

PRESS RELEASE

Cowes Classics Week

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For immediate release



Metre & Classic Keelboat Regatta – Meeting of Class Representatives

Last Friday, the organising team for the Regatta from the Royal London Yacht Club met with Class Captains and representatives of classes attending the regatta in order that the event can meet the needs of competitors. It is in the Corinthian spirit that the event is evolving in a way that is totally participative and the level of enthusiasm and support is most gratifying.

Classes involved in the event so far include: Daring (for which the event is now a qualifying event for their annual series), Victory (who are celebrating their 75th Anniversary), 6mR, 8mR, Sunbeam, Bembridge Redwing, Bembridge One Design, X One Design and Tofinou 9.5 (in the spirit of tradition – a new class that sail in the Mediterranean classic events and have adopted this as their first major UK event). In addition, a handicap class is expected to include 22sq.m., Tumlare, IOD, West Solent Restricted Class (who are celebrating their 85th Anniversary), 30sq.m. – all racing classes that exist in limited numbers. It is now looking like there may be over 100 boats attending.

It was agreed that the formula of using multiple race tracks with committee boat starts provides clear water for each race in a relatively quiet Solent and by rotating the fleets between laid and fixed mark courses provides the variety that is part of a regatta ethos. One afternoon will be laid aside for a whole fleet race which provides an optional lay half-day for those that need it or a reserve day if necessary. The Notice of Race has now been posted on the web site and an on-line entry system will shortly be in place.

Looking to the future, it is anticipated that Cowes Classics Week will attract individual participants from classic one-design fleets all round the country and that it will provide a home for celebratory events as these classes reach key milestones in their life. Celebrations due in the next couple of years include: 100th of the X One Design, 75th of the Mylne One Design (based on the Mersey), 75th of the Loch Long (Aldeburgh & Clyde), 75th of the Sq.m. (German Rule) – the boats that became the Windfall Yachts and the 50th Anniversary of the first Cowes-Torquay Offshore Powerboat Race. The Royal London YC have offered their Royal Victoria Cup as an Anniversary Cup to be awarded to any fleet celebrating an anniversary in that year.



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The Bartlett Cup – recently discovered in a London attic and awarded to the Metre classes

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Further details at www.cowesclassicsweek.org

The Cowes Classics Week Steering Group includes representative from the Royal Yacht Squadron, The Royal London YC and the Royal Corinthian (Cowes) YC.