

NEWS SNAPS

NO FOR PORTSMOUTH

According to Portsmouth's The News, campaigners were disappointed not to have one of the Type 26 frigates named after Portsmouth. Instead defence secretary Gavin Williamson revealed the name of the last ship in the eight-strong fleet would be HMS Edinburgh. Portsmouth Councillor Donna Jones is now hoping one of the Type 31e frigates will instead receive the city's name: "It would be such a fantastic endorsement to the city of Portsmouth to have one of the new frigates named HMS Portsmouth, particularly the new Type 31s in the frigate class, which are likely to be base ported in Portsmouth."

NAVY QUARANTINED

A cat, aptly called Navy, was put in a temporary quarantine location in New Zealand after French sailor Francis Tolan stopped for repairs in the South Island during the La Longue Route solo circumnavigation. The race is a 50th anniversary tribute to sailor Bernard Moitessier's journey during the 1968 Golden Globe Race.

FAREWELL PANERAI

Luxury watchmaker Panerai is ceasing its classic regatta sponsorship. Only the Panerai British Classic Week regatta in the Solent will receive backing this summer. The news comes after Panerai's former CEO, Angelo Bonati, a keen sailor, stood down in 2018. It is yet to be seen how this will impact financially on the regattas Panerai had been associated with, notably in the Mediterranean where Panerai has sponsored the leading circuit for 14 years.



Image: Oskar Kihlberg/Volvo Ocean Race

BIG RACE CHANGES

GOING forward the crewed race around the world will be known as The Ocean Race with Volvo no longer the title partner.

At the Espace 2000 at Paris' annual Salon Nautic further details about The Ocean Race were announced by co-owners Richard Brisius and Johan Salén.

The course, though, for the 2021 - 2022 race is still to be confirmed. It should be unveiled "before the second quarter of 2019," according to Johan Salén, who said: "By the end of March we should know the regions we are going to and the order of the stages, then we will have to finalise the contracts with the cities in the knowledge that as it stands today, 45 have expressed their interest."

Race Director Phil Lawrence added: "We are trying design the course with a lot of downwind sailing, even more than in the traditional course. Asia is important to the sponsors, Asia will be in I think. We are modelling some scenarios with some longer Southern Ocean legs for the downwind element. But it is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle."

"We have the weather constraints, the Atlantic hurricane season, the cyclone season in the Pacific, we have to round Cape Horn before the end of March. China and the Far East, the further you go north you

have the north east monsoon, it is freezing and horrible."

The next race will have an additional class as well as the new name. There were celebrations in Paris at the IMOCA General Assembly as the IMOCA world joined forces with The Ocean Race in looking ahead to the start of the race.

On 11 December the IMOCA General Assembly passed a newly written version of the Class Rule for fully crewed events, defining the characteristics of yachts that will compete in the IMOCA 60 class of the next race.

Richard Brisius, the President of The Ocean Race, said: "We will see two classes in the next race, with the IMOCA 60s pushing the frontiers of design and engineering and bringing the larger maritime industry back into the race. And the one-design VO65 class will return, with close racing and a larger crew size that allows for youth rules. Both classes will have women on board."

Phil Lawrence added: "We have to find a balance. The IMOCA teams would prefer less crew and fewer legs and the traditional 'Volvo' crews 'get' the commercial value and prefer more stops."

As for the number of teams, Johan Salén hopes for 10 - 15 Imoca and 5 - 7 VO65.

www.volvoceanrace.com

WINNING TEEN JOINS ALEX

ROUND-the-world sailor Alex Thomson predicts a bright future on the water for Tottenham youngster Montel Fagan-Jordan.

The HUGO BOSS skipper, who finished third in the IMOCA class in the 3,000-mile transatlantic Route Du Rhum in November, spoke to James Ayles about the 18-year-old.

Alex highlighted the potential of the 2017 Young Sailor of the Year who has joined his team for the year.

Alex told James: "I look at him, and I think he is 15 years ahead of me - he is 18, he has raised £200,000 to do a race and created all this publicity. I take my hat off to the boy. He has got talent no doubt. I took him out, I gave him the helm and he drove the boat at 30 knots - I had to tell him to calm down a bit!"

Montel's first taste of boating success came after leading Greig City Academy's bid to race their vintage Frers yacht Scaramouche in the 2017 Fastnet Race.

The school - at which 73 per cent of students are statistically classed as disadvantaged - restored their boat before entering races, culminating in the Fastnet in which they finished mid-fleet.

In recognition, Jordan was awarded the



Image: ELWJ

Young Sailor of the Year prize and earned the opportunity to take work experience with Alex and his team, who are based in Gosport.

Alex is currently working towards a fifth attempt at the 23,000-mile Vendée Globe race in 2020, having finished second in his previous effort. Once his sailing career at the top level winds down, Alex is keen to follow the examples of his mentors and give something back to the community.

"I would love the opportunity to give something back. I would love to have the time to put some more energy into that side of it or working with charities like Oarsome Chance in Gosport. I think what they do is pretty innovative and interesting."

"It is nice to make a difference to other people's lives, in the same way Sir Keith and Robin did for me."



Montel was one of the sailors who took part in the Fastnet on the Greig City Academy's Scaramouche



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