

AUGUST 2015

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# Classic Boat

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## THEY'RE COMING

Historic summer ahead as classics converge on UK

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BALTIC ONE DESIGN FLEET  
Budget Metr yacht

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We meet James Dodds

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## DORADE IN TRANSAT Just a bit of history repeated

The legendary 1930 ocean-racing yawl *Dorade* is aiming to rekindle the most pivotal moment in her career when, in 1931, her 21-year-old designer Olin Stephens with brother Rod, his father and four others, won a transatlantic race by crossing the 2,800 miles from Newport RI to Plymouth, UK in 17 days and one hour. Owner Matt Brookes's aim in the 2015 race, due to leave Newport on 28 June as we went to press, is to beat that record. To do this, the 52ft (15.8m) yawl must average nearly seven knots for the entire passage or, to put it another way, 165-mile days back to back, which sounds like a very tall order. However, owner Matt Brooks has already proven his intent with the breathtaking 2013 Transpac win and 2014 Newport-Bermuda IRC class win.

After that, it's the Rolex Fastnet, which *Dorade* previously won in 1931 and 1933. To win, she shall have to beat *Stormy Weather*, a later S&S yawl hoping to reprise her 1935 Fastnet victory!

SHARON GREEN/ULTIMATESEALING.COM



PETER MUNFORD/BECKEN OF COWLES

## ROSENN Only surviving Solent One Design

*Rosenn* is, believe it or not, the only surviving example of the world's oldest one-design keelboat fleet, the Solent One Designs, instigated by the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1896. It's a big claim, but veteran yachting journalist Bob Fisher, her most frequent crewman, has done a good amount of research to back it. Twenty-three were built of larch on oak from 1896-7 by their designer, Whites of Southampton. *Rosenn*, built 1896, is 31ft (9.4m) on deck and received a cuddy cabin in 1992. "She takes seven to race competitively," says owner Barry Dunning. *Rosenn* had a complete overhaul in 2014 and is, as it happens, now for sale through Sandeman Yachts.

## NORFOLK BROADS National Park status challenged

Controversy over the rebranding of the Norfolk Broads has triggered a legal challenge which could end up in London's High Court, reports Maurice Gray.

The Broads Authority (BA) introduced the renaming of the Norfolk and Suffolk Wetlands to 'Broads National Park' in January this year, to encourage more visitors, with promises that there is no intention of becoming a National Park 'in law' as well as the Sandford Principle, which would prioritise conservation over recreation. In 2008/9, the government objected to the name change on legal grounds but has since conceded that the BA can make this change.

Landowners Tim and Geli Harris have applied to seek a judicial review of the authority's decision to rename the Norfolk Broads suggesting it "acted irrationally". Mr Harris who owns the Catfield Fens, known as 'the Secret Broads', accuses BA of being "unreasonable".

A Broads Authority spokesman said, "The Authority followed due process in coming to its decisions relating to the branding of the area for marketing purposes".





## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SUMMER

Lovers of classic yachts won't know which way to turn this summer. After the Falmouth Classic weekend in early June, three mighty J-Class yachts were set to do battle off Falmouth later the same month.

Meanwhile on the East Coast, a fleet of around 50 classic yachts was expected for the Suffolk Yacht Harbour Classic Regatta. Then events move to the Solent, where the Westward Cup was to run again for the biggest of the classics fleet. The JP Morgan Asset Management Round the Island Race was set to feature two classics classes on 27 June. Panerai British Classics Week takes place from 18-25 July. This will see the fleet of the British Classic YC take on the best of the Med and USA classic fleets in Solent waters. CB's annual reception will take place on the Tuesday evening of the regatta. At the same time, Charles Stanley Cowes Classic Week, organised by the Royal London YC, runs from 20-24 July. Entrants include many

Metre boats, classic one-design classes and old gaffers. CB will be presenting trophies for seamanship and concours d'elegance at the regatta. If that's not enough for you, there's Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week from 8-15 August, featuring many of the classic fleet.

### Top yachts to look out for



#### **Dorada and Stormy Weather**

The S&S yawls broke the mould as the first bermudan yawl-rigged ocean racers in the 1930s and are still winning races now.



#### **J-Class**

Three Js were set to race at Falmouth in June and four in the Solent in July. They'll be berthed at Ocean Village Marina.



#### **Eleonora**

The 136ft (41.5m) replica of the Herreshoff schooner *Westward*, known as the fastest schooner in the world 100 years ago.



#### **Metre classes**

The Metre classes will be well represented including 8-Metres *Helen* (1936) and *Enchantment* (1923).



#### **Sumurun**

This 94ft (28.7m) Fife ketch, originally a yawl, was launched in 1914 as a present to Lord Sackville from his wife.



#### **Mariquita**

The 1911 Fife 19-M famously spent 25 years as an East Coast houseboat before becoming a star of the classic fleet.



Top: HRH the Duke of Edinburgh; HRH Prince Michael of Kent  
Above: HM King Harald of Norway (left); HRH Prince Henrik of Denmark (right)