



Round the Island Race 2009

18-21 June

First 47.7s Azzurra / Pi Squared

The race

The Round the Island Race is the world's biggest yacht race: something like 1,800 yachts leave Cowes early on a Saturday morning in June (starting in nine groups, spread over a period of an hour and a half) to race anti-clockwise around the Isle of Wight, finishing back at Cowes in the afternoon. We typically get round the island in 7 to 8 hours.

The boats

The First 47.7 is just about ideal for an event of this sort – exciting to race, but with spacious accommodation for the whole crew. Azzurra now has a smart metallic blue wrap, shown below in the 2008 Round the Island Race. Pi Squared is well known around the Solent for her bold hull graphics.

Both boats have full sail wardrobes including new or newish kevlar/carbon upwind sails and multiple spinnakers. Both are fitted with instrument displays at the mast and hydraulic backstays.

The pros

Azzurra will be skippered by her owner, Chris Gill. Crew boss and training meister will be the unrivalled Sam Connelly, veteran of about six RTIRs with us.

Pi Squared will be skippered by her owner, Fin McGurran, probably with Penny Pariso as mate.

The guests

We expect to take 10 guests, so that there will be 12 on board each boat. You do not need to be an experienced racer, but you do need to be a competent and experienced sailor, happy to be at sea for a day, and willing to learn. We'll be using boom tents so that a couple of people can sleep in the cockpits without getting soggy.



The package

Our package is designed to give crew members the best chance of a safe, enjoyable and successful race day by making sure everyone knows the ropes and is given a crew role that they can handle and will enjoy.

Our package includes:

- ◆ four days sailing, including the race
- ◆ race entry
- ◆ moorings in appropriate ports (Hamble or Cowes)
- ◆ breakfast and lunch on board each day
- ◆ smart embroidered crew uniform (shirt and jacket/gilet/fleece)
- ◆ use of our waterproof clothing
- ◆ use of our lifejackets.

The costs and payment

The cost of the package is £595.

The payment schedule is as follows:

- ◆ £60 deposit to secure your booking
- ◆ a further £90 by 15 February 2009, meaning that you have paid approximately 25%
- ◆ the balance by 15 April 2009.

Full early payment will earn a discount.

The timetable

Thursday 18 We will assemble at Ocean Village, Southampton on the Thursday morning. After a detailed safety briefing and dockside spinnaker practice, the boats will head out into the Solent for a day's basic on-the-water training.

Friday 19 We'll devote the Friday to practising tacks and gybes, hoists and drops. During the day we'll sort out what roles people want to play/are competent to play on race day. If all goes well, we will round off the day with an informal race between the two yachts.

Saturday 20 Race day. The start sequence kicks off this year at a relatively late 0730, so our start (IRC Group 1) is likely to be approaching 0800. Barring accidents, we should be back to Cowes by mid afternoon. We will have tables reserved for dinner.

Sunday 21 What we do on Sunday can be tailored to the mood of the meeting, but experience suggests a lazy start and a late breakfast will be followed by an easy cruise to Ocean Village for a late lunch in the cockpit there.