



## ROLEX FASTNET RACE 2011

### FACTS & STATS

#### RECORD FLEET RACE TO THE ROCK

- A record fleet of 320 yachts have entered the 2011 Rolex Fastnet Race (Previous record '79 - 303 boats)
- This is the 44<sup>th</sup> edition of the Fastnet Race
- The 'professional' and Non-IRC classes: Volvo Open 70s, IMOCA 60s, Class 40s and Multihulls have been counted above the initial cut-off mark of 300
- The race started in 1925 with just 7 boats!
- 608 nautical mile non-stop race
- 19 nations represented
- 1 day, 20 hours, 18 minutes is the current monohull course record to beat set by **ICAP Leopard (GBR)** in 2007
- Fujicolor - Fastest 60ft multihull - 15.03 knots (multihulls raced a longer course so can't give elapsed time)
- The largest boat is the 140ft trimaran - **Maxi Banque Populaire (FRA)**
- 2 giant 100ft yachts go head to head - **Rambler 100 (USA), ICAP Leopard (GBR)**
- Smallest boat in the fleet just 30ft – Bernie Bingham's Rogers 30, **Brightwork (GBR)**
- 34 boats sailing with only 2 crew
- Yacht range from 30ft to 140ft
- 10 classes in total
- First start 1100, RYS line, Cowes, Isle of Wight, UK
- Follow the fleet: <http://fastnet.rorc.org/>
- Listen on the day of the start: Fastnet Radio 87.7FM
- Facebook.com/royaloceanracingclub + Twitter
- The main trophy for overall victory is the **Fastnet Challenge Cup**. In addition, there are more than 30 additional trophies
- Next Edition of the Rolex Fastnet Race: 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2013
- The Rolex Fastnet Race is organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) in association with the Royal Western Yacht Club and the Royal Yacht Squadron and has been sponsored by Rolex SA of Geneva since 2001.

#### 19 NATIONS

The allure of Rolex Fastnet continues to attract competitors from around the globe. 19 different nations will be represented in this year's race with entries from the following countries: Austria; Belgium; China; Finland; France; Great Britain; Germany; Hong Kong; Ireland; Italy; Lithuania; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Russia; Switzerland; Sweden; United Arab Emirates and USA. The British and French make up the bulk of the fleet, but the entries prove the lure of the Rolex Fastnet still crosses the oceans as it did in its earliest days.

**SMALLEST YACHT: 30ft (9.53m) - Brightwork (GBR), Rogers 30, Bernie Bingham**

**LARGEST YACHT: 140ft (xm) - Maxi Banque Populaire V (FRA)**, skippered by the legendary Loïck Peyron, the 140-foot trimaran is hot favourite to take line honours and the course record for the Rolex Fastnet Race in the multihull division. Brian Thompson (GBR) will also be on board.

**BATTLE OF THE 100 FOOTERS:** Mike Slade's Farr **100 ICAP Leopard (GBR)** (Line Honours: 2009 + 2007 with an elapsed time of 1 day 20 hours 18 minutes) & **Rambler 100 – George David (USA)**

## RECORD HOLDERS:

### 2007:

ICAP Leopard (GBR), Mike Slade - 1 day 20 hours 18 minutes - fastest monohull with canting keel 13.72 knots

Rambler (USA), George David - Fastest monohull with water ballast (2007) - 13.50 knots

PRB - Fastest IMOCA Open 60 - 12.09 knots

### 1999:

RF Yachting (NZL), Ross Field - 2 days 5 hours 8 minutes

Boomerang - Fastest monohull without movable/variable ballast - 11.13 knots

Fujicolor - Fastest 60ft multihull - 15.03 knots

Illbruck 2 (Volvo 60) - Fastest Volvo Ocean Race Yacht - 11.36 knots

### 1997:

Spirit of England - Fastest multihull under 50ft - 8.38 knots

## ENTRIES IN 2009 (last race)

300 boats from 16 countries

## RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES PRIOR TO 2011

303 boats in 1979, 105 finished, 15 sailors lost their lives

## FIRST WINNER

1925 **Jolie Brise** (GBR), owned by Commander Evelyn George Martin, Gaff-rigged pilot cutter 56 footer, finished in 6 days, 14 hours and 45 minutes - August 22, 1925

ROLEX FASTNET RACE WINNERS 2001-2009	
Line Honours Winner (Monohull)	Fastnet Challenge Cup (Overall Monohull Winner)
2001 (fleet size: 233) <b>Stealth</b> (ITA), Frers 93, Giovanni Agnelli (not on board)	<b>Tonnerre de Breskens</b> (NED), Lutra 52 , Piet de Vroon
2003 (fleet size: 245) <b>Alfa Romeo</b> (NZL), R/P 90, Neville Crichton	<b>Nokia Enigma</b> (GBR), R/P 76, Charles Dunstone
2005 (fleet size: 283) <b>Maximus</b> (NZL), Elliott 98, Charles St Clair Brown/Bill Buckley	<b>Iromiguy</b> (FRA), Nicholson 33 , Jean-Yves Château
2007 (fleet size: 300) <b>ICAP Leopard</b> (GBR), Farr 100, Mike Slade	<b>Chieftain</b> (IRL), Cookson 50, Ger O'Rourke
2009 (fleet size 300) <b>ICAP Leopard</b> (GBR), Farr 100, Mike Slade	<b>JV72 Rán</b> (GBR), Niklas Zennstrom

## 2009 CLASS WINNERS

**IRC Overall:** JV72 Rán (GBR) - Niklas Zennstrom, 2 days, 15 hours, 01 minute, 33 seconds

**IRC 0:** Swan 52 La Floresta del Mar (ESP) - Amanda Hartley and Jaime Olazabal

**IRC 1:** Grand Soleil 43 Codiam (FRA) - N Loday & J C Nicoleau

**IRC 2:** A 35 Prime Time (FRA) Jerome Huillard, Jerome & Marc Alperovitch

**IRC 3:** High Tension 36 Hephzibah (GBR) - David Lees

**Multihulls:** Tri Paradox (GBR) - William Claxton

**2 Handed:** X 34 Exile/Mirabaud (FRA) Nicolas de la Fourniere

**IMOCA 60:** Artemis Ocean Racing (GBR)

**Class 40:** Initiatives Saveurs – Novedia Group (GBR) - Tanguy de Lamotte

**IRC SZ Canting Keel:** ICAP Leopard (GBR) - Mike Slade

**IRC SZ:** Rán (GBR) - Niklas Zennstrom

**IRC 0A:** Swan 52 La Floresta del Mar (ESP) - Amanda Hartley and Jaime Olazabal

**IRC 0B:** J 133 Jivaro (FRA) - Yves Grosjean

**IRC 1A:** Grand Soleil 43 Codiam (FRA) - N Loday & J C Nicoleau

**IRC 1B:** Corby 36 Quokka (GBR) - Andrew Mclrvine

**IRC 2A:** J 39 Jackdaw (GBR) - David Walters

**IRC 2B:** A 35 Prime Time (FRA) - Jerome Huillard, Jerome & Marc Alperovitch

**IRC 3A:** X 332 Bateaux Mouches du Pont de l'Alma (FRA), Fabrice Amedeo

**IRC 3B:** High Tension 36 Hephzibah (GBR) - David Lees

### **YACHT WITH THE MOST FASTNET VICTORIES**

**Jolie Brise** (GBR), owned by Commander Evelyn George Martin, three victories (1925, 1929, 1930)

### **OLDEST YACHT COMPETING THIS YEAR**

1937, Maybird, Shepherd 43 Classic, Darryl Hughes (GBR)

### **CLASSIC REPLICAS:**

Edith Gray, Pilot Cutter, John Raymond-Barker (GBR)

Morwenna, Burnett 45 Pilot Cutter, Stuart Jenkins (GBR)

### **MOST FASTNETS RACED**

26 times - Ken Newman (GBR), Marinero, Swan 46

25+ times - Piet Vroon (NED), Tonnerre de Breskens, Ker 46

**TROPHIES:** The main trophy for overall victory in the Rolex Fastnet is the **Fastnet Challenge Cup**. In addition, there are more than 30 additional trophies that will be awarded at the prizegiving on Friday, 19 August at the historic Royal Citadel, home of the 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, overlooking Plymouth Harbour. Trophies are for corrected time results except where stated. A Rolex Chronometer may 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.

### **THE HISTORY OF FASTNET RACE**

First sailed in 1925 and run biennially since the early 1930s, the 608-mile Rolex Fastnet Race has captured the imagination of sailors the world over. It was one of the first true tests of offshore sailing skill and to win this race is an ambition of every racing sailor.

Organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) the course starts from the Royal Yacht Squadron at Cowes, races out of the Solent down the English Channel to Land's End and across the often tempestuous Celtic Sea to the Fastnet Rock, before returning on a reciprocal course to the finish off Plymouth.

It is a difficult race testing inshore and offshore skills, preparation and speed potential. It has been a prime mover in the growth of offshore racing over the past 85 years, and is still intricately linked to advances in yacht design, sailing techniques, safety equipment.

2011 marks the 44th edition of the race. The entry list is capped at 300 boats, but this year the RORC has made provision for fully-professional yachts such as the maxi multihulls, the VO70s, the IMOCA 60s and the Class 40s to race in addition to the more Corinthian main fleet. This could swell the numbers by another 50, shattering the current record entry of 303 set in 1979.

The start is scheduled for Sunday, 14 August, with the first warning at 10.50BST. The monohull course record stands at 1 day, 20 hours and 18 minutes, set by ICAP Leopard (GBR) in 2007. With Leopard entered this year alongside the 100-ft Rambler 100 (USA), expect an assault on the benchmark time if conditions permit.

Given the history and popularity of the race, it is little surprise that the Rolex Fastnet means different things to the near 3,000 different people on board the entered yachts. For some it is a once-in-a-life-time personal challenge, for others it is part of a much bigger picture, part of a lifetime of sailing. It is never just another race. It is not undertaken lightly by anyone and each boat and crew must fulfill a strict qualification regime before their entry is accepted.

The Rolex Fastnet is never a simple race and taking place in August it is often provided with Westerlies that are strong to gale force in strength. The progressive succession of low pressure systems which advance on the British Isles from across the North Atlantic Ocean also provide a constantly moving weather pattern. These depressions are mostly centered north of the English Channel. Knowledge of where any meteorological disturbance is likely to occur, and how best to use it, is the keynote to success. It is even more important now that the boats have faster reactions and are more responsive to changes in wind pressure and direction.

Famous landmarks passed along the route include: The Needles, Portland Bill, Start Point, The Lizard, Land's End, the Fastnet Rock, Bishop's Rock off the Scillies and Plymouth breakwater. Even the foreign boats are familiar with these headlands and rocky outcrops by the end of the race.

The Rolex Fastnet Race is organised by the RORC in association with the Royal Western Yacht Club and the Royal Yacht Squadron and has been sponsored by Rolex SA of Geneva since 2001.

### TIME LINE – KEY DATES

**1925** • 15 August • 7 starters – 4 finishers • Start from Ryde, Isle of Wight

**Jolie Brise**, a 56-foot pilot cutter completed the course in 6 days 14 hours and 45 minutes, beating the second boat **Gull** by 20 hours. The **Jolie Brise** is still sailing today (see [www.joliebrise.com](http://www.joliebrise.com)).

Formation of the Ocean Racing Club (now the RORC) at the finish of the race. Established in **1925**, at a dinner following the finish of the first Fastnet Race as the Ocean Racing Club (ORC). The club's founding members were all adamant about what the club's stated goals should be: "To encourage long distance yacht racing and the design, building and navigation in which speed and seaworthiness are combined."

**1926** • 14 August • 9 starters – 7 finishers • Start from Cowes, Isle of Wight

First foreign entry, the American yacht Primrose IV. Course time, set by 50-foot Fife design Hallowe'en, 3 days 19 hours and 5 minutes, was not bettered until 1967.

**1931** • 11 August • 17 starters – 15 finishers

Six American boats sailed in the race and the Olin Stephens-designed and skippered Dorade won. The first four boats finished within minutes of each other. Dorade would win again two years later and Stephens again in 1937 with Stormy Weather. First race tragedy with the loss of Colonel Hudson washed overboard from his yacht Maitenes II.

**1947** • 8 August • 29 starters – 9 finishers • Start off Southsea, near Portsmouth

First post war race and victory for the first custom built yacht for offshore racing, John Illingworth's Laurent Giles-designed Myth of Malham. Illingworth's boat won again in 1949.

**1959** • 8 August • 59 starters - 43 finishers

The RORC's Admiral's Cup was opened up to all foreign countries this year bringing a new focus of attention to the Fastnet, the last race of the event. Over most of the next 38 years the Fastnet winner was a boat from the fiercely competitive Admiral's Cup fleet.

**1979** • 11 August • 303 starters - 105 finishers

The worst event in the Fastnet's history. Terrible storms and violent waves forced the abandonment of 23 boats, which was accompanied by the loss of 15 souls. A radical rethink of minimum safety requirements and experience levels was instigated following the post disaster report. 2009 marks the thirtieth anniversary of this occasion.

**1999** • 7 August • 216 starters - 177 finishers

Larger and faster boats including multihulls reduced the course time. Ross Field's 80-footer RF Yachting set a new monohull record of 2 days 5 hours and 8 minutes, Loick Peyron took his 60-foot trimaran Fujicolor around the course in 1 day 16 hours and 27 minutes at an average speed of 15.08 knots.

**2001** • 12 August • 222 starters - 190 finishers

Rolex signs as the title sponsor of the Fastnet Race. Many boats on their way to the America's Cup Jubilee Regatta in Cowes are attracted to sail the Fastnet. Amongst them was the Line Honours winner, the late Gianni Agnelli's futuristic Frers-designed Stealth.

**2007** • 9 August • 271 starters - 60 finishers

For the first time, RORC set an entry limit of 300 boats. Due to a severe weather warning from the UK Met Office, the start was delayed for a day – the first time in the race's history. When the fleet started the next day, 271 yachts were on the line. The strong winds persisted during the race forcing numerous retirements, most doing so before leaving the English Channel. Of the starting fleet, less than a quarter finished the race. For those that stayed the course, there was fast sailing indeed: Mike Slade's ICAP Leopard set a new monohull record of 1 day, 20 hours, and 18 mins at an average speed of 13.52 knots. George David's Rambler also broke the previous record by some 8 hours. The Irish Cookson 50, Chieftain, won overall.

2009 • 9 August • 300 starters – 279 finishers

**DISTANCES: Total = 608 nautical miles** (1,126 km)

The start of the Rolex Fastnet Race is from the Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS) line in Cowes. Yachts will race on a course of approx 608 miles via the Fastnet Rock to the finish line at the western end of the breakwater in Plymouth Harbour.

Cowes – Needles 16m, Needles – Portland Bill 34m, Portland – Start Point 54m, Start Point – Lizard 60m, Lizard – Lands End 22m, Land's End – Fastnet 170m, Fastnet Rock – Scillies 154m, Scillies – Lizard 51m, Lizard – Finish 46

**THE FASTNET ROCK**

The Fastnet Lighthouse positioned at 51°23.3' North 9°36.1' West is known as 'The Teardrop of Ireland', the last sight of Ireland for emigrants sailing to America. The Fastnet Rock is 4.5 miles South West of Cape Clear and Mizen Head. There are two pinnacles of hard clay shale with veins of quartz rising to a height of 30 metres above the low water mark, all surrounded by deep water. The height of the tower is 54 metres. The Corporation of Trinity House sanctioned the first lighthouse, a cast iron tower, in 1848 to replace the Cape Clear Lighthouse, which was too far inside the dangers, too high and too often obscured by fog. This first Fastnet light first shone on New Year's Day 1854.

There were originally six keepers associated with the Fastnet Rock - four on the rock at a time with the other two on leave. Relief were twice a month when two men were taken off; each man did four weeks on, two weeks off. One man had to stay on watch during daytime to look out for fog and to signal passing ships. As soon as fog was seen, another man was called up to work the fog signal.

**THE PANTAENIUS BUOY**

51° 17'.020N 009° 41'.040W

The Pantaenius Buoy is a Special Buoy which is laid by Irish Lights on behalf of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, as a spreader mark after the Fastnet Rock. Sponsors Pantaenius have been providing yacht insurance to yacht owners all over the world and with over 65,000 clients, is the number one insurance provider in Europe. RORC Racing Manager Ian Loffhagen explains its purpose as a spreader mark and safety measure on the Rolex Fastnet Race: "The Pantaenius Buoy stops boats rounding the Fastnet Rock and heading back on the reciprocal track directly towards boats approaching the Rock. With the speed of modern yachts reaching fast in both directions there could be a collision speed of 50 knots or more so the laying of the Pantaenius Buoy avoids this." A Notice to Mariners is issued by Irish Lights for the duration of the Race.

## ROLEX FASTNET RACE PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 10 August

Trish Jenkins, Rolex Fastnet Race Event Press Officer and Katie Steiness, on site in the Media Centre, Cowes Yacht Haven (Rigger's Loft)

### Thursday 11 August

15.00 **Rolex Fastnet Race Press Conference**, Max Aitkin Museum, Cowes High Street, Cowes (Accredited Media Only)

### Saturday 13 August

16.00 Skippers' Briefing – Events Centre, Cowes Yacht Haven, Cowes

### Sunday 14 August

08.00 Rolex Fastnet Race Press Office opens in Cowes Yacht Haven Media Centre  
08.30 Rolex Fastnet Race Press Office opens in Sutton Harbour, The Barbican, Plymouth  
09.30 Press Boats Depart (check in Media Centre, Cowes Yacht Haven prior to this)  
10.50 First Warning Signal – Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes  
11.00 First start Start 2011 Rolex Fastnet Race (see below for full list of start times from 1100 - 1300)  
20.00 Rolex Fastnet Race Press Office closes in Cowes Yacht Haven

### Monday 15 August

Press office open in Plymouth

1400 **Plymouth Rolex Fastnet Race Village opens**  
PM Live music at the regatta centre

### Tuesday 16 August

0327 **Current race record for the multihull class**  
0718 **Current race record for the monohull class**  
1200 Prizegiving for the winning multihull at the regatta centre  
PM Live music at the regatta centre  
2130 British Firework Championships, viewable from Sutton Harbour

### Wednesday 17 August

1200 Prizegiving for the first monohull at the regatta centre  
PM Live music at the regatta centre  
2130 British Firework Championships, viewable from Sutton Harbour

### Thursday 18 August

All day Fleet continues to finish in Plymouth  
1200 Prizegiving at the regatta centre  
PM **Majority of the fleet begin to arrive in Sutton Harbour**  
Live music at the regatta centre

### Friday 19 August

All day Fleet continues to finish in Plymouth  
AM **Fleet continues to arrive in Sutton Harbour**  
1700 Race prizegiving at the Royal Citadel (race crew and guests only)  
PM Live music at the regatta centre

### Saturday 20 August

Fleet berthed in Sutton Harbour Marina  
1700 Press Office closes, Sutton Harbour, The Barbican, Plymouth

## THE START COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT, UK

### Starts from 1100 BST, The Royal Yacht Squadron start line on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011

The 44th edition of the Rolex Fastnet Race starts on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011 from the Royal Yacht Squadron line in Cowes. Racing begins at 1100 for the multihull fleet, followed at 1110 by the IMOCA 60 round the world yachts, and at 1120 by the Class 40s. The IRC classes set off at staggered intervals from 1130, with the largest yachts IRC Zero and Canting Keel starting at 1240 and 1300 respectively.

The best vantage points of the start will be along Cowes Green and Egypt Esplanade on the Isle of Wight. As the fleet funnels out of the Solent there will be a good chance to see the yachts from Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, and Hurst Castle on the mainland. Further along the coast Anvil Point, St Alban's Head, and Portland Bill should also give a good view of the race on its outbound leg.

There are 9 different starts from 1100 to 1300.

### START TIMES:

Event	Signals	Multis	IMOCA 60	Class 40	IRC 4	IRC 3	IRC 2	IRC 1	IRC Z	IRC CK & Volvo70
Warning Flag		Numeral Pennant 8	Numeral Pennant 7	Numeral Pennant 6	Numeral Pennant 4	Numeral Pennant 3	Numeral Pennant 2	Numeral Pennant 1	Numeral Pennant 0	Numeral Pennant 9
Warning	Warning flag displayed 1 gun	1050	1100	1110	1120	1140	1200	1220	1240	1300
Preparatory	Preparatory flag displayed 1 gun	1056	1106	1116	1126	1146	1206	1226	1246	1306
1 minute until start	Preparatory flag removed 1 long sound	1059	1109	1119	1129	1149	1209	1229	1249	1309
<b>Start</b>	<b>Warning flag removed 1 gun</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1130</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>1210</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>1310</b>

## HOW TO FOLLOW THE RACE

### THE START: COWES

#### **WATCH from on shore – Cowes Green, The Parade and along Egypt Point**

Because of the size of the fleet, the start is broken into classes with the Multihulls and IMOCA 60 round the world yachts setting off first, followed by the slowest yachts racing under IRC handicap with the fastest monohulls racing under IRC starting last. Those that go first quite often have to deal with half an hour of foul tide in the restricted waters in front of Cowes and handling the complex patterns of the turn of the tide correctly can give an immediate advantage over the opposition. From the spectators' point of view this works doubly well because it usually means plenty of action just in front of Cowes Green, the strip of land running along the foreshore immediately past the start line, as far as Egypt Point.

In optimising the start time to give the slowest and smallest boats the best chances of making an expedient exit from the Solent no matter what the wind, the RORC will start the 2011 Rolex Fastnet Race at 11.00 BST on Sunday, 14 August.

#### **LISTEN to FASTNET RADIO 87.7 FM**

Follow the Rolex Fastnet Race with full coverage on Fastnet Radio. Beginning with live commentary from the Cowes startline on 87.7FM on Sunday 14th August, Fastnet Radio will be broadcast 24 hours a day in Plymouth on 87.9FM from the start day and online (see <http://fastnet.rorc.org/> and [www.fastnetradio.co.uk](http://www.fastnetradio.co.uk)) live from the docks with all the breaking race news, features, and link-ups with race teams out on the course. More info: [studio@fastnetradio.co.uk](mailto:studio@fastnetradio.co.uk)

#### **LOOK - at the Race website**

The easiest way to follow the fleet is via the RORC's mini site - <http://fastnet.rorc.org>. The latest news updates, press release and positions as well as information from the race course can be found on the site. Images from the fleet and texts from the boats themselves are all part of an initiative to make the race more interactive for family and friends and those following the fleet.

Rolex have their own sailing events site and all press releases issued by them as well as a gallery of great images to download for media who accredit, can be found here. To receive daily reports and to download high-resolution images, copyright free for editorial purposes, register online at [www.regattanews.com](http://www.regattanews.com). Video round-ups of the news and action from the course will be available during the race.

#### **FOLLOW - the Fleet**

Watch the Rolex Fastnet Race online with the fleet tracker. Trackers are fitted to every yacht so you can see each boat's position along the course. View by class or select your favourites to follow friends and family, check out their boatspeed and weather conditions in real time, read the social media feed and see how the live leaderboard is developing at <http://fastnet.rorc.org>

#### **PLAY THE GAME**

Armchair enthusiasts can negotiate the 608-mile course from the safety of their living room by playing the Virtual Fastnet Game. Choose your yacht name, plan your strategy and see how you fare against a huge fleet. The last edition of the race attracted an incredible 27,000 virtual entries, with the winner completing the course in an impressive three days and 18 hours. Course weather forecasts will be updated twice daily at 0700 and 1900 so be warned: this game is very addictive! To start the game, visit: <http://fastnet.rorc.org/>.

#### **FACEBOOK & TWITTER:**

Regular updates for media regarding the Rolex Fastnet will be available on the Race Website:

<http://fastnet.rorc.org/>

Fans can also follow the race via Facebook and Twitter

<http://www.facebook.com/RoyalOceanRacingClub>



## **FOLLOW THE RACE AT THE FINISH**

### **PLYMOUTH, DEVON**

#### **SUTTON HARBOUR MARINA**

Sutton Harbour Marina will play host to the fleet on arrival in Plymouth. To cater for the increased number of entrants this year, the marina has made the complete berthing area adjacent to West Pier and the city's historic Barbican area, available to the Rolex Fastnet Fleet. The Marina is owned by the Sutton Harbour Group which is the official berth provider for the race and is an Official Supporter: <http://www.sutton-harbour.co.uk/>

Arriving into Plymouth Sound will be a memorable moment for every competitor in the 2011 Rolex Fastnet Race, as it signifies the end of 608-nautical miles of non-stop racing. The city has been a sanctuary for sailors ever since Sir Francis Drake famously played a relaxed game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe before setting out from the River Plym to defeat the Spanish Armada in 1588. The Royal Navy continue to call Plymouth home at nearby Devonport, the largest naval base in Western Europe.

The Rolex Fastnet Race celebrates this maritime heritage with a glittering prizegiving held in the Royal Citadel, a historic fort built in the 1660s, while visiting crews will also enjoy the modern shops and restaurants in Plymouth's Barbican district.

#### **WHERE TO WATCH**

A truly spectacular fleet of yachts and their sea-weary crews will gather in Plymouth as they complete the Rolex Fastnet Race. After crossing the Irish Sea, the yachts will reach their finish line from the west as they arrive in Plymouth Sound so watch out for the winners from Plymouth Hoe. The majority of the fleet will moor up in a special competitors' village at Sutton Harbour Marina, The Barbican. Visitors can see the huge variety of racing boats which have completed the course on additional pontoons created to accommodate the giant fleet. The earliest arrivals could reach Plymouth by the morning of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, with the rest of the fleet pouring in over the week.

#### **LISTEN TO FASTNET RADIO 87.9FM**

This year there will be full coverage on Fastnet Radio for a flavour of the race and an update on the progress of arrivals listen to Fastnet Radio (87.9FM) for interviews with winners and competitors as they arrive in Plymouth. Beginning with live commentary from the Cowes startline on Sunday, 14 August, Fastnet Radio will be broadcast 24 hours a day in Plymouth and online (see <http://fastnet.rorc.org/> and [www.fastnetradio.co.uk](http://www.fastnetradio.co.uk)). Live from the docks with all the breaking race news, features, and link-ups with race teams out on the course. More info: [studio@fastnetradio.co.uk](mailto:studio@fastnetradio.co.uk)

#### **LOOK: PRIZEGIVINGS AT RACE VILLAGE**

At midday from when the first boats arrive, presentations and interviews with crews will take place on the main stage in the Race Village by Sutton Harbour Marina. Along with video footage and regular updates, everyone is welcome to come along, meet the crews and get involved.

## RACE ORGANISERS

### ROYAL OCEAN RACING CLUB:

Commodore: Andrew McIrvine (Racing in the 2011 RFR with his yacht, La Réponse)

Chief Executive Officer: Eddie Warden Owen

Ian Loffhagen, Racing Manager

The Rolex Fastnet Race is organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) in association with the Royal Western Yacht Club and the Royal Yacht Squadron and has been sponsored by Rolex SA of Geneva since 2001.

Established in 1925, at a dinner following the finish of the first Fastnet Race as the Ocean Racing Club (ORC), the club's founding members were all adamant about what the club's stated goals should be, "to encourage long distance yacht racing and the design, building and navigation in which speed and seaworthiness are combined," something which it has done with alacrity ever since.

The RORC has been a world leader in the sport in not only organising and promoting offshore racing activities but in developing standards in excellence, particularly with safety issues, but also in race management and in the development and administration of handicap systems for the worlds' fleet of racing yachts.

In 1957, the Admirals of the RORC decided to present a trophy to encourage foreign teams to compete at Cowes Week, Britain's premier race week, as well as two of the offshore races organised by the club. The international team with the best score at the end of the series – that included as its final race the Fastnet – was awarded the Admiral's Cup. This event quickly developed into the premier offshore racing regatta in the world, polarising racing yacht development, rating systems, techniques and generally popularising the sport at the highest level. Many other clubs around the world mimicked the format with their own series. In recent years, with changing requirements and racing formats, other RORC-organised regatta formats have developed, including the Rolex Commodores' Cup.

One of the most important activities of the RORC today is the development and management of a myriad of different yacht measurement and handicap systems, something at which the RORC's Lymington-based Rating Office staff are the recognised world leaders. The Club has a central London clubhouse, with restaurant and rooms for the use of its 3500 memberships and their guests. It is also the founding publisher of one of the worlds' leading yacht racing publications, Seahorse Magazine – the white, stylised seahorse on a dark blue background being the club's logo.

**Royal Ocean Racing Club:** 20 St James' Place, London SW1A 1NN, United Kingdom, Tel: +44 (0)20 7493 2248, Email: [info@rorc.org.uk](mailto:info@rorc.org.uk), Web: [www.rorc.org](http://www.rorc.org) - *Rolex Fastnet Race mini site:* [www.fastnet.rorc.org](http://www.fastnet.rorc.org)

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[www.rorc.org](http://www.rorc.org)

## **RACE SPONSOR: ROLEX SA OF GENEVA**

The Rolex Fastnet Race has been sponsored by Rolex SA of Geneva since 2001.

Rolex has always enjoyed a privileged relationship with the sea and the sailing world. Among the sports that Rolex has supported for many years, sailing undoubtedly holds a special place. Its spirit and philosophy are in perfect harmony with values that Rolex holds dear: excellence, precision and team spirit.

The partnership between Rolex and sailing dates back to the late 1950s. The close ties that bind the company to the world of sailing have grown stronger ever since. Today, Rolex is the Title Sponsor of some twenty major international yachting events in four distinct categories:

**The Maxi class of yachts:** Rolex is the partner of the International Maxi Association, enabling the delivery of a range of yacht-racing events showcasing the largest, most impressive vessels afloat. Events include the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, Giraglia Rolex Cup and the Rolex Volcano Race.

**Ocean racing traditions:** Rolex has long supported the notion of endurance within sailing. Its involvement in some of the highest calibre, offshore distance races is testament to the commitment. Events include Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, Rolex Fastnet Race and Rolex Middle Sea Race.

**Championship yachting:** over many years Rolex has created long-standing relationships with yacht clubs and organisations that host competitive regattas, where the intensity of the sport on the water is matched by the level of camaraderie ashore. Events include the Rolex Farr 40 World Championship, the Rolex Swan Cup and the New York Yacht Club Invitational.

**Classic sailing:** Rolex closely identifies itself with the spirit, tradition and elegance exemplified by vintage yachts, and has partnered with the event which salutes these virtues: Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez. Additionally, through its support of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF), the world reference in sailing, Rolex participates in the overall development of this spectacular sport. Since 2001, the company has been partner with ISAF at the ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Awards, honorary prizes that celebrate men and women sailors who have particularly distinguished themselves.

Over the years, Rolex has also cultivated close associations with the best-known yacht clubs and the organisers of major events in the world of sailing, including: The New York Yacht Club, The Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, The Royal Yacht Squadron, The Yacht Club Italiano and the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

## **PARTNERS/SUPPLIERS:**

### **SUTTON HARBOUR MARINA, BARBICAN, PLYMOUTH, UK**

Sutton Harbour Marina in Plymouth have been the host finish port for the Rolex Fastnet Race since 2009. The Marina is owned by the Sutton Harbour Group, which is the official berth provider for the race and is an Official Supporter: <http://www.sutton-harbour.co.uk/>

Mark Brimacombe, Sutton Harbour Marina Manager said: "We're delighted that The Royal Ocean Racing Club has selected Sutton Harbour Marina to host the finish of the 2009 Rolex Fastnet Race and we're looking forward to offering competitors a very warm welcome with our first class facilities and excellent access to local restaurants, bars and shops to help them relax and unwind after the event.

"Events like the 2009 Rolex Fastnet Race will no doubt play an important role in attracting visitors to Plymouth and provide a valuable boost to local businesses during these tough economic times."

<http://www.sutton-harbour.co.uk/>

### **PANTAENIUS YACHT INSURANCE**

Pantaenius sponsor the Pantaenius Buoy and the Crew Bar in Plymouth  
<http://www.pantaenius.co.uk>