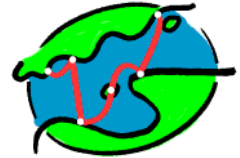

PETIT BATEAU 2005

NEWSLETTER

SINGLE-HANDED CHANNEL RACE WEEK



Newsletter 1

February 2005

Welcome to PB2005, this is the first newsletter of the race; there should be a couple more to follow. The aim is to keep skippers informed on what is going on and how plans are progressing with our race. If anyone has any articles they would like to be added to the next newsletter please send them to pb2005@petitbateau.org.uk.

Entries So Far

So far, we have 14 entries confirmed which is well ahead of the number we had at this time last year for the 2004 race. There are a number of skippers known to intend to enter but have not got round to it so we should easily have 20+ entries by June.

The amount of free publicity we have had in yachting magazines and websites is not as much as last year so we can all do our bit to spread the word about the race. Print off the poster from the Petit Bateau website and pin it on the notice board at your yacht club, local sail loft and chandler.

Entries Declined

We have had a few skippers who wanted to enter PB2005 but unfortunately have had to decline their entry. Two were Mini Transat boats, which we have nothing against in principle, as they are fast enough to keep up with 30' boats and can meet safety requirements but our decision was based upon three things. The Minis have a very different performance envelope to the type of boats the race is aimed at. They are extremely fast down wind but having such a short water line length would struggle up wind against bigger boats. The second reason is the limited number of places in the race, so we thought it was only fair to save places for larger boats for which the race is aimed at. The third thing is boats will need to have reasonably good engines, if the weather is light, starts may be delayed, and we may have to motor for some time before we can start the race. Also an engine will be required getting into Treguier.

Another boat that wanted to enter was a JS9000 although almost long enough to enter it is no more than a stretched sport boat without any guard and could never meet Cat 3 regs, so of course we had to decline this entry too.

A Packed Event

A few people have wondered if the course is a little ambitious, especially the first 3 legs. Well it is true we are trying to pack as much as possible into the week. For the first leg to Cherbourg around 65 miles, we are hoping to have most boats finished by 2100hrs FST, a dinner is booked at the YC for 2200hrs FST. This will give around 12 hrs to complete the passage, average of 5.5 knots, which is easily achievable if we have good weather conditions. If the forecast is light then we still plan to leave Lymington at the same start time, then it is intended we will all motor in company until enough wind fills in, then the race will start en route, The start procedure in this situation has not been decided yet, we hope to have a committee boat with us for this purpose, if we can not find a volunteer we may have to self start, we have a few ideas how we will do this but any suggestions will be considered?

If the weather is too bad to start we will just have to miss this leg out and go straight to St Peter Port the following day.

This is an example on how we will treat each leg, if the weather is with us there should be no problems but if the weather is against us we will have to come up with solutions as we go along to keep the whole show on the road.

Also we will be bearing in mind that the race week is being held during some pretty high spring tides and the last thing we want to see is boats struggling to finish against some strong tides especially at St Peter Port and Treguier finishes. On these legs you will need to keep up an average of over 5.5 knots to beat finishing in foul tide at the end.



One of the JOD35s entered

CVs and Fees

There are still a few of you who have entered but not yet sent in your deposit,
You can pay online direct into the PB bank account. Details are:
Account name: Racing at Petit Bateau Ltd
Account Number: 03982240
Sort Code: 30-91-60

Or post a cheque made out to "Racing at Petit Bateau Ltd" to:
17 Stanley Road
Whitstable
Kent
CT5 4NJ

The deposit is £50 but it is getting towards the time when the total amount will be due so you can pay the full amount £150 if you wish as some keen entrants have already done - many thanks to them.

Also some have paid but not filled in an entry form yet if they can find time to do this it would be much appreciated.

Lastly there are a number of you who have not sent in a short sailing CV and pictures of yourself and boat. Again much appreciated if you could.

Last Year's Skippers enter OSTAR

Five of last year's skippers have gone on to enter this year's OSTAR. Pictured below in Mylor, at the start of leg 1 are:

*Ronney Nollet(B), Mary Falk(GB), Stuart MacDonald(Scot)
*Nico Budel(NL), *Michel Kleinjans(B), Paul Peggs(GB),
Jerry Freeman(GB),*Mervyn Wheatley(GB),Oliver Desport(F)
*Leon Bart(NL) *Pierre-Yves Chatelain(F).



* indicates OSTAR 2005 entrants