

Sail Solent

Bringing you all the latest news from on and off the water: sailsolent.co.uk

with **Will Carson**

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Picture: Paul Wyeth

Teens take on world's finest

A PAIR of up and coming young Hampshire sailors will be flying the flag for Great Britain as they take on the world's best at the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships.

Lymington 16-year-olds Henry Lloyd Williams and Sam Batten, pictured above, will hit the water in Istanbul tomorrow, representing RYA Volvo Team GBR in the high-performance 29er dinghy class.

Lloyd Williams and Batten, who attend Brokenhurst College and Priestlands School respectively, won selection for RYA Volvo Team GBR following gold medal-winning performances at the RYA Volvo Youth National Championships in Weymouth in April.

Open day fun

A HAMPSHIRE sailing club is throwing back its doors and asking visitors to join in the fun at its annual open day, from 10am on Saturday.

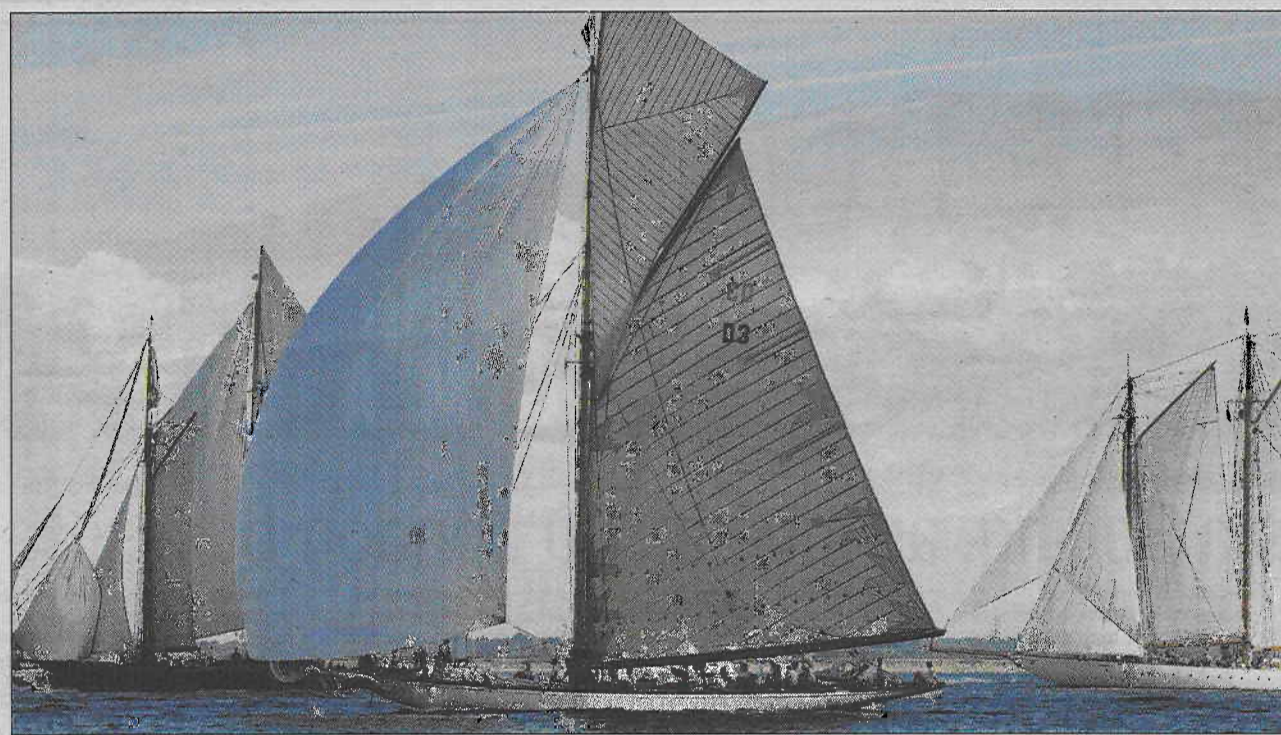
Southampton Sailing Club will be holding taster sailing sessions at its club in Victoria Road, Woolston, and members will be on hand to answer questions.

Williams off to winning start

SOUTHAMPTON match racing star Ian Williams got off to a flying start with four wins – including against Ben Ainslie – at the first day of the Stena Match Cup Sweden.

The double world champion had the best result of any of the skippers with wins against Swede Johnnie Berntsson and Australians Torvar Mirsky and Peter Gilmour.

Williams is currently lying fifth after four events on the ten-stage tour.



BACK IN BIG TIME: Mariette, Tuiga and Eleonora racing in the Westward Cup 2010.

Picture: Kos/kospictures.com

Big Class race back on Solent

IT was a sight not seen in the Solent for more than 70 years.

In a return to the golden era of yacht racing, four beautiful and majestic schooners have been gracefully doing battle in the waters off Hampshire.

The yachts have been racing in the Westward Cup, a regatta commemorating the 100th anniversary of the launch of one of the most famous Big Class yachts, the 135ft Westward.

Organisers are hoping that the regatta can revive Big Class racing as it was known from the 1910s to the 1930s.

The Westward Cup runs until Saturday, with starts off Cowes at 11am each morning.

Shelley is ready to jump back into driving seat

IT was the crash that could have ended her career – and put her in a wheelchair.

Just three weeks ago, Hampshire powerboat champion Shelley Jory-Leigh and throttleman Patrick Huybrechts had a miracle escape from a devastating 90mph spin-out while racing in Malta.

The pair were in second place and on course to win the weekend when disaster struck.

The high-speed crash cata-

EXCLUSIVE

By Will Carson

putted her co-driver 100ft into the sea and could have broken Shelley's neck.

But this weekend the brave Southampton driver and her Belgian teammate will make a miraculous return to racing for the next round of the Powerboat GPS World Championship in Sardinia.

"Going racing again is quite a daunting prospect and I'm quite nervous," said Shelley, speaking exclusively to the *Daily Echo*.

"But for us it's all about 'getting back on the horse' and getting on with our season."

"Patrick and I have watched the footage of the crash over and over again, frame by frame, to see where we went wrong."

"Our doctor has watched it with us and told me the crash could have broken my neck."

The pair were travelling at 90mph – the top limit imposed by race officials – when they

lost control of their boat.

Co-pilot Patrick was thrown 100ft from the powerboat Rotary Watches and Shelley, left in the boat, suffered concussion.

It could take months for Shelley to fully recover – but nothing will stand in the way of her pursuit of the world championship title.

"We're not even halfway through the season so anything can happen," said the 39-year-old, currently ranked second.

"Winning the world championship is still very possible – and that's what we are going for."

The accident was only the second major incident of her racing career – in 2003 Shelley and her boat were tossed 20ft in the air at 70mph just yards from the finish line while she was leading a race near Cowes. She escaped unharmed.



Watch the 90mph crash at dailyecho.co.uk

WATCH ONLINE dailyecho.co.uk



READY TO RACE: Shelley Jory-Leigh.

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