



RYS BICENTENARY BONANZA



All eyes will be on the Royal Yacht Squadron Cowes from 25-31 July, when an invitational Bicentenary Regatta is set to light up the Solent

In total 25 invited clubs are set to take part in the Royal Yacht Squadron's Bicentenary regatta, which features; IRC, one design, and team racing while there is also to be an en-masse Race Around the Island.

Those competing in IRC will consist of modern race yachts, cruiser racers and some spectacular classics spanning many decades and from an array of designers.

A significant proportion of those participating will have, recently completed the transatlantic TR2015 race, which the RYS is running in conjunction with the New York Yacht Club, the Royal Ocean Racing Club and the Storm Trysail Club. Amongst those going the extra few miles to be in the line-up, is the beautiful S&S ketch Dorade built in 1930. Despite being a lady of a certain age, Dorade won the Transpacific race in 2014 and is, this year, aiming to repeat her transatlantic win of 1931.

From Newport to Cowes is a long way to sail for a regatta but, along with the rest of the nearly 70-strong fleet, it will be worth being part of the dramatic line up in front of the Royal Yacht Squadron Castle, which will include four stunning J Class yachts.

The Race Around the Island is bound to be hotly contested, particularly with

those boats from the US, who will almost certainly see a natural affinity with the first ever America's Cup – also a race around the Isle of Wight and saw America walk away victorious beginning the longest winning streak in sporting history. However, perhaps the most ferocious competition will be reserved for the Team Racing event, which will be taking place in a fleet of identical J70s.

Despite the regatta being a celebration of 200 years of the Royal Yacht Squadron, it is also the opportunity to look ahead: "The Royal Yacht Squadron has much to celebrate for its contribution to yachting and the nation over the past 200 years," comments The Hon Christopher Sharples, Commodore, Royal Yacht

Above
The iconic Royal Yacht Squadron starting cannons

Below
Classic ketch, Dorade is one of many classic yachts set to enter

Squadron. "And we look forward to our next 200 years with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. In particular, we are attracting younger members through participation in our sailing academy and we are also pressing ahead with our new foundation that will provide financial help for youngsters living on the Isle of Wight who wish to pursue a career in the marine industry."

Après sail activity will not disappoint either - tickets are selling fast for the Grand Party which takes place on Thursday 30 July at Queen Victoria's historic home, Osborne House. An aerial display from the Air Squadron will enthral guests who will be treated to dinner, dancing and entertainment. □



CLUBS ENTERED TO TAKE PART IN THE TEAM RACING

New York Yacht Club,
Norddeutscher Regatta Verein,
Royal Bermuda Yacht Club,
Royal Ocean Racing Club,
Royal Southern Yacht Club,
Royal Thames Yacht Club,
Royal Yacht Squadron,
St Francis Yacht Club,
Yacht Club Costa Smeralda,
Yacht Club de France.