

Hello Everyone,

And welcome to this first news bulletin for ECC 2009.

I trust you are all now over the aches and pains of what we thought was another great ECC. My congratulations to Pieter and his team for organising what we thought was a fun, competitive and thoroughly enjoyable social event this year.

Now, a month or so has passed and I thought it time to provide you all with an update on our progress with plans for ECC 2009, and also to request contact information to complete our eligible skippers list for 2009.

Planning ECC 2009

Planning is now well underway for ECC 2009. On Friday 13th of June, we issued a brief to agents requesting proposals to assist the OC in organizing ECC 2009. It is envisaged the bid preparation will take a few weeks and we are currently aiming to secure our coordination agent, and have a defined location for holding the regatta, by mid-July.

My heartfelt thanks to Pieter van Beuzekom, John Hall Hall, Arno Hemm and everyone else that has provided valuable input and comments to assist in preparing the brief for next years event, without which this task would have been significantly more challenging.

In our brief we attempted to address the issues that have been raised in the Commodores meeting, recommendations from the recent skippers charter performance survey, feedback from Adriatic Holidays, and miscellaneous comments a number of you provided either by email or over beers during this years excellent regatta. It perhaps goes without saying that pleasing everyone will not be possible.

This year we will as recommended:

- Issue the brief for competitive tender
- Be re-expanding the range of yacht brands that can be offered for racing to attempt again to address yacht quality issues
- Re-emphasize that obtaining young and better maintained yachts will influence our decision significantly
- Aim to provide a greater level of transparency in relation to how fees are spent to cover Charters, Race Services, and Hosting fees, etc.

'Eligible' Skippers for ECC 2009

This email is addressed to all eligible skippers with known email addresses. Please note we have more eligible skippers listed but without current email addresses known. If anyone knows the addresses for the missing skippers given below would you please be kind enough to return updated details for them, (or corrected details for any on the addresses list in the email that may be incorrect). In supplying details please only supply addresses you know are definitely correct.

We are missing current email addresses for:

- Carlos Santa-Olalla
- Eddie Craighill
- Gunter Holub
- Jozef Rief
- Klaus Naschinski
- Ralf Ludwig

Sponsorship and Budget Planning

Sponsorship packages will be along the same lines as in previous years, although we have not at this stage fixed the gold, silver, bronze band costs (i.e. please allow something for inflation). If anyone has any comment to make in relation to these packages, prices, or other ideas regarding sponsoring please feel free to email or call me to discuss your ideas. We will do our best to meet requests.

For anyone, or any company, at this stage willing to commit to sponsoring elements of the ECC 2009 event please would you contact me as soon as possible to discuss how, and to what level of sponsorship, you would like to support the ECC. We hope by having early contact with sponsors we can factor your intentions and contributions in to our planning and budgeting for the event.

Also in relation to budget planning and sponsorship this year, we plan to include some new charity ideas organising the ECC. Preliminary thoughts on how this might work include an optional donation on top of ECC fees, a charity fund raising competition, and a charity fund raising event during the week. Details of the first part of this effort will be included with the Invitation to Race coming soon.

Invitation to Race – Coming...

The ECC 2009 Organisation Committee (OC) will in the next few weeks issue an 'Invitation to Race' in order to receive entries for ECC 2009.

All for now, regards,

Craig Warrender

ECC 2009 Commodore

26 June 2009