 20th. This award was presented to Kontides for the third consecutive year.

The President, the Board of Directors and the members of the Cyprus Sailing Federation warmly congratulate Pavlos Kontides, his family and all his

coaching team for this new success and wish him even greater successes in his career

Big Expensive fire in Marmaris Marina

Betty reports that near to her Bavaria 38's berth in Marmaris Marina there has been a devastating fire on the beautiful gin palace ."Barbie". Here is the superyacht before the fire.



Superyacht ."Barbie" before the fire



"Barbie" completely gutted and water damaged superyacht "Barbie", previously named "The One", and also previously known as "Carinthia VI".

The super yacht "Barbie", was owned by Turkish businessman Unal Aysal, former president of the Galatasaray football club. Barbie, built in 2006 by Al Jadaf and designed by Romeo Design, is styled after the traditional superyacht of today.

Based on similar yachts currently on the market, it would today have a value of €15million (£11million) to €20million (£14.6million), Semenikhin said.

Barbie's value could have been even higher, at €20million to £25million but the vessel appears to be a write-off, as the combination of smoke, heat and water damage means that little would be left of her interior, engines and equipment, he said.

He added: 'Insurance underwriters will have appointed a surveyor and loss adjuster immediately, but they will also be examining the policy fine print.

'There are plenty of cowboy insurance brokers out there who are anxious to sell policies – but rarely do owners fully understand wordings and what they must do to make sure that payouts are made without fuss.'

Article courtesy: Mail Online/DailyMail U.K.

Go ahead for final planning for Poseidon Grand Marina, Potemi Bay, Kissonerga (Paphos Marina)



Courtesy: Aristo Web Site

ARISTO Developers, a large shareholder of the joint venture POSEIDON GRAND MARINA, wishes to inform the general public about the judgment of the Supreme Court of Cyprus in relation to the award of the tender for development of the project on the Paphos Marina.

Specifically, the Supreme Court today December 21 2015 has announced its decision that the awarding of the tender for the development of the Paphos Marina in the joint venture POSEIDON GRAND MARINA can proceed.

Aristo Developers, one of the largest land development organizations in Cyprus with more than 35 years of success, welcomes the decision to a grand scale project that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the further development of the city and Paphos.

Article: Aristo Developers web site.
Congratulations to Aristo Developers



Photo: Aces Consulting web site

Aces Consulting have helped in the design of the new Marina of Paphos, Cyprus; Client: Poseidon Grand Marina; Year of Construction: 2016

By Editor: The design and shape of the new marina appears different on Aces website as seen in these two designs, it is not clear where the existing road is, possibly at the bottom of the picture. The Aristo version shows the sea wall loaded with housing and gardens. It will be interesting to see the final drawings, as according to the Cyprus Mail, there has been a demand for a cruise liner terminal from the Authorities added to the mix at the last moment. Also; the ravine with water outflow when the dam overflows looks as though it will rush straight into the marina.

On the Aces consultation drawing they had it sealed off from this flood. Aces Consultation have consulted on many marina projects and have plans for a very large marina at Zakynthos, Greece which is also underway.

From a PISC perspective it would appear there would be some land spillage at the peripherals of the site for sailing club(s). All will be revealed in time, subject to final planning permission, of course!

PISC members will also eagerly await details of moorings for our Offshore yachts and our cruisers, also the shore facilities that will be available for the many visiting yachts that will be expected.

Akamas; No clear way ahead yet



Photo: CTO/Cyprus Mail

Ever since the protection of the Akamas became an issue of public concern at the start of 1990, governments have been drawing plans, amending them, redrawing them and so forth in what has become self-perpetuating activity. It was therefore no big surprise that yesterday, the Council of Ministers approved the latest proposal for the Akamas drafted last year by a committee consisting of the ministers of agriculture, interior, finance, communications and energy. Whether it will be the

last one, assuming it is finalised, or more will follow nobody can say considering what has happened in the last 26 years.

The proposal submitted by the ministerial committee seems to leave several doors open for more changes as the “second draft” of the plan was subject to consultations. It also envisages the hiring of an expert to advise and propose ways of making the most of the National Forest as well as coming up with a unified management scheme for the area that falls within Natura 2000. More interestingly, the town planning department of the interior ministry, within 18 months, will re-examine the planning regime of the area and prepare a regional plan for all the Akamas. All previous decisions of the Council of Ministers on the matter will be examined again.

In other words, it is back to the drawing board, even though environmentalists believe the new proposal will pave the way for development, as it reduces the Natura 2000 area by 25 per cent. A joint statement issued by campaigners after a protest outside the presidential palace last month, demanded that the whole Akamas peninsula was declared a “biosphere park,” as defined by UNESCO, which meant “environmental protection, natural resource management, socio-economic welfare of local communities and sustainable tourist activities.”

By Editor: The Akamas needs a solution and I personally hope that the Akamas could become a National Park or biosphere park. Reports in the press recently stated that 25% of Akamas is in private hands and, as such this 25% of the land could potentially be built on. This includes the area around Lara bay! This wouldn't make it much of a National park or perhaps it never will be?

Seek out the protest on Facebook should you have a view!

British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond on Cyprus

24 January 2016



British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond said on Thursday he was optimistic Cyprus was nearing a “breakthrough” in resolving its four-decade-old

partition and that his country was ready to give up its role as the island’s guarantor if that was what the two communities wanted.

“I’ve made several visits to Cyprus over the last few months, meeting members of both communities, and I am optimistic that we may be on the brink of a breakthrough in resolving this dispute,” Hammond told reporters in Athens.

New impetus was given to the island’s on-off peace process by the election of moderate Mustafa Akinci as Turkish Cypriot leader last May.

On Monday, Turkey’s Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Ankara would fulfil its responsibilities to ensure the resolution this year of the dispute over Cyprus.

Hammond said Britain, Cyprus’ former colonial ruler and a guarantor of the island’s independence alongside Greece and Turkey, said had no interest in maintaining the current tripartite model.

“If the two communities in Cyprus agree a model that ... requires Britain to play no role, we will be quite happy to play no role. If the model they develop requires Britain to play a role, then we are happy to consider playing any role the two communities ask us,” he said. “What we want is to see a sustainable solution in Cyprus and we will do everything in our power to bring that about.”

Article courtesy: Cyprus Mail

Oyster Keel Failure

Published on January 13th, 2016 by Darrell Nicholson, Practical Sailor



Oyster 825 looking through where the keel was!

This summer, the once lovely Oyster 825 “Polina Star III” was hauled from the water after sinking with its keel missing and a large chunk of skin laminate peeled back. Another casualty in a disturbing trend.

Why so much attention to keels? The numbers speak for themselves. When the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) formed a working group to look

into the keel loss issue in 2013 they tallied up 72 incidents (since 1984) that resulted in 24 deaths. Far from complete, this profile only records incidents where survivor reports or vetted second hand accounts were available, or vessel remains pinpointed to the cause of a loss. No numbers exist for cases in which sailboats simply disappeared at sea—but keel failure, resulting in major hull damage and loss of stability, certainly can't be ruled out.



A similar Oyster 825

It's often hard to come by detailed information portraying what actually went wrong due to litigation and the all too regular use of gag orders that hold back the details and protect certain parties involved in the litigation. The much larger automotive and aviation industries attract more scrutiny and regulatory control and product failures gather greater attention. But when it comes to keel failures, mums the word and the bottom line question is simply—who's keeping track?

Article courtesy: Practical Sailor

CYSAF Technical team & World Sailing Dinghy Coach trainer visit Agios Georgios

The Cyprus Sailing Federation invited the World Sailing Coach trainer Rob Holden to visit Cypriot sailing clubs in a fact finding tour of facilities and training. PISC enjoyed his visit at the club beach site on Saturday 23rd Feb. After completing the six day technical training course in Limassol, Rob Holden from Mussel Bay South Africa, received a brief by Cdre Paul and VCdre Phil on our training methods. John Tremain our Powerboat trainer and Brigitte Davenport the First Aid Officer also briefed on their specialities. The visitors were shown the facilities, dinghies and RIB's and they was also taken through our procedures at the beach.



Phil briefs the members



PISC Team brief and meet with CySAF and World Sailing
The follow up visit to PISC with the Cyprus Federation Staff is part of his Island visit to help the Federation get coaching in line with the latest thinking and standardised procedures. Rob also visited Limassol SC. and Famagusta SC and Begafigo SC whilst on the Island.



Rob and Paul discuss Wayfarers



Cdre Paul presents Rob with a PISC Burgee



Bacon rolls and Leon..



Great turnout from the Club Members who gave the visitors a good sendoff

PISC Safety Boat team called to assist damaged Powerboat in Akamas

Safety Koula finished safety duty at 1230 on 16TH February. Lee Riches of Lee Marine Cyprus called members to inform them of a powerboat in difficulties beyond Lara Bay, Akamas. The OOD called together a team of volunteers to relaunch the safety boat to go and find the powerboat in difficulties. Scotty (Coxswain) John Morren (OOD) and Lawrence Mantz went off in search of the vessel.

The Akamas having a large area of coast to search, with its many small bays and inlets proved a big search area for the team. After Lara bay they continued for 10km checking as they went and eventually found the speedboat on a shoal reef close inshore. The boat was indeed in dire Straits with engine leg and prop damaged putting it at the mercy of the rocks. Safety Koula was manoeuvred close inshore to the edge of the shoal and Lawrence (our swimmer) went into shore walking and paddling across the shoal to get a line to the boat. It turned out that the boat and occupants were members of PISC. After pulling her clear and out to sea, Lee Riches arrived with his larger boat to tow the vessel back to Agios Georgios. Well done to our team in saving the boat and its occupants!



Propellers and rocks don't mix!

Youth Sail training

I have received the following item with reference to Youth Training from VCdre Phil, who is also Training Officer (TO). Phil states "Over the past two years the Training Officer (TO) has received requests for family members under 18 to be taught how to sail. Although the club rules allow those family members to sail there is no mechanism where they can be formally taught on courses offered by the club. The effect of this cannot be quantified but it is reasonable to say that some potential new family members have decided not to join as club training excludes their children.

When the subject was muted again in May 2015 some members expressed enthusiastic support to the extent of offering donations to purchase dinghies. The Commodore's Quarterly Report (Q1) to all members in July 2015 mentioned training and the ambition for a youth training programme.

In September 2015 The Learning Centre (TLC) wrote and asked if the club would consider a joint partnership to provide sail training to TLC students as an extra-curricular activity. Following agreement in principle by the committee for a study to be conducted the TO was tasked with examining the requirements and implications of such a programme before any commitments could be made. To keep

members informed the subject was included in the Commodore's Quarterly Report (Q2) of October 2015 with progress also included in minutes of the committee's monthly meetings since September 2015. In December 2015 the TO submitted a final report to the committee details of which can found in the members area of the club website under 'Administration & Legal - EGM February 5th 2016'. The report details a series of essential actions required before a youth sail training programme can be offered but each is achievable with membership support. The following is a basic outline of the report:

Although the committee has indicated that it might be prepared to support a partial meeting of costs from club funds, it is hoped that costs for the project would be funded from private sponsorship or donations, with no impact on club funds other than ongoing maintenance and minor expenses to meet any legal requirements. In the first instance an appeal for donations will be raised internally to fund boats and associated equipment. Depending on the level of response TLC would then initiate an appeal for the balance through crowdfunding. A total of six single-handed dinghies are required for an effective programme. Individuals who may wish to purchase a dinghy outright will be invited to name the boat or advertise accordingly.

Students would be taught theory utilising TLC classrooms. Students will use TLC changing rooms and be brought to the club AG facilities by TLC mini bus and be accompanied by a TLC teacher throughout all training. Initially, training is proposed for up to six students aged 16 or over and up to 18 years of age each Thursday from 1300 – 1600 during term times. Such training would de-conflict with the normal advertised sailing times. Subsequently, training is proposed for up to six students aged 14 or over but under 16 years of age for a period of three hours once per week during term times on a day to be agreed between PISC and TLC.

The report recommends that, for the foreseeable future, training for students under 14 years of age should not be provided.

The presence of a small number of TLC students during training courses will have little or no impact on normal activities at AG. It is likely that students will not arrive until 13:30 and leave again at 15:30 in time to return to TLC to change and be ready to go home at 16:00. Clearly this programme of training will depend on the support of the membership and a number of volunteers who are prepared to give of their time to help provide a lifelong experience for the current generation of students.

As the Commodore indicated in his Q2 Quarterly Report, the committee has approved the above plan in principle, subject to final detail. It will be a requirement of the programme that student's be a member of the club to be able to participate. Whilst this is possible today, the committee believes that it would be better served by creation of a separate Student Membership category, which is one of the resolutions that have been tabled at the EGM to be held on 5th February 2016. – ends"



Clipper Leg 7 racing on



Da Nang sails on leg 7
(January 19, 2016) – Race 7 of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race, The Da Nang New Discovery of Asia Race, got underway at 0530 UTC (1530 Local) today, 19 January. The 4,310 nautical mile race had a Le Mans start approximately 100 nautical miles from Airlie Beach in the Coral Sea. Duty Skipper Peter Thornton aboard Great Britain conducted the start which was held offshore to avoid the risk of racing through the coral reefs. The Le Mans start requires all the boats to line up. If the Duty Skipper suspects that an unfair advantage is being obtained by any boat they will halt the start process and re-start the sequence. The procedure uses the standard Clipper start countdown of 10 min, 4 min, 1 min, Start. Prior to the 10 minute signal all boats have their mainsails hoisted. Headsails hanked on, halyards and sheets attached, but NOT hoisted. All boats motor slowly (speed set by the Duty Skipper), approximately 2 to 3 boat lengths apart in a line abreast on a pre-arranged heading. This heading is usually towards the finish. Once the fleet is in a line abreast, the lead skipper signals the 10 minute gun via VHF on a pre-arranged channel. Engines shall be used to ensure that the boats are lined up accordingly (either reverse or

forward). At the 4 minute signal, all crew shall be aft of the forward coffee grinder. At the one minute signal, engines are to be turned off. Mainsails are trimmed to ensure the fleet stays in line. If the fleet drift out of line, the Duty Skipper can stop the sequence and start the process again. At the start gun, the crew can move forward and the headsails can be hoisted. All boats must hold the agreed course and separation for the first 10 minutes after the start gun. Skipper Peter Thornton reported: "We were all in position to start the race with a Le Mans procedure in good time. At 1530 local we were all lined up (pretty much) and started Race 7! When the 10 minute course and sail hold had passed, nearly all the fleet popped their kites to make ground north-east towards Papua New Guinea." The race to Da Nang is expected to take 31 days, with the fleet arrival window set for 17-21 February. Courtesy: Event media website [article: www.sailingscuttlebutt.com](http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com)

reading it. Please send any articles to me or alert me to newsworthy items for future newsletters.

All the best and stay safe



Chas Kimber

Editor



Paul Hutton-Ashkenny

Commodore

That's our New Years news, On behalf of the Commodore and the General Committee thanks for