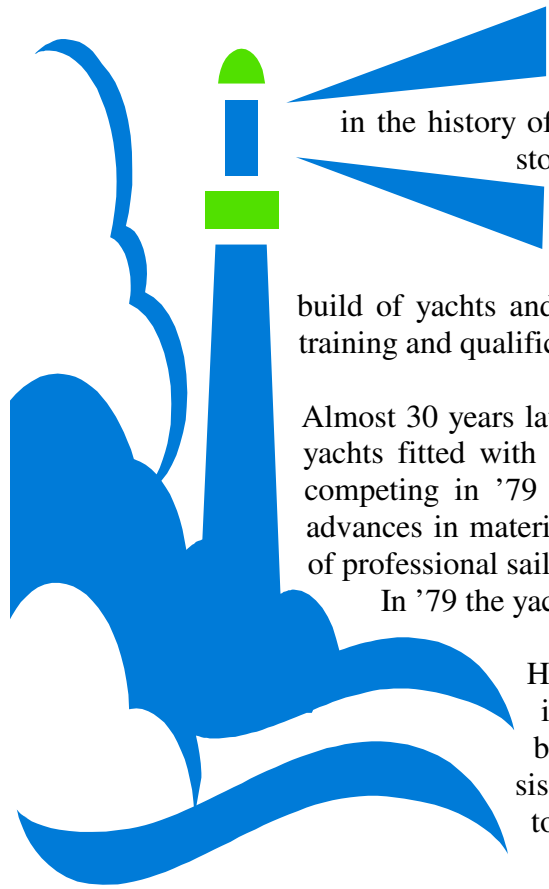


Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March

19.30 hrs in The Clubhouse

# FASTNET '79

An informal talk by Club Member Imre Vadasz - the fading memories of an unforgettable race



The RORC Fastnet Race of 1979 was a defining moment in the history of offshore racing. The devastating effect of the exceptional storm that hit the fleet has concentrated the minds of organisers and participants and has led to the development of a safer and better-regulated sport. The lessons learned have helped to improve the design and build of yachts and influenced the use of additional safety equipment. Crew training and qualification became mandatory.

Almost 30 years later, a new generation of yachtsmen, used to sailing modern yachts fitted with GPS and electronics, may be surprised that lot of yachts competing in '79 did not even have a VHF Radio to call for help. Now, advances in materials and technology, together with the emergence of a class of professional sailors, has enabled round the world racing in relative safety.

In '79 the yachts and crews had limitations and were caught by surprise.

Hopefully this first hand account of the storm will be of interest to club members. It will describe how one particular boat, an OOD 34, coped with conditions in which 3 of her sister ships were amongst the 23 abandoned, 136 people had to be rescued and 15 lives were lost.