



Fifty+ teams for RORC Vice Admiral's Cup

Organized by the Royal Ocean Racing Club

High performance racing with the Royal Ocean Racing Club is back with the Vice Admiral's Cup taking place in the Solent from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd May. The 2020 event was cancelled due to the pandemic, but over 50 teams have taken up the challenge for 2021. Eight classes will compete on technical windward leeward courses, with adrenalin-packed action for FAST40+, Performance 40, J/111, J/109, Cape31, HP30, Quarter Tonner and SB20.



Eight classes will compete in the 2021 Vice Admiral's Cup organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club:
FAST40+, Performance 40, J/111, J/109, Cape31, HP30, Quarter Tonner and SB20 © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>

FAST40+ Class

The Grand Prix class returns to racing for the first time this year. Whilst the class follows a box rule, the carbon fiber flyers have very similar IRC Ratings.

Niklas Zennström's **Rán** is the boat to beat having won the class at the 2019 Vice Admiral's Cup. Peter Morton returns to the FAST40+ arena with a new boat, **Jean Genie** which has been tricked up for action. In contention for the Vice Admiral's Cup will be Christian Hamilton & Guy Gillon's **Khumbu** with several rigging upgrades. RORC Commodore James Neville racing **Ino XXX** has innovative sails in the wardrobe. Ed Fishwick's **Redshift** has a lower IRC rating because of modifications over the winter layoff.

"**Rán** have been out training in all conditions and it will be a breath of fresh air to be back out racing," commented Rán's Tim Powell, "The weather is looking changeable for the regatta, so we are keeping an open mind as to what the conditions will be. A lot of boats have spent time over the winter improving their boats. As this is the first race of the season it will be very interesting to see where everybody has got to in terms of performance."



The impressive sight of the Grand Prix FAST40+ fleet © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>



Back to defend their class win from 2019 - Niklas Zennström's FAST40+ Rán © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>

Performance 40 Class

The Vice Admiral's Cup will be the first round of the 2021 Performance 40 Series. Under tight IRC Rating rules, the class provides intense racing for a variety of performance cruisers. Teams will be racing designs from the drawing boards of Jason Ker, Mark Mills, Beneteau and X-Yachts. Proven winners include Michael Blair & Stevie Beckett's **Cobra**, David Cummins' **Rumleflurg** and James Gair's **Zero II**. Past RORC Commodore and Admiral, Andrew McIrvine will be competing with **La Réponse**.

Rob Bottomley's **Sailplane 3** will be relishing the prospect of pure windward leeward racing as navigator Nick Jones explains: "We have set up **Sailplane** for windward leeward racing for the Bottomley family. Although the Rolex Fastnet Race is very important, most of the crew are youngsters that are into weekend racing. The biggest change for this event is that we are back to a full crew, which will change how we sail the boat. This should be a huge leap forward in slick maneuvers and the way that the boat can perform."



Rob Bottomley's Sailplane 3 will be competing in the Performance 40 class in the three-day Vice Admiral's Cup
 © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>



J/111 fleet © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>

J/111 Class

Racing inshore and offshore, the J/111 class has been established in the Solent for about 10 years. The fast 36' (11.1m) One-Design is recognized by World Sailing and will host their World Championship in the Solent in 2022. Competing at the Vice Admiral's Cup will be UK National Champion Tony & Sally Mack's **McFly** and J/111 World President Chris Jones, racing **Journeymaker II** with Louise Makin.

J/109 Class

For 20 years the J/109 has been a familiar sight racing in the Solent. More recently the 35ft (10.7m) racer cruiser has been one of the largest one-design classes for the Rolex Fastnet Race. Top J/109 teams for the Vice Admiral's Cup include Mike Yates' **Jago**, David Richards' **Jumping Jellyfish** and Rob Cotterill racing **Mojo Risin'**.



Tony & Sally Mack's J/111 **McFly** is UK National Champion © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>



Mike Yates' J/109 *Jago* © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>

Cape31 Class

Designed and built for Table Bay, Cape Town, the 31ft (9.6m) Mills One-Design is a new class in the Solent. Four will be racing at the Vice Admiral's Cup; the first official event for the 2021 Cape31 UK Series. Russell Peters will be on the helm of ***Squirt*** and the crew includes his daughter Suzy as navigator.

"It is an awesome boat to race," commented Suzy. "So far, we have only raced in a mixed IRC fleet, but we have managed to hang in there to the top mark with the bigger boats and then wave goodbye at 20 knots downwind! We are so excited to have four boats out for a one-design regatta and we hope to have eight by Cowes Week."

HP30 Class

The HP30 Class has a box rule for powerful planning boats of around 30ft that race under a tight IRC Racing band. Exotic materials are restricted, making for thrilling racing at an affordable price. The Vice Admiral's Cup will be Round 2 of the 2021 Championship Series. The fleet of HP30s in action include Farr 280s, FarEast 28s and one Lutra 30. Glyn Locke's ***Toucan***, with son Alex driving, is the defending champion from 2019.



Four Cape31's will competing this coming weekend on the Solent, including **Squirt** © Warsash Spring Series



Action on board Glyn Locke's Farr 280 **Toucan** competing in the HP30 class © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>

Quarter Tonner Class

The first Quarter Tonner Worlds was in 1967 and since 2005 the diminutive keel boat has seen a resurgence in the Solent, racing under the IRC Rule. Nine teams have entered the Vice Admiral's Cup, including three winners of the Quarter Ton Cup under IRC. **Bullit**, **Espada**, and **Protis**. Sam Laidlaw has won the Quarter Ton Cup twice in a previous boat and will be racing **BLT** for the regatta. Louise Morton's **Bullet** was the class winner for the Vice Admiral's Cup in 2019.

"I am really excited to race in the Vice Admiral's Cup, especially after last year was cancelled. Bullet is inundated with crew which is always a good sign," commented Louise Morton. "It is going to be very competitive; the standard in the class is very high. There is very little between us and short, sharp racing is what we all enjoy. The Quarter Ton Cup will follow this regatta so it will be fascinating to see where we all are."

SB20 Class

The British built 20ft (6.15m) keelboat has been racing in the Solent for about 20 years. Conceived by Tony Castro, the SB20 is designed for three or four crew with no hiking allowed. Weighing just 685 kg with a max. downwind sail area of 790 sq. ft, the SB20 is a pocket rocket capable of over 20 knots. 2019 Vice Admiral's Cup champion, **Breaking Bod** is back to defend their title.



Louise Morton's Quarter Tonner **Bullet** was class winner in the last RORC Vice Admiral's Cup

© Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>



Tiger and Joker will be racing in the competitive Quarter Tonner class © Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>



The pocket rocket SB20 class will include Richard McAdam's **Breaking Bod** - back to defend their class win from 2019.
© Rick Tomlinson/<https://www.rick-tomlinson.com>

The Notice of Race for the Vice Admiral's Cup reminds all competitors to comply with all Government regulations, Harbour Authorities and RYA guidance in respect of COVID19.

During the Vice Admiral's Cup, the Royal Ocean Racing Club welcomes members, and competitors to the RORC Cowes Clubhouse. A prizegiving will take place each day and tables will need to be reserved in advance.

Link to Event documents and Current Entry List:

<http://www.rorc.org/events/racing-events-2021/vice-admiral-s-cup-2021>

For more information, go to: <http://www.rorc.org/>

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THE ROYAL OCEAN RACING CLUB:

- Established in 1925, The Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) is best known for the biennial Fastnet Race and the international team event, the Admiral's Cup. RORC organizes an annual series of offshore races from its base in Cowes as well as inshore regattas in the Solent.
- The RORC works with other yacht clubs to promote their offshore races and provides marketing and organizational support. With the first race in 2009, the RORC Caribbean 600, based in Antigua and the first offshore race in the Caribbean, has been an instant success. The RORC extended its organizational expertise by creating the RORC Transatlantic Race from Lanzarote to Grenada, the first of which was in November 2014.
- The RORC has 4,000 members and a clubhouse based in St James' Place, London. After a merger with The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club in Cowes it now boasts a superb clubhouse facility at the entrance to Cowes Harbour
- RORC website: www.rorc.org @RORCracing
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalOceanRacingClub/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rorcracing>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/rorcracing>
- Tik Tok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@rorcracing>
- LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/royaloceanracingclub>

IRC RATING:

- The RORC has been a leader in yacht rating systems and in co-operation with the French offshore racing club, UNCL, created IRC - the International Rating Certificate. IRC is a World Sailing recognized rating system and the principal yacht measurement system for the rating of racing yachts worldwide.
- The IRC rating rule is administered jointly by the RORC Rating Office in Lymington, UK and UNCL Centre de Calcul in Paris, France
- The RORC Rating Office is the technical hub of the Royal Ocean Racing Club and recognized globally as a Centre of excellence for measurement.
- For IRC rating information in the UK please see: www.rorcrating.com and for IRC rating globally www.ircrating.org
- Social media: @RORCrating @IRCrating
- <https://www.facebook.com/rorcrating/>

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