

# Quantum Network–Newsletter Spring 2012

Spring is really in the air, the clocks have gone forward to BST and we have had some fantastic sailing already in February and March! What better time then to focus on the upcoming sailing opportunities with Quantum Sailing and to look at some of the major events going on in the wider sailing world in the 2012 season?

## Quantum Sailing Update

Quantum Leap has undergone her full winter maintenance programme, this year with the addition of new standing rigging, so she is in first rate condition and ready to go. The summer is already looking like it will be even busier than 2011 so do let us know as soon as possible if you would like to book. Here are a few options to consider:



**Open boat - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Free taster sessions** - Are you thinking of organising a sailing trip for your family or friends? Would you like to see Quantum Leap and meet the team? As in previous years, we are giving Quantum Network members and their families/friends a special opportunity to join us at Haslar marina, to meet other Quantum Sailing Network members, see the yacht and enjoy a short sail from Portsmouth harbour. There is no obligation but we hope that it will inspire you to go on to organize longer sailing trips. Places are limited and prior booking is essential. Contact Glenn - 07919 017835 or email [glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk](mailto:glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk)

**Adventure Cruises** – We have a number of open cruises where you can join others for a weekend or longer to explore some great locations. Early season trips are already booked up but we still have an number of opportunities available:

**June 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Cross channel week, visit France and the Channel Islands. Whether you just want to enjoy cruising to some great locations or want to practice your navigation and pilotage skills in some interesting tidal waters, this will be a great chance to get in some sailing time.

**July 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>** – A weekend around the Solent and along the South Coast of England. With the chance to learn or practice your sailing skills, this trip is suitable for all levels of experience.

**24<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September – West Country cruise** - This 9 day trip takes in the fabulous Devon and Cornwall coastline and, weather permitting, the Isles of Scilly. With just two space still available, this popular trip will provide an excellent opportunity to practice and develop your sailing skills.



We have other cruises available too, including weekends, long weekends and mid week trips. For the latest availability please see [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/avail-adventure.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/avail-adventure.html). If you are interested in something that is not on our existing programme please ask as we will try to respond with additional events wherever we can.

**Experience Days** - We have sailing experience days available throughout the summer. These are suitable whether you want to try sailing for the first time or just want to get out on the water again to practice existing skills. The first Experience Day of the season is on 19<sup>th</sup> May with others in June, July, August and September. For details, please see [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/avail-experience.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/avail-experience.html)

**Special Events** – We have a number of special events lined up this year:

**29<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July - The annual Round the Island race** – last year this event attracted 1900 entrants and some pretty feisty weather, making for interesting racing. We are again offering a 3 day package, including a days race training before the main event. See [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/roundislandrace.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/roundislandrace.html) for details. We currently have just 2 crew places left, so do contact us asap if you are interested.

**3<sup>rd</sup> July – P&O Grand Procession** – To celebrate their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, all seven of the P&O passenger liners will come together for the first time and will form a procession as they leave Southampton. Join us onboard Quantum Leap to get a great view from close up on the water.

**11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> August – Cowes week** - Dating back to 1826, today this regatta attracts over 1,000 boats with around 8,500 competitors. We will be offering the opportunity to experience sailing in the Solent, whilst viewing the racing at close quarters, with one or two day packages (including the Friday night fireworks spectacular).



If you don't see what you are looking for on our open programme, please talk to us, we will always try to respond with additional events where we can. Call Glenn on 07919 017835 or email [info@quantumsailing.co.uk](mailto:info@quantumsailing.co.uk).

Quantum Leap is also available for Skippered Charter - ideal for families or small groups. With exclusive use of the yacht, these trips are tailored for you and can include as much or as little sailing training or cruising as you want. Please call us to discuss your requirements.



## Other Sailing Events

There is a large amount of competitive sailing this year, here are just a few highlights to look out for:

**Olympic and Paralympics** – Whilst much of the Olympic talk this year is about 'London 2012', the sailing events will be taking place in Weymouth bay. This means that there will be special restrictions in place around Weymouth and Portland harbours between 16 July to 9 September 2012 inclusive. During the Olympics and Paralympics there will be an exclusion area in operation across the bay with a defined access channel to reach Weymouth but this will only be usable for pre booked moorings anyway. So pre booking is absolutely necessary if you want to visit or view the action from the sea.



Great Britain has a proud history in Olympic sailing, having won more gold medals than any other nation overall. More recently, Team GB has been the leading medal taker in sailing for the last 3 Olympics, including 6 medals in the 2008 games. Hence it is a sport with high expectations for 2012 at home. Following Ben Ainslie's gold medals in each of the last three Olympics he will be going for his fourth consecutive gold medal this year and his fifth Olympic medal overall (he also has a silver medal from the 1996 games).

**The Vendée Globe** – Possibly the toughest and most dangerous event on any sporting calendar, this event takes place every four years, with the next start in November of this year. The event brings the best single handed sailors together to race *Open 60* class monohull yachts against one another, non-stop around the world. Facing the might of the southern ocean, this is not for the faint-hearted. We would recommend Pete Goss's book 'Close to the wind' for anyone wanting to get some idea of what it is like out there (as he describes the dramatic rescue of the French competitor Raphaël Dinelli).

Starting in Les Sables-d'Olonne, this race has been dominated by the French, who have won every event to date. Notable attempts by UK sailors include Ellen MacArthur, who was runner up in 2000-2001 and Mike Golding who was third in 2004-2005.

There are a good number of UK Skippers hoping to be on the start line this year including Alex Thompson, Brian Thompson, Dee Caffari, Mike Golding and Samantha Davies. Maybe this will be the occasion that the trophy is wrestled out of french hands. See <http://www.vendeeglobe.org/en/> for details.



**Volvo Ocean Race** - Formerly the Whitbread Round the World Race, this is a tough race for professionally crewed yachts. Crews circumnavigate the globe racing over in a number of separate legs (9 ocean and 10 local races). This race started in Alicante at the end of October 2011 and will finish in Galway in early July 2012. Currently *Team Telefónica* is ahead in the overall standing but Franck Camma's boat *Groupama* has just rounded Cape Horn to lead the current leg. It is sure to be exciting as the crews drive towards the finish. You can follow the latest race news at <http://www.volvoceanrace.com/en/home.html>.



**Clipper Round the World race** - This is the longest race for crewed yachts, competing over 40,000 miles of ocean. The brainchild of Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, this differs from the Volvo races, as it offers the opportunity to people from all walks of life to experience ocean racing. This, the 9th running of the event, started in the Solent in August 2011. The yachts are currently on leg 6 of 9, heading towards Oakland, with *Gold Coast Australia* the clear leader. The race is expected to finish in UK in early July. See <http://www.clipperroundtheworld.com/index.php>.

**America's cup** – Whilst the main event takes place in 2013, there are some world series preliminary events this year. Now comprising of all high-tech multi-hulls yachts, this really is the Formula 1 of the sailing world. The Louis Vuitton Cup takes place in San Francisco in summer 2013, to decide who will be the challenger to take on the current American holders. The final head-to-head races take place in September 2013. You can follow this on <http://www.americascup.com/>.