



## PRESS STORY LEADS - 2020 RORC CARIBBEAN 600

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## High profile + notable sailors in the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the RORC Caribbean 600

### Jean-Pierre Dick (FRA) - The Kid

First time in the RORC Caribbean 600 for renowned French round the world sailor. He has won both of the big double-handed races: the Transat Jacques Vabre on three occasions in 2003, 2005 and 2011, and the Barcelona World Race twice, in 2008 and 2011. The Kid, a fast cruiser/racer JPK54, is derived from the IMOCA 60 design. He will race with a group of friends.

### Aymeric Chappellier (FRA) - Teasing Machine

Class40/Transat Jacques Vabres sailor.

### Laurent Pages (FRA) - Teasing Machine

Tactician. Volvo Ocean Race (Groupama victory in 2011-12 race + Team Brunel 2014-15, watch captain (Telefonica Blue 2008-9).

### Loïck Peyron (FRA) – Powerplay

Racing on Peter Cunningham's MOD70. Peyron is undoubtedly the most emblematic skipper of the 'French school' of ocean racing. Endowed with an incredible sixth sense of the sea, Loïck Peyron is also an outstanding communicator and technician whose influence on the evolution of modern monohulls and multihulls has been decisive for several decades. This unparalleled expertise has naturally made him a much sought-after helmsman, especially on the America's Cup- we saw him at the helm of Alinghi for the final of the 33rd America's Cup, before setting a record around the world at the helm of the maxi trimaran Banque Populaire, and the first flights of the AC 72 on the 34th America's Cup. His nautical record is unique: holder of the Jules Verne trophy, five ORMA champion titles, four victories in the European race, but above all, one victory on the Route du Rhum and three on 'The Transat'. Loïck Peyron has an impressive number of single and multi-miles to his credit, having made his first solo Atlantic crossing in the Mini Transat at the age of 18, and having taken part in the first Vendée

Globe in history, during which he carried out the extraordinary rescue of Philippe Poupon.

### Christopher Pratt (FRA) – Lady First 3

IMOCA sailor. Route du Rhum, Figaro, Transat Jacques Vabre.

### Alexis Loison (FRA) - Albator

First two handed overall winner of the Rolex Fastnet Race, along with his father. Competes in Elite Offshore Racing Championships. 2018 Winner of the Solo Maître Coq, Transat AG2R LA MONDIALE, many solo offshore races.

### Franck Cammas (FRA) – Argo MOD70

Cammas made his name in offshore racing, a discipline in which he is one of the most successful sailors: His long list of achievements includes five time ORMA 60 trimaran class champion; the Jules Verne Trophy for the fastest non-stop lap of the planet and winning the Route du Rhum as well as America's Cup skipper and VOR winner. In the 2019 Rolex Fastnet Race, run by the RORC, Franck Cammas and Charles Caudrelier took line honours and set a new race record on the 100ft (30m)Maxi Edmond de Rothschild - with less than 60 seconds dividing Macif (also an Ultime) on the finish line, completing the 600-miler in 1d 4h 2m 26s and taking Loïck Peyron (who is competing on Powerplay in the 2020 RC600) and the crew of Banque Populaire's 2011 time by 4h 45m.

### Ian 'soapy' Moore (GBR) - Outsider

Race navigator and tactician. Originally from Northern Ireland, Carrickfergus, but now Gurnard, Cowes, IOW. Regular on Bella Mente since 2010. He was on his first boat at a mere six weeks old, and his life has unfolded into a storied sailing career that includes being navigator in the Volvo Ocean Race and as navigator and performance manager for America's Cup Campaigns.

### Brian Thompson (GBR) - Argo.

Thompson made it into the history books by becoming the first Briton to break the Round the World sailing record twice. He has broken 27 world sailing records, setting him apart from every world class sailor on the grand prix circuit. He was also the first to sail non-stop around the world 4 times. He has more multihull sailing miles than any other Briton today. A vastly experienced and successful offshore racer, Brian Thompson has been racing the two and three-hulled speed machines for over 20 years.

**Nikki Henderson (GBR) - Emily of Cowes**

Became the youngest ever Clipper Round the World race skipper in the 2018 race, at the age of 25. Has skippered in the RC600s previously, as well as Fastnets. In June 2019, Henderson joined the winning team, Sail Like a Girl to compete in the Race to Alaska, an engineless boat race from Port Townsend, Washington State, to Ketchikan, Alaska. In November 2019 she accompanied the environmental activist Greta Thunberg on her return voyage to Europe aboard the catamaran La Vagabonde. She was also guest skipper on Maiden in 2018.

**Pip Hare (GBR) - Panther**

Pip is a British sailor who next year will be taking her place with Superbigou on the start line of the Vendee Globe Race with the intention of becoming the 10th British sailor and the 8th woman ever to compete in this epic non-stop 24,000 nm, solo race around the world.

**Rob Greenhalgh (GBR) - Wizard**

British Volvo Ocean Race winner and international sailing champion. Five x Volvo Ocean Races, winning the prestigious event with *ABN Amro One* in 2006 and finishing second on two occasions with *Puma* and *Mapfre*. A World Champion in both the 18ft Skiff & International 14 Classes, and he has also won National and European titles in the International Moth Class. Offshore, Robert was part of the transatlantic record-breaking team onboard *Comanche* and has a number of other records to his name including; Fastnet records, both monohull and multihull, and the RORC Caribbean 600. Rob also has extensive multihull experience.

**Simon 'SiFi' Fisher (GBR) -Powerplay**

Fisher was navigator on the overall winner (Wizard) in last year's race. As a VOR winner with multiple round the world races under his belt, as well as America's Cups, he brings a lot to Peter Cunningham's MOD 70 team.

**Sam Goodchild (GBR) - Powerplay**

Through talent, hard graft and building a broad based experience, 30 year old Goodchild has forged himself a diverse career, increasingly among the early picks for big multihull projects, IMOCA and Class 40 races. Transat Jacques Vabres x 2, Figaro, Route du Rhum, Team Mapfre VOR, Maserati for Transat record attempt. Competing in Figaro Beneteau 3 in April's doublehanded Transat AG2R La Mondiale.

**Nigel King (GBR) - Phan**

Coaching on Phan in this year race, King was part of 6 round the world campaigns, including 2 Volvo Ocean Races, and a Jules Verne Trophy record attempt. He's raced at international level on the Match Racing World Tour, 4 years on the RC44 circuit, International

Etchells Class, International Dragon Class, 5 years on the French Figaro Circuit, 5 x Rolex Sydney Hobart Races, 5 x Rolex Fastnet Races, 4 x Round Britain Races, 2 Round Ireland Races, 3 x Rolex Middle Sea Races and 6 years on the Olympic Circuit racing the Soling Class including the 1996 British Olympic Trials.

**Tilmar Hansen (GER) - Outsider**

Highly respected Admiral's Cup winner with the German team in '83 and '85.

**Campbell Field (NZL) - Childhood 1**

Navigator and expedition expert.

**Stuart Bannatyne (NZL) - Summer Storm**

Kiwi sailor has won 4 of the 8 Volvo Ocean Races he's competed in. Most successful sailor in the history of the race. Regarded as one of the world's best heavy-weather helmsmen. Nine Fastnet Races, three Transpacs from California to Hawaii and 11 x Sydney to Hobart races.

**Liz Wardley (AUS) – Maiden**

Australian sailor from Elliott Heads will skipper the all-female team on Tracy Edwards MBE Farr 58 Maiden. Wardley has competed in 3 x Volvos, 5 x Figaros + numerous offshores. This will be the first time the boat has raced as Maiden since the 1989 Whitbread race. The crew are coming together at the last minute as we are taking guests, so pulling together a race team will be a great challenge. Maiden inspired a generation and now she has a new mission; to raise awareness and funding for girls' empowerment and education through The Maiden Factor Foundation.

**Phil Harmer (AUS) - Wizard**

5 x Volvo Ocean Races under his belt. A race winner in Groupama in 2011-12 and Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing in 2014-15.

**Will Oxley (AUS) - Wizard**

Oxley is a racing skipper/navigator/weather routing specialiser, and marine biologist. Three-time VOR veteran, he has confirmed that he's eyeing at least one more lap around the planet, as the 2021-22 edition of the round-the-world race continues to take shape. At 54, Oxley had one of the most illustrious seasons in his long professional sailing career in 2019, winning an historic double onboard VO70 yacht Wizard by taking victory on the RORC Caribbean 600 and the Rolex Fastnet Race and culminating in the team winning RORC Yacht of the Year. He then took his second overall Sydney Hobart win as navigator on TP52 Ichi Ban. He has logged almost 300,000 circumnavigation miles in a long career. He's recently been nominated to World Sailing's Committee to create guidelines for making sailing more sustainable by 2030. "As a sailor and a scientist I can help in both of my roles."

### **Mark Towill (USA/lives in Hawaii) – Wizard**

Towill has participated in the VOR two times (2014-15 and in 2017-18), and he and his business partner Charlie Enright recently announced that they've renewed their sponsorship with 11th Hour Racing with the intention of entering The Ocean Race in 2021.

### **Charlie Enright (USA) – Wizard**

Co-founded of Team Alvimedica with Mark Towill for the VOR 2014-15 and were the youngest team in the fleet. Enright is one of America's leading offshore sailors having led two Ocean Race campaigns in 2014-2015 and 2017-18 and skippered several yachts to overall wins in ocean races like the Fastnet Race, Transatlantic Race 2019 and other offshore regattas over the past decade.

### **Chris Larson (USA) - Outsider**

Chris is a champion Program Manager, Helmsman and Tactician with over 30 years of experience across all classes of boats. Chris' vast experience includes over 30 World, International, National and Match Racing Championships. As a past Helmsman for an America's Cup and Volvo Ocean Race campaign team, Chris is well versed in team management and what it takes to be successful on and off the water.

**Don Street (USA) Kinship** – in his 90<sup>th</sup> year he is racing in the RC600. The lifetime sailor has spent 45 years cruising, charting and writing about the Caribbean for his famous guide books. 40 of those years were spent in his 46ft engineless yawl, Iolaire, built in 1905. Iolaire flew the RORC burgee for 80 years! "My nick-name used to be 'squeaky' but with the way I am having holes cut in me, it should be changed to 'swiss cheese', says Street. He will be racing with a team who has sailed and raced Kinship for over a dozen years, with good results in ocean races and local regattas along the East Coast of the US. Oldest combined crew ages? A 91 year old will also on be on board!

### **Jaime Arbonnes (ESP) – Triple Lindy**

Veteran ocean race and America's Cup sailor. Match Race Sailor. Copa del Rey winner, Maxi Worlds, Rolex Middle Sea Race

### **Giovanni Soldini (ITA) – Maserati**

Revered Italian skipper Giovanni Soldini has 25 years of ocean racing experience, including two single-handed round the worlds, six Québec-Saint Malos, six Ostars, three Transat Jacques Vabres and more than 40 ocean crossings. Aboard VOR70 Maserati he achieved many victories and major records, including the Cadiz-San Salvador (2012) and the New York San Francisco Gold Route (2016). In 2016 he started the new challenge at the helm of Maserati Multi 70, aboard which he set the record for the Tea Route, from Hong Kong to London (2018), as well as winning many ocean races. In 2019 he crossed in first place

the finish line of the RORC Caribbean 600 setting the new race record of just over 30 hours - 1 day 6hours 49 mins.

### **Giancarlo Simeoli (ITA) – Triple Lindy.**

Many Rolex Sydney Hobarts. His day job is training budding Olympic sailors in 49er, 49FX and 470 classes for the Italian Air Force Sports Centre.

### **Gideon Messink (NED) - Lott 99**

Whitbread racer and Volvo Ocean Race team manager on largest Maxi, Swan 95.

### **Martin Strömberg (SWE) – Matador**

Calling tactics and navigation on the Elliot 44 is 4 x Volvo Ocean Race sailor Strömberg from Gothenburg.

**Niklas Beckvid (SWE) – Matador.** Gold medallist and world champion sailor. Owner, Jonas Grander and the crew on Matador has been awarded Offshore Racer of the year twice (2017 and 2019) in Sweden for their achievements in major offshore races.

### **Matilda Ajanko (FIN)**

Part of the crew that sailed Maiden around the world and is a veteran of J-Class racing. She is bow on Andrew Berdon's Marten 49 Summer Storm (USA).

### **Female crews and skippers increase**

Some top female sailors taking part this year include: Pip Hare ('20 Vendee Globe is racing on Panther), Nikki Henderson (youngest Clipper RTWR skipper on Emily of Cowes), Liz Wardley skippering all female team on Tracy Edwards' Maiden, Pamala Baldwin's Liquid, Katy Campbell skippers amateur crew on Emily of Cowes.

### **Three previous overall winners on the startline**

2009 winner – Adrian Lee with Lee Overlay Partners (this time in his Swan 60)

2013 winner – Ron O'Hanley on Privateer, Cookson 50

2019 winner -Peter and David Askew on VO70 Wizard

## PRESS STORY LEADS - BY COUNTRY

(A few notes of just some of the entries taking part)

### AUSTRALIA

(+ 14 Australian crew members registered to date)

#### **Pirate queen of the seas**

#### **Grace O'Malley - owned by Zoe Taylor and Chris Way**

New boat for former investment banker Zoe Taylor who several years ago quit her job and kickstarted a journey that saw her skipper her own yacht in the 73rd Sydney to Hobart. She also sailed two handed across the world, worked on super yachts in exotic locations and took on a job as a deckie aboard Rupert Murdoch's old yacht Morning Glory when owned by former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. "I wanted to sail round the world. I wanted the adventure, to navigate, to experience every part of it." Since then, Grace O'Malley has had success in the CYC Winter Series and won IRC 3 in the 2018 Rolex Sydney Hobart on their Cookson 12. Boat named after 16<sup>th</sup> century pirate.

### AUSTRIA

#### **Young team on Austrian Ocean Race Project.**

Competing in IRC Zero in their VO65, the Austrian Ocean Race Project is a young and ambitious team of international sailors - with an Austrian core - who share the same enthusiasm for big boat sailing. Their big goal is to participate in the Ocean Race 2021-22. "We bought the former Vestas 11th Hour Racing, a VO65, which has already contested the Volvo Ocean Race, twice."

### CANADA

(+32 registered Canadian crew so far)

#### **A change in temperature for team's first RC600**

Katy Campbell, Vancouver, Canada on Emily of Cowes (chartered from LV Yachting, Elan 450) – runs the only RYA training centre on the west coast of North America and along with Nikki Henderson will lead an amateur crew for their first stab at the 600-miler. Crew looking forward to the novelty of big wind and warm weather simultaneously, having come from winter-bound Pacific Northwest.

#### **Escapado training for Victoria to Maui Race**

Stuart Dahlgren's Beneteau First 40.7 will be competing for the first time. The team have done lots of racing in the Pacific and 3 x West Coast Hawaii Races, 3 x Vancouver Isle 360 Races, 1 x Rolex Middle Sea Race, plus numerous other 100+ mile distance races. On board will be a mix of regular and new crew members from their boat based in Victoria BC. The new crew will be part of our 2,308 nm Victoria to Maui International Yacht race this summer. "Being the first one, we are looking to be competitive and safe. I

am a realist and I think a mid-fleet finish would be very satisfying (winning our class would be better though!)"

#### **Winter training for Montreal-based team**

Atlas Ocean Racing will be bringing VO60, Esprit de Corps III to her first serious race after competing four times in previous boats. The Montréal-based team will make the most of Caribbean conditions ahead of this summer's Transat Québec to Saint Malo Race in July. The boat is the former Brunel Synergy from the '97-98 Whitbread. It's had some upgrades this year since they lost Esprit de Corps IV in a storm in May '19. The amateur crew will be led by AOR's co-founder, Maxime Grimard, and include the company CEO, carpenter, real estate agent and firefighters.

#### **Nurturing young offshore talent**

Fourth race for the well-sailed Pogo 12.50 Hermes owned and co-skipped by Meg Reilly (NYC, USA) and Morgan Watson (Calgary) who have developed an international network which brings on young talent in offshore racing. For the past five years they have led offshore youth development campaigns around Atlantic with talent from North America and Europe. Joining the team for the second year (recruited to the Ocean Racers team via the RORC Under 35 Facebook Group) is navigator Jolbert vanDijk from Holland. He has a successful European record with youth teams. Two of Hermes '17 RORC Caribbean 600 crew are now Volvo Ocean and America's Cup sailors - Emily Nagel & Sean O'Halloran. They intend to have more alumni success stories in the future.

### CARIBBEAN

#### **ANTIGUA:**

#### **Different every time**

TAZ, Recihel Pugh 37. Antiguan dentist, Bernie Evan Wong has competed in all past 11 editions of the race, achieving two class wins, and three other podium finishes. Half of our team will be new to the boat, but they have a strong team, two bow persons, and two new very talented UK sailors that have just finished University from Oxford, says Bernie. TAZ the carbon beast has been their team boat for the past 6 years and Evan Wong says: "We will be trying to maximise our speed on the very long reaches as a 1 knot increase average will shave many hours off our elapsed time. In 2019 we got stuck behind Guadeloupe for over 3 hours, so hope to have a better strategy in 2020 for getting through more quickly. It is different every time you race it, warm water, challenging conditions, with beautiful scenery."

#### **Youth team on Liquid**

Welcome back American owner, Pamala Baldwin who resides in Antigua. Her youth team on J/122 Liquid aims to provide a steppingstone for good youth

sailors, enabling them to turn pro on the race circuit. Crew ages range from 20- 30 years, and 25 year old Jules White has a brilliant future. Liquid is regular competitor on the Caribbean regatta circuit and has taken a third-place on the podium in the 2018 and 2019 RC600. They aim to improve this in the Caribbean's only offshore race this year.

#### **ST MAARTEN:**

A local team coming from St Maarten. Petro Jonker & Rick Warner will compete in the competitive MOCRA class on Ts5 multihull Addictive Sailing.

#### **BARBADOS:**

First time in the race for Peter Lewis' J/121 Whistler - a recent upgrade from J-105 Whistler which Team Whistler successfully campaigned at various Caribbean Regattas over the years, including 1st Place at St. Marten Heineken Regatta in 2019 and 3rd Place Pineapple Cup 2019. Lewis' aim is to develop their inshore regatta race team into an offshore distance racing team. Their 2020 Caribbean Campaign will include: Round Barbados, Grenada Sailing Festival, RORC Caribbean 600, St. Marten Heineken Regatta & St. Barths. The group of friends are representing the Barbados Sailing Association and the Grenada Sailing Association. Triston King is skippering. Crew are friends who enjoy serious safe fun racing throughout the Caribbean and beyond...

#### **FRANCE (9 x entries)**

(+ 42 French crew members registered so far)

#### **Teasing Machine's third RC600**

This will be the third RC600 for Eric de Turckheim (lives in Geneva) who grew up in a sailing family in France, where he dreamt from an early age about offshore racing. Now after forging a hugely successful business career, he's quite literally living his dream through his series of Teasing Machine yachts. The team took 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the 2016 RORC Caribbean 600 and in the same year became RORC Yacht of the Year after also winning the Commodores' Cup. In 2017 the team won the RORC Transat to Grenada. In the 2018 RC600, they were presented with the Bella Mente Trophy. On board will be regular top team, including 3 x VOR racer Laurent Pages (won in 2011 -12 edition) and TJV and Route du Rhum's Aymeric Chappelier.

#### **2018 class winner – Albator**

Philippe Frantz's NMD 43 was launched in 2017, Albator went on to win class in the 2018 RORC Caribbean 600 and the 2018 Rolex Middle Sea Race, where she also finished 3rd overall. Albator competed in her first Rolex Fastnet Race last year, coming 5th overall in IRC One. The well prepared yacht comprised a mix of dinghy sailors, a Figaro sailor and previous competitors from the Route du Rhum, America's Cup,

Half Ton Cup and Trophée Jules Verne.

#### **St Malo Class40 owners return - BHB**

The three owners of the Class40 BHB will be competing for the second time in the race, having taken second place in class in 2018. A fourth crew member will join the St Malo-based owners: Arthur Hubert, Louis Burton and Thibaut Hector.

"Would like to get as much fun as we got last time during a windy edition, sailing really fast and competing all way along with others boats. So much fun with our crew as it is only event in year that all the owners could race together on their boat." They will join three other Class40s: Iskareen (2<sup>nd</sup> race for German Arnt Bruhns), Up Sailing (FRA), Sensei (FRA).

#### **Jean-Pierre Dick (FRA) - The Kid**

First time in the RORC Caribbean 600 for renowned French round the world sailor. The Vendée Globe veteran is lining up for the singlehanded round the world race once again later this year after participating four times. He has won both of the big double-handed races: the Transat Jacques Vabre on three occasions in 2003, 2005 and 2011, and the Barcelona World Race twice, in 2008 and 2011. The Kid, a fast cruiser/racer JPK54 is derived from the IMOCA 60 design. He will race with a group of

#### **Challenge for old generation Class40 for TJV duo +1 Up Sailing 'Unis Pour la Planete'**

Morgane Ursault Poupon will be racing with Remi Lhotellier and Louis Duc on her Roger Class40 built in 2007 by Tanguay Delamotte. This 'old lady' of the Class40 world is "solid and powerful. It's my first boat and I love her," says Poupon. The French sailors from Saint Malo and Lorient will race together as a three for the first time. Remi and Morgane took part in the 2019 Transat Jacques Vabre and they are all experienced offshore racers. Morgane first sailed in the Caribbean with her father, Philippe Poupon, when she was 3 years old. The Route du Rhum 2018 was her first single handed race.

#### **GERMANY**

(+ 17 German sailors registered so far in the fleet)

#### **World-class sailors on Outsider**

Tilmar Hansen, owner of TP52 JV Outsider was an Admirals Cup winner who has raced since 1982. He first took part in 2018 and this will be his second RC600. On board will be a long list of world-class sailors including: pro crew of VOR winners, AC sailors, Olympians, World, European and National champions. The team, skippered by Bo Teichmann, were 4<sup>th</sup> overall in IRC in the 2019 Rolex Fastnet Race.

#### **Multinational team**

Purple Rain, Pogo 12.50. First time in race for this multinational team on the chartered Pogo. German

skipper from Munich, Sebastian Muehlbauer has raced in the 2018 Rolex Middle Sea Race and says: “We are a multinational sailing team, racing for the sake of serious fun! The team are from Germany, Switzerland, Norway and Canada.

#### **Experienced offshore sailor – Class40 Iskareen**

Class40 owner Arnt Bruhns competed in the 2019 Transat Jacques Vabre. Was a rookie in the 2018 Route du Rhum in Class40 but is an experienced skipper nonetheless. Among his most notable achievements are nine participations in a string of transatlantic races and a round-the-world race within the context of the Whitbread Round the World Race 1989-1999. The German sailor has always been fascinated by the French offshore racing circuit. The fact that in this region a 600 miles race exists amazes him. “I am looking forward to seeing my team together again to start the race.”

### **IRELAND**

So far 8 sailors from Ireland have registered as crew members on the following boats: Pata Negra - Michael Boyd, Marshall King and James Murphy. Childhood 1 – Ronan Grealish, Aminata – Helen Flannery, EH01 – Laura Dillon, Escapado – Neil Maher, Umiko – Shaun McCarter.

### **ITALY**

#### **Soldini back to defend Multi record**

Multiple record-breaker Giovanni Soldini on the Multi 70 Maserati will be in Antigua to defend their title after setting a new multihull record last year of 1 day 6 hours 49 mins for the 600 nm race.

#### **NETHERLANDS (3 x entries)**

(+ 21 crew members from Netherlands have registered so far)

#### **Unleashing largest Maxi after world cruise – Lott99**

29m (95ft) Swan 95, Lott 99. Rotterdam-based owner, Jeroen Van Dooren has had the race on his bucket list for some time. Dan Newman will be at the helm and John Burnie - who knows the course inside out with this being his 10<sup>th</sup> race and as the race co-founder. “We’ve sailed many miles around the world, but we are very excited to now push her on the race course and see what she can do.” Crew is made up of the owner and his friends, plus regular crew and a few pros. Van Dooren sailed his previous Swan 66 to great success in both offshore and inshore races.

#### **Going Two Handed**

**Cabby Vane, Ohlson 35.** Unfinished business for Dutch brothers, Johannes and Jankorf Gerssen who took part last year. Dutch yacht engineer, Johannes

has completed two solo Transats. Racing with his brother in 1974 boat refitted for two handed sailing.

#### **Largest boat – replica of pilot cutter. First race with full crew**

Nyima - means the one who radiates like the sun and explains how her owner feels when steering his beautiful modern replica of a Dykstra-designed 32.4m (106 ft) Bristol pilot cutter. Owned by Dutch scientist/entrepreneur Mark de Boer, the team is comprised of their regular crew, friends of the owner and experienced sailors from: Netherlands, USA, South Africa, Panama, Sweden and Argentina. Nymia will be taking part for the first time and the crew will be getting to know the boat. They are looking forward to sailing in one of the most beautiful locations in the world and to the fun and camaraderie. The owner had not intended to race her but has been persuaded by some of his friends to participate - provided a new kite could be delivered in time – which it did! “Our aim is to take part, finish safely, and along the way to get a feeling of what she is able to do with a full crew,” says David Behan, Captain.

### **RUSSIA**

(+ 20 crew members from Russia on boats in the race)

#### **Jellyfish/Seaventus - Russian Offshore Racing Club**

The amateur team on chartered Sunfast 3600 took part in the race in 2015. “The most challenging part is to make the correct weather routing,” says Alexander Vodovatov.

#### **Optimus Prime**

Russian skipper Yuri Fadeev will be racing his First 40 Optimus Prime. He has taken part in nearly every RC600 with his Capstan Sailing School in UK based Skylander, won the RORC Best Sailing School Yacht for 2019.

### **SPAIN**

(+ 7 Spanish crew members registered so far: inc. Carlos Hernandez + Oliver Herrera Perez (Maserati) + Joaquin Benjumeda Estade (Lott 99) + aime Arbonnes (Triple Lindy)

#### **Classic Swan shows her grace**

1974 classic Swan 65 Libélula will be sailed by Francisco de Borja Pella (ESP). She will join 3 other Nautor Swan yachts competing in the 12<sup>th</sup> edition, including the largest – Lott 99, Swan 95.

### **SWEDEN**

(+ 14 crew registered on boats in the race so far)

#### **Swedish offshore racer of the year**

First RORC C600 for Jonas Grander’s Elliott 44 Matador who were awarded Offshore Racer of the year twice (2017 and 2019) in Sweden for their achievements in major offshore races. On board will

be 4 x VOR sailor Martin Strömberg but the team is mainly made up of a group of friends who have been racing together since 2008 with the ambition to race well, have fun and aim high in terms of performance. Back in 2016, Grander initiated a support programme to enable offshore sailing, solo and DH sailing to younger sailors and female sailors which has now been running successfully. The programme provides the sailors with mentors and a race boat and all is run pro bono. Grander from Stockholm has raced solo, doublehanded and in the Rolex Sydney Hobart (2016), Rolex Fastnet Race (2017 and 2019), Rolex Middle Sea Race (2018) and numerous offshore races in the Nordics.

## SWITZERLAND

### Fast Nigel Irens cat - Allegra

Rob Grimm's Allegra took multihull line honours in the 2017 Antigua Bermuda Race. On board the Nigel Irens-designed APC 78 catamaran was Paul Larsen, the World's fastest sailor who achieved 68 knots on board Vestas Sailrocket! They will join six others in the MOCRA class, including 3 x trimarans (MOD70s x 2 and 1 x Multi 70), Fujin – a Bieker 53, Shockwave – a one off 63ft tri and Addictive Sailing's Ts5.

### Swiss Offshore Sailing Club

First 47.7 Kali has taken part in the RORC Transat twice, including last year. Owned by the Swiss Offshore Sailing Club, Kali will be skippered by Benedikt Clauberg. Founded in 2017 Club aims to bring the experience of offshore racing to Swiss sailors. Members compete in offshore sailing races, where they are able to train, educate and share their experiences.

## UK

### RORC Main Committee members on EH01

RORC Commodore, Steven Anderson, Vice Commodore, James Neville, Rear Commodore, Laura Dillon and Treasurer, Derek Sheakespeare will be part of the crew on Andy Middleton's British 47.7 race charter boat EH01. They are aiming for a class win and were only 25 mins behind Scarlet Oyster, their rivals last year. (NB: Michael Boyd, Past Commodore on Pata Negra).

### First race since '89 Whitbread for all-women team empowering change joins the race during round the world cruise

Tracy Edwards MBE, Farr 58 Maiden made history in 1989 as the first all-female crew to sail around the world in the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race, coming second overall. In 2014 Maiden was found rotting in the Seychelles, unloved and neglected. Tracy vowed to rescue her and set about raising funds to buy her back and restore Maiden. Having successfully raised the funds, Maiden set sail again in November 2018 on a three-year, 90,000-mile world

tour covering over 40 stops in over 20 countries. Maiden inspired a generation and now she has a new mission; to raise awareness and funding for girls' empowerment and education through The Maiden Factor Foundation. Liz Wardley will kipper the all-women team on its first race since the '89 Whitbread!

### Civil Service Offshore Racing Club

Neil O'Leary will skipper Oarsome Dream, Dufour 460 with a crew of mixed sailing ability, but all of whom work in some form of Government department. They haven't sailed together before, so the challenge will be to motivate and focus 11 crew and ensure their safety in this new chartered boat. "Main thing is that everyone enjoys the race and keeps enough in the tank for every eventuality. I've heard it's like the Fastnet, but warmer at times." Says O'Leary.

### 4<sup>th</sup> race for Round Britain and Ireland winner - Pata Negra

Competing in IRC One, Giles Redpath's Lombard 46 was third in class in 2019 and second in 'the 18 race. This will be the boat's 4<sup>th</sup> RC600 and Redpath will be joined by an experienced group of inshore and offshore sailors - a mix of professionals and good friends who all have all sailed with him on Pata Negra. Andy Lis as boat captain will be backed up by Will Harris as navigator, Sam Matson on trim and Past RORC Commodore, Michael Boyd on helm. "It's an exciting and fast offshore race with the unique challenge of navigating the islands in a stunning backdrop."

### First time co-skippering for Catherine on GP42 Phan –

Retired winemaker Catherine Keohane has sailed since she was about eight-years old and has since cruised in many parts of the world, but she only began racing keelboats a few years ago. Since, she has competed in a number of offshore events including 2 x Fastnets, 2 x Caribbean 600s, 2 x Middle Seas Races and several regattas in the Caribbean, UK and Ireland. Husband Patrick Keohane is equally passionate about sailing and fully supportive in helping her achieve her goal to skipper in the 2021 Rolex Fastnet Race. Nigel King, with 25+ years of racing/coaching experience under his belt, is on board and coaching Catherine to help her achieve her ambition. Catherine's objective was to bring this international team together to challenge the more established teams in IRC one and to achieve a podium finish!

### Youngest ever Clipper skipper on Emily of Cowes

**Nikki Henderson**, Portsmouth, UK racing on Emily of Cowes, Elan 450. Youngest ever Clipper round the world race skipper at 25. Sailed back across Atlantic with Greta Thornburg last November.

### **Not Playing Around – three RORC offshores scheduled**

Portsmouth, UK- based Ken Docherty's First 40.7 Playing Around will be competing in her first RC600 having raced in the Rolex Fastnet last year, and with plans for the Rolex Middle Sea in October. "We are all of a certain age, counting on the fact that experience will make up for the fact that none of us are quick as quick around the boat as we once were. Playing Around has been racing since she was launched in 2000 and has been incredibly well looked after by three sets of owners before me, and I am continuing in the tradition, showing how the 40.7 was (and still is) one of the all-time great designs from Farr."

### **MOD70 battle lines**

**Powerplay MOD70.** Peter Cunningham's MOD 70 PowerPlay battled across the Pond in the 2018 RORC Transat and arrived 46 minutes behind Maserati so there will be good competition in the class. Young British helm, Ned Collier Wakefield took line honours in 2017 Rolex Fastnet Race on the boat when it was Concise and has a string of records in the MOD70 as part of Team Concise. On Bow will be West Country's Sam Goodchild and Frenchman Loick Pyron also joins the team on helm.

### **Rocket Dog**

This year, Sailing Logic and Global Yacht Racing have teamed up to race on the British Beneteau First 40 Rocket Dog II which will be skippered by Martin Fox and Jon Tyrrell. Both are hugely experienced First 40 skippers and the team will be looking to get a good result in the highly competitive IRC Two class. The Caribbean 600 is always a highlight of the year - it's warm, it's challenging and it rewards good crew work making all those sail changes seem worth it – and there's Rum when they get back to Antigua!

### **Scarlet Oyster – can she make it 6 class wins?**

Ross Applebey's British Oyster 48 Scarlet Oyster is probably the most successful yacht in the history of the race. Racing Scarlet Oyster, Ross Applebey has led his team to class victory on five occasions, and Ross also won on Scarlet Island Girl in 2017 to keep a winning streak dating back to 2012.

### **Thousands of crossings and sea miles**

A regular competitor, Peter Hopps is an Ocean Master Instructor who often sails solo across the Atlantic to compete in the Caribbean regattas, before sailing back to the UK. As usual, he will have charter guests on board. He has raced in around 15 Fastnet Races as well, so has thousands of sea miles under his belt!

### **Two Handed Unfinished business – Jangada**

Cowes-based Richard Palmer's JPK 10.10 (sailing with Jeremy Waitt once again) has unfinished business in Antigua following their retirement in the 2018 race due to injury. The two handed team are aiming to

beat rivals - Pata Negra for 2020 RORC season's Championship.

### **Late starter to sailing in home-built boat**

This will be Richard Stain from Alderley Edge's first time in the race. Owner of home-built Rob Humphreys designed Sovereign 400, only started sailing at the age of 40. Since then he's notched up two Fastnets, Sydney Hobart, Volvo Round Ireland, and lots of SIPR races. "We all prefer racing to cruising and were the only Brit boat in Sydney Hobart two years ago. Mike and Dick are regulars on the Scottish Island Peaks Race, Eric and James have done several double handed races, AZAB and Round Britain and Ireland. Bernie races all season in Sydney, inc Sydney Vanautu. bought the hull and deck mouldings and spent 6 years building her at my home in Cheshire. Probably the only home built boat in the race?"

### **Labour of love to get ex-VOR boat up to scratch**

The Volvo Open 70 Telefonica Black (Kraken) is now run as a race charter boat. Lance Shepherd says: "We picked her up in December 2019 and she needed a lot of work to get her up and running. It's a labour of love but we are getting there! We are not a big budget team, in fact everything we earn from guests coming racing with us goes straight back into the boat. We are extremely excited about the RORC C600 and looking at the entry list, it is going to be full on. Our aim is to get round safely, competitively and have a laugh along the way. There is something so special about this sport as you can line up on the same start line as some of the best sailors in the world.....what other sport do you really get to do that on a regular basis. It's fantastic," says owner /skipper Lance Shepherd whose partner Claire is navigator. Several of the crew raced with Lance on the Clipper race and also include a mix of age, ability and nationality.

### **First ever winner returns – in his 7<sup>th</sup> race**

Irish CIO of Investment Management company, Adrian Lee (Lee Overlay Partners) was the first ever winner of the RORC Caribbean 600 Trophy, having won the 2009 race with his Cookson 50. He's very keen to see how the Swan 60 he bought in 2017 will perform. They won their class in 2019 ASW and he says it a lot more comfortable that the Cookson 50. This will be his 7<sup>th</sup> RC600 (2009, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018) and his team is made up of Irish, Australian, British, South Africa, Swedish and American crew members.

### **USA (12 entries)**

(+ over 70 crew members from US registered so far)

#### **Wizard on winning streak defends 2019 overall win**

Brothers David & Peter Askew are back to defend their RORC 600 overall victory in 2019, having secured the RORC Caribbean 600 Trophy. This will be the second time in the race for their VOR winning VO70 (ex Groupama) and '16 overall Sydney Hobart winner (as Gaicom). "We were fortunate enough to have won IRC Overall in our first attempt," says Peter Askew. The team achieved a hat-trick in 2019, having won the RC600, the Transatlantic Race from USA to UK, the Rolex Fastnet Race and the Atlantic Ocean Racing Series all in the same year. The impressive crew list is made up of VOR winners and round the world sailors who were presented with the 2019 Hempel World Team Sailing Award and 2019 RORC Yacht of the Year. They include Charlie Enright, Will Oxley, Joe Fanelli, Rob Greenhalgh, Phil Harmer, Mark Towill and Chris Maxted. "It's the toughest 600-mile race in the world. The beautiful trade wind sailing conditions are perfect for our boat. Looking forward to sailing in warm water having spent the summer of 2019 racing in the Northern Atlantic. The course in general is what makes the event unique. Sailing for 600 miles through all the islands is a blast," Peter Askew.

#### **Privateer, Cookson 50**

In the 2019 race, Privateer played bridesmaid to Wizard who took the overall win, but Ron O'Hanley Cookson 50 found victory in the 2013 edition and came second overall to Rambler 88 in 2018. Boat Captain Scott Innes-Jones (NZL) is looking forward to racing in 2020. "Privateer is a good all-rounder, so we need a bit of everything," commented Innes-Jones. "If we just get big reaching conditions, the bigger boats put us away, but if there are a couple of slow spots we can come back at them. Since the boat was originally designed it has really changed; we have optimised Privateer as best we can. To win you have to sail well and have a bit of luck, everything has got to go your way."

#### **Prospector Mk II**

Terence Glackin's Mini Maxi competed in the 2019 Rolex Fastnet Race after racing across the Pond with the Transatlantic Race from Newport, R.I. In 2013, a group of friends from Shelter Island, NY began exploring the idea of finding a suitable boat to enter the 2015 Transatlantic Race. They purchased their first Prospector, a Carrol Marine Farr 60. A crew was formed, and the team set out competing in bucket list ocean races and regattas including the Caribbean 600. Long term, the team is gearing up for marquee ocean races like the Pacific Cup, Sydney to Hobart and even a few more ocean crossings. A tested and true racing machine, the current Prospector enjoys a strong

pedigree with podium finishes in the Middle Sea Race, Pineapple Cup and Rolex Maxi Yacht Cup.

#### **Oldest combined crew ages? Kinship**

91-year old Tom Selldorff's Baltic 52 Kinship, from South Dartmouth Massachusetts will have 'wind pilot and rock pilot extraordinaire' on board in the form of Caribbean cruising guide guru, author, explorer and sailor, Don 'squeaky' Street who sailed his 1905 no-engine lolaire to every part of the Caribbean for over 50 years. In his 90<sup>th</sup> year, he will join a group of friends who have raced together for several years, with good results in ocean races and local regattas along the East Coast of the US. Look out for their lucky mascot - a 12-foot inflatable hippo called Clyde!

#### **Larchmont YC's team take on RC600 for first time – In Theory**

Management Consultant, Peter Whinney's JPK 10.80, In Theory b(formerly Leon) brings together a strong crew - mainly members of the Larchmont YC in New York – with experience in multiple offshore races including: Fastnet, Newport-Bermuda, Sydney-Hobart, Mid Sea Race, Transatlantic Race, Marblehead-Halifax. In 2019, In Theory won its division in all three of its major offshore races: Block Island Race + 1st overall in IRC); Marblehead-Halifax; Vineyard Race. Goals: Sail safe, have fun, push the boat hard.

#### **Shockwave 63ft trimaran**

Returning to the race course under new ownership is the Nigel Irens 63ft trimaran Shockwave. Formerly Paradox, which won the MOCRA Class in 2018, Shockwave will be sailed by multihull specialists Scott Klodowski and Jeff Mearing.

#### **Argo, MOD70 – third time in race – Thompson and Cammas on board**

From Larchmont YC, New York, trader Jason Carroll and his team on the MOD70 Argo competed in 2017 & 2019 editions of the RC600. Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> on corrected time. Their top crew includes round the world record holder, Britain's Brian Thompson and Franck Cammas who made his name in offshore racing, a discipline in which he is one of the most successful sailors

#### **Summer Storm - Stuart Bannatyne (NZL)**

New York lawyer, Andrew Berdon's Marten 49 took part last year and achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> in IRC One and 10<sup>th</sup> overall. The team consists of friends, family and regular crew, including 8 x VOR winner Stuart Bannatyne (NZL). "Our aim is to come together as a team, have a heck of a lot of fun and ultimately emerge victorious. The RC600 is so special because of the location and the fact that it brings together such a diverse group of sailors from all over the world," says Berdon who has been involved in big-boat coastal and

ocean races since the 80s. (NYYC, Storm Try Sail, Beach Point YC).

#### **Two up on Avanti from NY**

Owner of Hanse 430, Jeremy Jablonski from Cedar Point YC, Long Island Sound is back once again to compete in the Two Handed and IRC Two class. Along with Marek Mirota, they completed the course last year, having not finished in 2018. “We’ve sailed together over 10,000nm in various offshore events. C-600 is a very unique race, it is fantastic to see Corinthian sailors and fully professional teams charging at the start. Complexity of the race course, surprisingly demanding seas and weather conditions can challenge even the most experienced crew. Sailing this race on a smaller boat is truly an endurance test. We may be sailing two days longer than the overall winner. We’ll need to sail smart, protect the boat and pace ourselves to preserve energy till the finish.”

#### **Third attempt for Seattle-based Fujin**

Fujin is a Paul Bieker-designed custom 53ft catamaran, which capsized in the 2018 RORC Caribbean 600 race and was rebuilt for last year’s race, where she had a great race and was runner-up in the Multihull fleet. Greg Slyngstad’s American Bieker 53 Fujin will be back to try to better this result. The Seattle-based crew, usually includes Olympic Gold Medallist and America’s Cup veteran Jonathan McKee.

#### **Cookson 50 multinational crew – Triple Lindy**

Third RC600 for the team who competed in 2013 (2nd in IRC class 2 with former Triple Lindy a Swan 44) and in 2019. Joseph Mele’s Cookson 50 crew hail from 6 countries and are 50% amateur, 50% professional. The team includes Jaime Arbonnes, multiple VOR and America’s Cup sailor and Canadian Olympian Sandy Macmillan. Triple Lindy has taken part in two previous editions of the race and will be skippered by Sydney’s Bradshaw Kellett, Australia who recently competed in his 28<sup>th</sup> Rolex Sydney Hobart Race.

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