



Newsletter HTCE October 2024

2024, a good year for our Class and maybe also the beginning of a new wave that we'll trybe trying to surf together.

The 2024 HTCC

With a total of 30 teams attending, we can say that the 14th Half Ton Classics Cup at Nieuwpoort was a success, even if – we admit- not all was perfect... Nevertheless with 30 teams from Belgium, Norway, the UK, Ireland, France, Finland and even South Africa (although with a strong Norwegian touch) responding positively to our invitation we can be very very happy!

Our thanks go out to all boats who came to Nieuwpoort by sea & by their own means... to begin with MIDNIGHT X and RUNE (from the Oslo Fjord), QUOKKA IX, CRAKAJAX and SECRETS (from the Solent) and HULLABALOO XV (from the East Coast). We may not forget the venerable DOUCE FOLIE 2 who sailed all the way up to Nieuwpoort from Boulogne...

Also to all teams that spared time nor money to ship their boats by ferry & by road: from the Norwegians who jointly hijacked a DFDS ferry from Norway to Belgium with CONCORDE, KING ONE, FRAM, CANTIPPA, HERO and THE EVIL, but also the Irish who drove/ferried HARMONY and 2 FARR upto Tom's yard. And lastly a big thank you to the team of CARDIAC BLUES for their perseverance in finding a trailer and bringing their halftonner by French roads to the KYCN yacht harbour. Let's also not forget 'team Junior' from Norway: they sailed MIDNIGHT X to Nieuwpoort and then raced 'their own' halftonner around the cans...





Thank you as well to all the Belgian teams who all had their own journeys – sometimes difficult and with lots of efforts- to the starting line but made all other teams feel instantaneously ‘at home’...

Also a big ‘thank you’ to all our sponsors, big and small, for allowing us to create this event... To our friends of IN ADVANCE, TBS, SAILIZ, SEASHOP, COUSIN TRESTEC, EYETEC, JFC MARINE as well as some last minute supplementary contributions... thank you very much for believing in our event, the biggest reunion of halftonniers since 2011 and already one of the biggest sailing regattas in Belgium in 2024... We hope to see you all-in Torquay next year!

Thank you also to the race committee...

Thank you to the KYCN;

Thank you Tom for your relentless help with hauling in/out our boats at all tides...

Thank you to Guenrikh Delegrange for helping us to bring all Norwegian halftonniers from the ferry Terminal in Zeebrugge to Nieuwpoort (and some also back after the event);

Thank you Benjamin from the Vandamme Yard in Zeebrugge for the craning and mast stepping of CONCORDE in Zeebrugge;

Thank you to all our volunteers – without you an event like this would never exist... Hats off for the teams at the bar, in the race office & at the registration office, for the sponsor hunt team, ... and we’re likely forgetting some...

Thank you to all of you who supported in one way or another our friends from SAILING FOR THINK PINK (think-pink.be).

And finally thank you to you all for coming to Nieuwpoort from far away or from just a few miles away... You made this event with us and we’re very honoured to have been allowed to share this HTCC with you!





From our side (the organizers) we've already had a detailed debriefing with all concerning parties (shore team, club, race committee, ...). For the future we'll take into account following remarks:

- Enhancing the regatta format with more diverse courses;
- More emphasizing the results for the non-modified halftonnors, because they are an essential part in the revival of our Class;
- In addition tot he above a special & separate ranking and trophy will be mandatory as from next HTCC events;
- Besides that we'll continue to encourage modifications that make our halftonnors more performant in other IRC championships;
- We remain in contact with both IRC rating offices. Our 2 fleets are complemantary but difficult to harmonize.
- Communications between the race committee and the sailors must be enhanced further.
- The Class' board will review the Class Rules and present an updated set of rules for the next AGM.

At popular demand we'll attach again the final results of the 2024 In Advance HTCC.

A video of the 2024 In Advance HTCC is in its final stages of completion as we speak...





HTCE AGM: 30th NOVEMBER in ANTWERP

We're actively preparing our next AGM which will be held in Antwerp (BEL) on 30th November 2024.

Invitation, agenda and last meeting minutes will be forwarded to all fully paid up members.

Practical:

Meeting address: as from 10.00hrs

Zeescoutsbasis, Thonetlaan 165, 2050 Antwerp (sea scouts – Left Bank, Antwerp)

Lunch address: as from 13.00hrs

Koninklijke Liberty Yacht Club (KLYC), Thonetlaan 133, 2050 Antwerp

Post-lunch address:

The city of Antwerp is full of hidden gems...

AGM Programme

Firstly, we really want to integrate some new energy in the HTCE Board... you will understand that after 20 years of hard work it's about time to have some other & younger elements embarking on this journey. Yes, we're serious!

You will read more about our plans & proposals in the invitation & agenda.

During the AGM we'll also discuss the proposed new set of Class Rules (you'll receive a copy with the invitation).

We'll also have the SAILIZ presents available for all female sailors at the HTCC.

Finally & undoubtedly we'll also have a short presentation of the next HTCC venue...





THE 2025 HTCC

The first goal will be to ensure a consistent fleet of 20-25 halftonnars. The preparations for the event have already started.

It's important to clearly communicate your plans as soon as possible, either directly with the organizers in Torquay or via the Class. The sooner we reach that consistent fleet number, the easier it will be for the organizers to attract sponsorship etc...

At this moment several teams in France and Belgium already have committed to join!

FLEET NEWS

IRISH FLEET

It was finally Team 2FARR who took the highly contested title of IRC Class 2 European Champion in Dublin, only a few weeks after their return from Nieuwpoort, with SWUZZLEBUBBLE in second place.

In Class 3 the halftonnars SNOOPY and INSIDER were 2nd and 3rd.

Let's also salute our Class' members Dave Cullen and Nigel Biggs with their title of Corinthian IRC European Champions!

UK FLEET

We're hoping to see all known & active UK halftonnars in Torquay next year! We're sure to see Quokka IX and Crakajax, but also Per Elisa (whether sold or not), Hullabaloo XV (without them it is no HTCC), Head Hunter (in new hands), Demolition (sold or not), Secrets and hopefully many others like ... Sage?





BRITTANY FLEET (FRANCE)

We've received a notice that AR BIR (Joubert 1980) has been sold to Laurent Mermier and will be sailed from Port-Louis (Lorient). Welcome to the Class Laurent!

Free Lance (winner of the 1983 Half Ton Cup in Hankø) is currently undergoing a complete refit, so she will be faster than ever in 2025.

Normally a strong fleet composed of a.o. Daltoner, Diabliesse, Cardiac Blues and Cortegada will participate at next year's Spi Ouest France in La Trinité-sur-Mer. With 8 halftonniers we can have our own starts & ranking!

BELGIAN FLEET

In Belgium, after witnessing the success of our fleet in Nieuwpoort, we would not be surprised to see 3 new teams next year... Let's hope this all materializes and that we can send a strong delegation to Torquay.

One who has not been waiting very long is Jeremy Florizoone (at the helm of RED CLOUD): he convinced the owner of CONCORDE to sell him their boat right after the HTCC. A few weeks later he was crowned Belgian Champion in the Half Ton Class after 2 races sailed in very light conditions in Ostend.

SCANDINAVIAN FLEET

We have seen that Martin Kamperhaug sold his FRAM VIII to his longtime friend Børre Dahl... Børre Dahl must definitely be the oldest member helming a thoroughbred halftonner! We wish you all the best Børre!





CLASS MEMBERSHIP FEES 2024

You can only participate in the Half Ton Classics Cup when you have paid your membership fee... The fee of 100 EUR is to be paid by bank transfer only, to:

Half Ton Class Europe

IBAN: BE78 0018 1280 2886 -- BIC: GEBABEBB

Communication: 'member 2024' + boat name + sail number + your name

By paying your membership fee you give a strong signal to the Class in general and more specifically to the board.

The Half Ton Class is a story about you and us, and we write that story together!

That's all for now...

Fair winds & following seas...

