

Shipmate Classic yacht Regatta 2009

“... no view is more spectacular than to see such vessel manoeuvre under full sails in a fair breeze. Almost everything is hidden by the massive clouds of cloth and the spectators find it hard to grasp that a mere piece of wood, hardly visible, is able to carry all those sails. Seeing a yacht almost on her side with waves running over her deck, the bow thrashing through the water sending foam into the air, not even the most cold hearted will remain untouched... ”

from the "Nederlandsche Sport", 1882

The Dutch Classic Yacht Regatta is a biannual event for classic yachts at Hellevoetsluis, the old town at the waters of the Haringvliet in the Netherlands. The core of the event comprises a four day regatta for various classes of classic sailing yachts. Most of the participants claim that talking to old friends, partying and admiring their classic yachts is equally important though.

The first Dutch Classic Yacht Regatta was held in 1989 on the protected waters of the Haringvliet near the old naval town of Hellevoetsluis approximately 10 nm south of Hook of Holland. It started as a two day event for members of the Dutch "Classic Sharp Yacht Association", joined by some British and Belgium friends. They strived for an international regatta for classic yachts interesting for both participants and spectators.

Out of this first meeting grew the Dutch Classic Yacht Regatta as we now know it. In 2005 the event was renamed with new sponsorship to the **Shipmate Classic Yacht Regatta**. That year a total of 180 yachts of all ages and sizes participated. The smallest yacht was the 3.86 m *Gigantje* ('small Giant') owned by Ms. Rianne Koomen while the biggest yacht present was the 100m² class yacht *Zeearend*, 17 m in length, owned by Mr. Leo Aarens. The oldest yacht was the English smack *Transcur* (1889), sailed by Peter and Clare Thomas. In contrast Mr. Fred Schotman launched his home build *Raven*, a 7.53 m Lyle Hess design, on May 28th in 2005.

The Shipmate Classic Yacht Regatta is an event for classic sailing boats of all shape, size and age with the exception of the traditional Dutch round and flat bottomed craft. For the purpose of this event the 'classic yacht' is defined as a boat which in shape and appearance brings into mind the years before 1950. Traditionally these boats were made of wood or steel (iron). Fibreglass boats with a distinctive classic character will be welcome as well. They will sail in their own class as 'classic plastic'. Basically all boats build or designed before 1960 can participate in the Shipmate Classic Yacht Regatta. Also boats from a later date can participate as long as their design characteristics are equivalent to the designs before 1960. With fibreglass boats either the design or the mould should date from before 1965. The final decision whether a boat can join the event or not, is up to the organizing committee.

The 2009 the Shipmate Classic Yacht Regatta will be again a very special event. It will be the 11th edition of this meeting of classic yachts at Hellevoetsluis.

Feeder races as well as cruising in company will bring the participants together in Hellevoetsluis from all directions with festivities along the route in the towns of Steenberg, Willemstad and Vlaardingen.

Programme for the 11th edition of the SCYR

Important dates in the overall programme are:

Saturday July 18th 2009

Start of the Classic Passage Race on the river Orwell from the English East Coast to Holland Start of the Coastal tour at IJmuiden

Sunday July 19th 2009

Start of the convoy through the inland canals at Amsterdam

Wednesday July 22nd 2009

Funrace from Willemstad to Hellevoetsluis

Thursday July 23rd 2009

Races for all sailing classes on the Haringvliet out of Hellevoetsluis

Friday July 24th 2009

Races for all sailing classes on the Haringvliet out of Hellevoetsluis

Saturday July 25th 2009

Maritime market and leisure day

Sunday July 26th 2009

Final day of racing on the Haringvliet