

# Quantum **Network**–Newsletter Summer 2011

Welcome to the summer edition of the Quantum Newsletter. In this edition we have –

- **Dates for the diary** – A SPECIAL SUMMER OFFER - our fantastic 7 days Adventure Sailing Cruise starting on 26<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Featured location: Cowes** – This month it is not so much about the location but focuses on some events that are linked with Cowes.
- **Sailing adventure: Sailing Experience day** – Sailing isn't just about salty old sea dogs bashing across the channel against a gale. Caroline recounts her first experience onboard as a nervous novice.
- **Focus on Sailing** – A FREE SAILING BOOK offer for you, courtesy of YachtMovers.

## Dates for the diary

**Adventure Cruise SPECIAL OFFER** – There are still opportunities to get out on the water this summer with Quantum Sailing. In particular, there are still a few places on our one-week Adventure Cruise to France and the Channel Islands from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September. These are being offered to Quantum Sailing Network members at the special price of £399. This is a fully inclusive price covering all food, fuel and moorings. If you are interested please contact Glenn on 07919 017835 or [glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk](mailto:glenn@quantumsailing.co.uk)

Details of all our open cruises are on our web site <http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/adventurecruise.html>

## Featured Location - Cowes

A number of internationally recognized sailing events are associated with Cowes, these include:

**The Round the Island Race** – This annual race takes place in June and is the largest of its type anywhere in the world. This year, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it attracted over 1,900 entrants, ranging from professional race crews through to family cruisers. The course starts and ends at Cowes and takes an anticlockwise route round the Isle of Wight, covering a distance of approximately 50 nautical miles.

In 2011 the race took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> June in blustery conditions with winds gusting over 30 knots, making it challenging for the fleet as they beat down the western Solent towards the Needles. They then faced a significant swell as they passed the famous lighthouse. It was an eventful day for many, with 433 retirements.



Quantum Leap completed the course safely in eight hours, forty-one minutes. The crew all enjoy the experience, the first timers commenting that they had never seen or experienced anything quite like it, particularly the start. Next year the race takes place on 30<sup>th</sup> June. We will be there, amongst what is bound to be another record entry. If you would like to experience this unique event do contact us, [info@quantumsailing.co.uk](mailto:info@quantumsailing.co.uk) or checkout our web site [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/roundislandrace.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/roundislandrace.html).

The official race site is <http://www.roundtheisland.org.uk>

**Cowes Week** – A sailing regatta that dates back to 1826, Cowes Week is truly part of British sporting tradition, fitting between Glorious Goodwood and the Glorious Twelfth. It started with just 7 yachts racing for the Gold Cup, originally worth £100. Today it is an event that attracts over 1,000 boats, with around 8,500 competitors, ranging from Olympic and world class yachtsmen to weekend sailors. Over 8 days racing, boats will compete in 40 different classes, racing around 30 different short courses in and around the Solent.

This year Cowes Week runs from 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August and provides a spectacle that will attract over 100,000 spectators. Most races are best viewed from afloat, where you can follow the fleets and really feel part of the action. It makes a great day out for the family or for corporate entertainment. Quantum Sailing can provide bespoke packages to suit. A particular favourite is to follow the days racing on Friday, which ends with a spectacular Firework display in the evening. For more information on Cowes week, visit <http://www.aamcowesweek.co.uk>

**Fastnet Race** – This biannual race traditionally starts at the end of Cowes Week, and is one of the toughest events on the sailing calendar. This year's event starts just off Cowes at around at 11:00am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August, with more than 300 vessels expected to leave the Solent and head west. After rounding the famous Fastnet Rock off the south west coast of Ireland, yachts head for the finish line in Plymouth Sound – a total of more than 600 miles sailing. Whilst the course record is under 2 days, most yachts will take between 3 and 5 to complete the race.

First run in 1925, this race is certainly not for the feint-hearted. Many of you will have heard about the disastrous race in 1979, when the fleet was caught by a vicious storm, which led to 17 deaths. However, that event acted as a catalyst for change in ocean racing, with many improvements in safety and equipment resulting.

The next race will be in 2013, further details can be found on <http://fastnet.rorc.org/> . If you would be interested in joining a campaign onboard Quantum Leap, please let us know – [info@quantumsailing.co.uk](mailto:info@quantumsailing.co.uk) .

**Other regattas** – Details of the many other events base at Cowes can be found at <http://www.cowes.co.uk/>

## Sailing Adventures – Sailing Experience day

At Quantum Sailing we are keen to ensure that we are open to everyone. To that end our experience days are designed to provide a taster sail at an affordable price, open to anyone, whatever his or her experience. Caroline tells of her maiden voyage, on a day sail with a group of her family and friends:

'One day, as my friend and I were having a glass of wine while our husbands were away dinghy sailing and diving, we got round to wondering if yacht sailing was something we could have a go at. One thing led to another and, after looking on the Internet, we decided to charter a boat and skipper from Quantum Sailing for a days sailing.



Early one September morning I set off for Gosport with my husband and two friends for our sailing experience. We arrived at the marina where our skipper, Glenn, met us and helped us down to the boat with our bags. Onboard we were greeted with croissants, orange juice, coffee or tea, which set us up nicely for the day. The professionalism of our skipper put us all at ease as we went through a safety briefing and were issued with our safety equipment and, by this time, we were all keen to get sailing.

Once out of the marina we were immediately encouraged to steer the boat with Glenn guiding us, indicating landmarks we should aim for. It wasn't long before we had hoisted the sails and were out to sea. We spent the morning cruising the Solent, Glenn pointing out the many points of interest. He showed us all the things we needed to do and gave us a summary on what was going to happen before we did any manoeuvring. We were then able to do all of the rope-work ourselves with clear instruction from the skipper.

When we booked our sailing experience we had discussed what we were hoping to achieve during the day with Quantum Sailing. In our case we wanted to enjoy a day sailing on the sea (which we had never achieved before) with the minimum (preferably no) seasickness. Glenn certainly kept this in mind. We were able to do as much or as little as we wanted throughout the day. He was also more than happy to go below to fetch drinks and cake at regular intervals, so that we didn't need to and even heaved-to (stopped the boat) for us when necessary, so that going below to use the facilities was least likely to cause problems.



We had lunch at anchor with fabulous views of the Isle of Wight and then set about cruising in the general direction of home. The skipper made sure we all had equal opportunities to take the helm bring the boat about etc, which we all eagerly took. The experience was tailored to our different levels of experience, my husband even getting an opportunity to do some navigation using the charts.

During the day the wind got up to a force 5, which made the boat heel over, making the trip exciting, exhilarating and, for one of us, a bit scary, but we all had total confidence in our skipper and he was meticulous in discreetly watching over us. We all found the day was a great way to try out yacht sailing (my first experience) in complete safety and yet be allowed to helm and help set sails etc. Nobody was seasick and two of us pledged to go again. All in all a trip to remember.' **Caroline, Abingdon.**

Quantum Sailing runs open experience day sailing, where individual places can be booked, or bespoke trips for groups. Please see our web site for details [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/experienceday.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/experienceday.html)

## Focus on Sailing – FREE BOOK OFFER

A number of brand new sailing books have been donated by our partner YachtMovers, to be offered exclusively to Quantum Sailing Network members. They include such excellent books as 'Yachtmaster for Sail & Power' by Alison Noice, and Eric Twiname's 'Start to Win'. Please see the list on our web site at [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/downloads/QSN-BookList.pdf](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/downloads/QSN-BookList.pdf) These books are available on a first come first served basis and are free of charge for collection from Abingdon or Gosport or for the cost of postage and packing they can be dispatched to other locations. If you are interested please email [info@quantumsailing.co.uk](mailto:info@quantumsailing.co.uk) .