

# Quantum Network–Newsletter Winter 2013

Welcome to the winter edition of the Quantum Newsletter. In this edition we have:

- **Vendée Globe update** – The race is coming to an exciting climax with the closest finish ever.
- **Shackleton Epic** – More intrepid explorers set sail this week
- **Fastnet Campaign** – 2013 is a Fastnet year and Quantum Sailing has a keen crew raring to go
- **Quantum Sailing update** – Lots to look forward and now we have RYA practical courses too!

## Vendee Globe update

If you have been following the Vendee Globe, I think you will agree that it is one of the most exciting races to date. As it comes to an end in a few days time, it looks like it will be the closest finish ever. The lead has changed hands numerous times with François Gabart on *Macif* now narrowly leading Armel Le Cléac’h on *Banque Populaire*. Numerous records have fallen during this event, particularly the 24 hour distance record, which has changed hands several times. It is expected that Gabart, the protégée of the only person to have won the race twice, Michel Desjoyeaux, will also break the course record. He is predicted to cross the finish line at Les Sables d’Olonne this weekend, 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Jan.



What of the Brits? Sadly Samantha Davies was dismayed only a few days into the race and had to return under jury rig. Alex Thompson is currently lying 4<sup>th</sup>, but is predicted to finish on the podium as the current 3<sup>rd</sup> place skipper, Jean-Pierre Dick on *Virbac Paprec*, is hampered by a broken keel. Thompson has received a lot of praise for his performance, as he is sailing an older model boat than that of the skippers in front. He has done incredibly well to stay so close to the pace. Mike Golding is also still in the race, in a continuing battle with Jean Le Cam for 5<sup>th</sup> place, with just 20 miles separating them!

You can follow live updates on the Vendée Globe website - [www.vendeeglobe.org](http://www.vendeeglobe.org)

## Shackleton Epic

Another challenging expedition set sail this week, following one of the greatest survival stories in history. Sir Ernest Shackleton’s Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, also known as the Endurance Expedition, inspired adventurers across every continent. After the loss of their ship, he undertook a remarkable 800 nautical mile voyage across the Southern Ocean, from Elephant Island to South Georgia, and crossed its mountainous interior to save his team.



In honour of this remarkable feat, the Shackleton Epic Expedition has set sail in *Alexandra Shackleton*, a purpose-built, exact replica of Shackleton’s 22.5-foot (6.9m) lifeboat, *James Caird*. They will cross the same stretch of open ocean and then attempt to cross the rugged peaks of South Georgia.

A crew of five British and Australian adventurers have joined expedition leader Tim Jarvis, in an attempt to become the first to authentically re-enact Sir Ernest Shackleton’s perilous journey across sea and land, **using only traditional equipment.**

The intrepid explorers set sail at 1900hrs GMT/UTC on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, in fair conditions and good visibility. They will certainly face some tougher weather and challenges on their journey. You can follow their experiences on their website [www.shackletonepic.com](http://www.shackletonepic.com)

## Fastnet Campaign

In the winter 2012 newsletter, we included an article on the 2011 Fastnet race, stating our intention to enter the next running of this biannual event, in 2013. Well the entry date has come round very quickly and, whilst the maximum number of entrants was reached within 24 hours, *Quantum Leap’s* name is in the hat for this iconic race.

We are very excited about the prospect and already have a full crew of 6 signed up and raring to go. The majority

have sailed with us on Quantum Leap many times before and would be considered as founding members of the Quantum Sailing Network. Indeed our motivation to participate in the event stems from the input of Network members, so it is great to be able to respond and enable the crew to participate in this experience of a lifetime.



There is a significant amount of crew training and boat preparation to complete, to even get to the start line for such an event. Much has been learnt since the Fastnet disaster in 1979 and this has led to significant improvements in the safety equipment and training required for the race. With ISAF personal survival training already completed by all the crew, we are now in the process of adding the necessary kit, such as an AIS Transponder and a Trysail to Quantum Leap.

In preparation for the main event, starting Sunday on the 11th August, we have a training weekend planned and will be participating in 4 other offshore races. We will be competing in the Cervantes Trophy to Le Havre, the De Guingand Bowl to the Channel Islands, the Morgan Cup to Dieppe and the Cowes–Dinard–St Malo race. Hopefully we will have a finely honed crew by the time we cross the start line.

You can follow a more detailed account of our campaign, as we maintain a diary on our website, see [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/fastnetracediary.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/fastnetracediary.html)

## Quantum Sailing Update

It's winter and *Quantum Leap* is currently out of the water for her annual maintenance. So she will be in great shape for the start of the new sailing season with lots of exciting events to look forward to. We have more open events, **Sailing experience days** ([www.quantumsailing.co.uk/avail-experience.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/avail-experience.html)) and **Adventure Cruises** ([www.quantumsailing.co.uk/avail-adventure.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/avail-adventure.html)), planned than ever before, so hopefully there will be something to suit everybody. If you don't see what you are looking for though, please talk to us, we will always try to respond with additional events where we can.

Early season opportunities include the weekend of 8-10<sup>th</sup> March, around the Solent, and an Easter 4-day weekend cross channel cruise (weather permitting) from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April. Whilst we have a full crew for the Fastnet, we do still have availability for the annual Round the Island race weekend (31<sup>st</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June). Please see our website for details - [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/roundislandrace.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/roundislandrace.html)

We are delighted to announce that Quantum Sailing is now an **RYA Recognised Training Centre**. This allows us to provide a range of RYA Sail Cruising practical courses on *Quantum Leap*. Being based in the Solent, with its variety of ports and navigational challenges, we are in an ideal location to deliver these courses.

These will be available as open events, where individual places can be booked, or as bespoke courses for small groups:

**Start Yachting** – This is an introductory 2-day course, aimed at complete novices. No pre-course experience is required and by the end the course you will have a basic knowledge of yachting.

**Competent Crew** - This course is again intended for beginners. It is a 5-day course but it can be completed over 3 weekends or 3-days plus a weekend. It is a practical, hands-on course for those that want to become active crew members.

**Day Skipper** – This 5-day course is for aspiring skippers with some basic practical sailing and navigational experience. At the end of the course, the student should be able to skipper small yachts, in familiar waters, by day. This course can be completed over a number of weekends, as for the Competent Crew course above.

**Coastal Skipper** – Covering more advanced skippering techniques, this intensive 5-day course is for skippers with existing knowledge of sailing and navigation, wanting to undertake coastal passages by day and night.

**Certificates of Competence** - there is no formal training programme to complete in order to become a RYA YachtMaster™ Coastal or YachtMaster™ Offshore. Instead, the qualification is gained by way of an exam, usually with a bespoke training programme to help candidates prepare.

More information on our RYA courses can be found on our website - [www.quantumsailing.co.uk/ryacourses.html](http://www.quantumsailing.co.uk/ryacourses.html)

