

# Cowes Small Ships Race

EVENT REPORT | OCTOBER 2023

Events like the ASTO Cowes Small Ships Race happen because of the generous support from a wide range of organisations and individuals.



Worshipful Company of Shipwrights



Herapath Shenton Trust

Delphie Lakeman Trust

As well as our kind and generous sponsors, there are a large number of volunteers both shoreside and on the water that ensure that the young people are safe, that they have a challenging and confidence boosting experience and that they enjoy themselves.

We thank everyone who played their part in making the 2023 Small Ships Race such a success for the participants.

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Pictured: Ocean Youth Trust South's *Prolific* and Island Trust's *Johanna Lucretia*



160

Young people



17

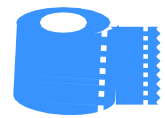
Vessels



24

Average age

(including skippers!)



33

Toilet rolls

On Saturday 7th October, 160 young people took to the water for the Cowes Small Ships Race. This youth charity sailing race is organised by ASTO (Association of Sail Training Organisations), a charity promoting Sail Training in the UK.

The Small Ships Race is an annual event held in Cowes and sees trainees aged between 12 and 25 onboard Sail Training vessels compete in a "round the cans" race in the Solent. This year's race included 17 vessels from UK Sail Training organisations, all of whom take young people to sea for personal development.

*(Continued overleaf)*



Pictured: Crew of Discovery Sailing Project's *Alexander Fairey* receiving the Bloodhound Trophy for Youngest Crew.



UK Sail Training

Pictured: Morning Star Trust's *Guiding Star* enjoying great sailing conditions with Island Trust's *Pegasus*

It was great to see so many local young people participating in this year's race including Cowes Sea Cadets on board Morning Star Trust's *Guiding Star* and *Eastern Star*, students from HTP Apprenticeship College aboard Tall Ships Youth Trust's *Tenacity of Bolton*, a group from the Isle of Wight College on board The Island Trust's *Johanna Lucretia* and pupils from Bay House and Brune Park schools in Gosport racing on Ocean Youth Trust South's *Prolific*.

The crews put a great effort into creating a joyful Parade of Sail past the Royal Yacht Squadron's viewing platform. Trainees on board waved, cheered, mexican-waved and sang. The race started to the sound of cannon fire.

The conditions were ideal, with clear skies, a great sailing breeze and calm seas making for a confidence-building day on the water.



UK Sail Training

Pictured: The crews of Rona Sailing Project's *Rona II* and *Donald Searle* working together to get safely berthed alongside in Cowes Yacht Haven

Following the race, the crews came together to celebrate their achievements at the prize-giving event. After the race, young people said

*'This trip helped me get out of my comfort zone'*

*'I've had so much fun. I've made new friends and learned lots of new skills. I'll definitely come again if I get the opportunity.'*

*"Tacking was hard - but great for teamwork"*

**Trophies:**

**Bloodhound Cup (Youngest crew)**

Alexander Fairey (Discovery Sailing Project)

**Glenlee Cup (Line honours)**

Donald Searle (Rona Sailing Project)

**Seven Seas Trophy (Youngest skipper)**

Aaron Middleton

**Aurora Trophy (1st on corrected time)**

Jolie Brise (Dauntsey's School)

**Richard Langhorn Trophy (Spirit of the race)**

Merrilyn (Rona Sailing Project)

**Cowes Rotary Plaque (Best in Parade of Sail)**

Johanna Lucretia (Island Trust)