



## FACTS & STATS

(as at 10 April 2019)

#RolexFastnetRace <http://www.rolexfastnetrace.com/>



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### THE RACE:

- Saturday 3rd August 2019 is the start of the historic Rolex Fastnet Race. For the first time ever, it will take place before Cowes Week. It is the world's largest offshore yacht race
- Organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) based in London and Cowes, Isle of Wight, England
- 48th edition of the biennial race. The inaugural race was run in 1925 and it has been held once every two years since the 1930s - apart from war times
- The non-stop race course is 605 nautical miles (1,120 km)
- This sporting institution is the world's largest offshore race. It is Europe's oldest offshore race and one of sailing's greatest contests
- A record fleet of around 400 boats and 3,000+ crews are participating in the 2019 race



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- This year's entry list of 340 IRC yachts was filled in just four minutes and 37 seconds, just 13 seconds outside the record time recorded in 2017 of 4 minutes and 24 seconds!
- Rolex SA has sponsored the race since 2001
- At least 26 countries from four continents will be represented by boats and crews in the race
- Great Britain makes up 47% of the fleet, with 191 boats, but a massive 14.45% will come from France (59 boats) who have won the race four times (1965, 2005, 2013, 2015)
- 5.6% of the fleet is from Germany and The Netherlands (with 23 boats each), and 4% from USA (17 boats)
- The start sequence from the Royal Yacht Squadron will begin at 1300 and last 1 hour 40 minutes
- The race attracts the most diverse fleet of yachts, from beautiful classic yachts to some of the fastest racing machines on the planet – and everything in between
- The testing course passes eight famous landmarks along the route: The Needles, Portland Bill, Start Point, the Lizard, Land's End, the Fastnet Rock, Bishop's Rock off the Scillies and Plymouth breakwater



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- After the start in Cowes, the fleet heads westward down The Solent, before exiting into the English Channel at Hurst Castle. The finish is in Plymouth, Devon via the Fastnet Rock, off the southern tip of Ireland
- The leg across the Celtic Sea to (and from) the Fastnet Rock is known to be unpredictable and challenging. The competitors are exposed to fast moving Atlantic weather systems and the fleet often encounter tough conditions
- Flawless decision-making, determination and total commitment are the essential requirements. Crews have to manage and anticipate the changing tidal and meteorological conditions imposed by the complex course
- The symbol of the race is the Fastnet Rock, located off the southern coast of Ireland. Also known as the Teardrop of Ireland, the Rock marks an evocative turning point in the challenging race

- Once sailors reach the Fastnet Rock, they are well over halfway to the finish in Plymouth. The lighthouse, first shone its light on New Year's Day in 1854
- Fastnet Rock originally had six keepers (now unmanned), with four on the rock at a time with the other two on leave. Each man did four weeks on, two weeks off



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### RACE HISTORY:

- Only 7 boats raced in the first edition held in 1925 and Jolie Brise, a gaff-rigged pilot cutter was the first winner, completing the course in 147 hours. The event was one of the earliest true tests of offshore sailing
- The Ocean Racing Club, later becoming the Royal Ocean Racing Club, was formed immediately after the first race
- 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the 1979 race which goes down in history for its tragic outcome. Eighteen people lost their lives following a ferocious storm and less than a third of the 303-strong fleet finished the race. After the event, numerous changes were brought in, including mandatory storm sails and VHF radios. A special church service will be held in Cowes prior to the start of this year's race

### RECORDS:

- **MONOHULL:** 42 hours 39 minutes - Volvo 70, Abu Dhabi, skippered by Ian Walker in 2011 - 1 day, 18 hours, 39 minutes
- **MULTIHULL:** 32hrs, 48min – French Trimaran, Banque Populaire V, Loick Peyron in 2011 with an average speed of 18.5 knots – 1 day 8 hours, 48 minutes

### TROPHIES:

- The main trophy for overall victory in the Rolex Fastnet is the Fastnet Challenge Cup awarded to the winner in IRC
- In addition, there are more than 30 additional trophies that will be awarded at the prizegiving on Thursday 8 August at Plymouth Yacht Haven
- Trophies are for corrected time results except where stated. A Rolex Chronometer will be awarded to the Fastnet Challenge Cup winner and the line honours monohull winner. In the event of one boat winning both trophies only one chronometer will be presented

### 2019 ENTRANTS:

- Making up the record fleet will be up to 340 boats in IRC, plus around 69 Non-IRC rated 'professional' classes:

(Currently 31 x Class40s, (inc. 6 Pogos), 29 x IMOCA, 14 x MOCRA )

- IRC is a handicap system administered by the RORC Rating Office that accounts for the size and speed of each boat to achieve a truly democratic result. This means the overall winner can spring from any IRC class and be any size. i.e: 39ft (11.88m) - Didier Gaudoux's JND 39 Lann Ael 2 won the Fastnet Challenge Cup in 2017
- The sponsored, glamorous 'pro' classes with 'rock star' sailors on board attract the limelight and offer a real spectacle: (IMOCA 60s, Ultimes, Class40s)
- The race attracts both fully professional and amateur sailors
- Corinthian sailors from all walks of life are drawn to the legendary status of the event, some sailing for the first time and embarking on a personal challenge and adventure in this classic offshore race
- The race gives the opportunity for Corinthian sailors to compete in the same race as their sailing legends. Something that is not possible in most other sports
- In 2015 Géry Trentesaux's JPK 10.80 Courier Du Leon (FRA) won overall. This year he will compete with his JPK 11.80 Courier Recommande

### LARGEST BOATS:



30.48m Scallywag 100 (HKG) © Daniel Forster

- 30.48m (100ft) - Scallywag 100 (HKG), Maxi Dovell: 30.48m (100ft), owned by Seng Huang Lee. Launched in 2005 as Maximus and last raced as Ragamuffin 100, the yacht has won line honours in the Rolex Fastnet Race (2005) and the Sydney Hobart Race (2011). IRC Rated (eligible to win the Fastnet Challenge Trophy for overall win)
- 32m (105ft) - Sodebo Ultim' 3 (FRA) Thomas Coville's brand new trimaran is capable of projected speeds of between 45 to 50 knots! Non-IRC Rated

Also among the largest in the IRC rated fleet:

Rambler 88 (USA): George David's custom Maxi, 27.04m (88ft). Highly competitive entry, having taken line honours at the 2016 Rolex Middle Sea Race

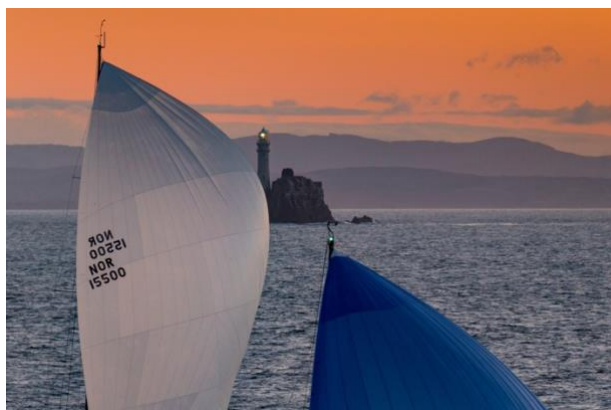
### SMALLEST BOATS:

- 9.35m (30.67ft) – Bespoke, Neal Brewer’s modified Humphreys 30. IRC Rated
- 9.15m (30ft) - Buzz (GBR): Seacart 30 owned by Ross Hobson. Smallest Non-IRC Rated

### FUN FACTS:

Boats range from 9m-32m and if all were docked end-to-end, their length overall (approx. 5,500 metres) would be equivalent to:-

- 55 football pitches
- 9/10ths the height of Mount Kilimanjaro
- 60 x Statue of Liberty on top of each other
- 57 x Big Ben



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### OLDEST:

1939 – Amokura is classic yawl designed by Frederic Sheperd and owned by Paul Moxon

1955 – Cetewayo is a classic 7/8 Bermudian sloop designed by Laurent Giles and owned by David Murrin

### STATISTICS: (as at 11 April)

International fleet: yachts are representing 26 different countries, from 4 continents:

191 x GBR  
92 x France  
23 each x Netherlands & Germany  
17 from USA

- Other countries include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey
- By design: Some popular designs with a large number of entries include: Sun Fast 3600 x 8, Sigma 38 x 7, J/109 x 14, First 40 x 13, JPK 10.10 x 10, Cookson 50 x 7
- Giant fleet of 29 x IMOCA 60s including:
  - Britain’s Sam Davies on Initiatives Coeurs (FRA)
  - Boris Herrmann’s Malizia (GER)
  - Kevin Escoffier’s PRB (FRA) – the boat holds the IMOCA record from 2011 of 1d 23hr 21m 27sec
- 31 x Class40s (inc. 6 Pogos. NB: Class40s are racing in the IRC fleet)

- 6 x Volvo Open 70s are racing, including Wizard, ex-Groupama 4, winner of the 2011-2012 Volvo Ocean Race, now skippered by Charlie Enright (USA)

### RACE TO THE ROCK: FAST FACTS:

- This is the 48th edition of the Rolex Fastnet Race starts from The Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes on Saturday 3 August 2019
- The first race in 1925 saw 7 boats compete
- 605 nautical miles non-stop – Cowes, round Fastnet Rock, Plymouth
- A new record fleet of over 400 yachts
- 26 nations represented
- Multihull course record: 1 day, 8 hours, 48 minutes (2011, Banque Populaire V)
- Monohull course record: 1 day, 18 hours, 39 minutes (2011, Volvo 70, Abu Dhabi)
- Biggest IRC Rated boat is 100ft/30.48m Scallywag 100 (HKG)
- Smallest IRC Rated boat is 30.67ft/9.35m Bespoke, Neal Brewer’s modified Humphreys 30.

### WEBSITE:

Latest press releases, race news, images, video, tracking, Love blog and the Virtual Regatta can all be found on the dedicated race minisite: [www.rolexfastnetrace.com](http://www.rolexfastnetrace.com)

All boats will be fitted with a fleet tracker:  
<http://www.rolexfastnetrace.com/competitors/race-documents/fleet-tracking>

### SOCIAL MEDIA: Hashtag - #RolexFastnetRace

Instagram.com/rorcracing  
Facebook.com/RoyalOceanRacingClub  
YouTube - youtube.com/user/RORCRacing  
Twitter.com/rorcracing

### PRESS PRESENTATION: FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST, COWES

A presentation of the Rolex Fastnet Race, with interview/photo opportunities for accredited media will take place prior to the Skippers Briefing at RORC Cowes Clubhouse on Friday 2nd August. All enquiries: [press@rorc.org](mailto:press@rorc.org)

**PODCAST OF COWES SKIPPERS BRIEFING:** A podcast of the Skippers Briefing (Friday 2 August) will be made available on the race minisite.

### LIVE STREAMING OF THE START: Saturday 3 August

The entire start sequence will be streamed online from the official website: <http://www.rolexfastnetrace.com> and on Facebook Live

**FACEBOOK LIVE:** The start sequence, with commentary will also be covered on Facebook LIVE. Like' our page via: <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalOceanRacingClub/>

### FASTNET RADIO:

The race special event radio station with all the latest news and information will also be in operation from the start, with live links to competing yachts, interviews, position updates,

arrivals, celebrations, stories and highlights until the prize-giving in Plymouth on the evening of Thursday 8 August

### **MEDIA ACCREDITATION:**

Please accredit online. The Media Centre in Cowes will be open from 1000 on Wednesday 31st July through to Saturday 3 August, then at the Mountbatten Centre in Plymouth from Sunday 4 August to Friday 9 August.

<http://www.rolexfastnetrace.com/2019-media>

### **RORC MEDIA TEAM:**

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### **Press Office Co-ordinators:**

Lizzy Foster, Karren May, Marina Johnson  
Race Reporter: James Boyd  
Andy Rice + Louay Habib (Reporters)  
Steve Ancsell (Fastnet Radio & TV)  
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