

**ZÜRICH INTERNATIONAL
SAILING CLUB**

COVER PHOTO: AROUND THE ISLAND RACE, UK

WELCOME TO OUR

Quarterly ZISC Newsletter

Since our last newsletter, a lot has happened at the Zurich International Sailing Club! The ZISC calendar was well filled with training sessions both on land and water, as well as regattas, sailing trips, and social events like the Ocean Film Tour and our annual AGM. We are thrilled to announce that the ZISC Committee has been reconfirmed during the election process, and we welcome Gonçalo to the Committee, who will take on the task of enhancing the user experience of our website.

We are also proud to officially announce the establishment of our racing branch, ZISCR, allowing us to proudly compete under our own flag in the Swiss Sailing League. Seasons highlights are already hard to pick although the season is young but the ZISC calendar offered so many opportunities from Carnival in Venice, crossing the English channel, sailing the Netherlands, circumnavigating Sicily to joining the iconic Round the Island Regatta in the Solent, UK. More in our Trip Report in this newsletter. Currently we also have two crews sailing the Western coast of Scotland, a remote area full of wrecks, overfalls, whirlpools and last but not least distilleries.

This newsletter will also launch a new series where we will gradually feature profiles of our members.

Latest Regattas, sailing opportunities and upcoming events.

Despite our best attempt this newsletter cannot cover all activities from the past months but strives to give a good overview about the key activities. Feedback about the newsletter can be addressed to anja.kroll@gmail.com.

ZISC Racing Team Joins the Swiss Sailing Federation

As of May 2025, the Zurich International Sailing Club is officially part of the Swiss Sailing Federation. "This year, we established a new entity – the Zurich International Sailing Club Racing (ZISCR) – which successfully completed the approval process with the Federation," explains Dario, a ZISC board member.

The Swiss Sailing Federation is the national governing body for sailing in Switzerland, overseeing the sport at all levels – from grassroots initiatives to the Swiss Olympic team.

"The affiliation was finally approved, and since May, our racing team is eligible to compete in Swiss Sailing League (SSL) events under the ZISC flag," Dario continues.

Prior to this official recognition, ZISC's racing team took part in competitions under the banner of Regata Club Lago Maggiore. With the new status, ZISC members can now apply for their Swiss Sailing membership cards through the ZISC Racing Team and participate in regattas both within Switzerland and internationally – proudly representing ZISC. As for the cost of the additional membership, it has not yet been finalized. "More details will be shared in the coming weeks," says Dario.

Key Racing Events for our club July to September



19 July 12:30-15:00

The skippers will converge by boat at Mönchhof am See dock and offer FREE sailing sessions. All the donations will be transferred by ZISC to Just for Smiles Foundation.

29 Aug – 31 Aug

Swiss Sailing Challenge League Women Act II/2025 Davos

13 Sept 10:00 – 18:00

Distance Races Cup of Lake Zurich (Zürich-Horgen-Zürich (Act 6)

20-21 September

Sail Grand Prix , Geneva

26-28 Sept

SSL Promotion League in Prangins, Lac Lemman, Act 3

27 Sept – 04 Oct

The ZISC Med Rally in the Balearics, Palma (Mallorca)



Regatta Report: Round the Island, UK

In June, a ZISC crew embarked on an exhilarating adventure, participating in the Round the Island race around the Isle of Wight, a prestigious event that traces its roots back to the first America's Cup race in 1871. With a dedicated crew of 10 aboard the Beneteau First 40, named Arthur, anticipation ran high as they prepared for the 50 nautical mile challenge alongside over 800 boats.

Preparation was rigorous, with a training weekend on Arthur in March and all crew members completing their Sea Survival training. Just two days before the race, stormy weather was forecasted, predicting winds of up to 42 knots and waves reaching 3 meters. The crew was seriously considering to install a bucket at the stern of the boat to handle seasickness.

Fortunately, race day brought perfect conditions, with winds steady at 15 to 25 knots and gusts hitting 30+, setting the stage for an exciting race. ZISC was placed in the first start wave with the fastest boats. Our boat had full sail wardrobe, which included multiple jibs and spinnakers/code zero. The iconic Needles marked a memorable point in the race.

A tricky decision of whether to hoist the spinnaker or play it safe loomed ahead. Ultimately, caution prevailed and the crew focused on steady speed under the jib. Overpowered with a full main and jib, the crew navigated some close calls while keeping a steady pace of 7 knots toward the finish.

In the end, ZISC finished just seconds ahead of a major rival, securing a solid 23rd place in their class. The camaraderie and teamwork displayed fueled the crews excitement and commitment to return next year for more adventures.



22	 ECLIPSE GBR2272	Corrected 08:49:08	Finished
	#J Boats		
23	 ARTHUR GBR7408R	Corrected 09:04:14	Finished
	#Beneteau First 40 Dream Yacht Charter		
24	 MERLIN OF COWES GBR3923L	Corrected 09:05:48	Finished
	#Beneteau First 40 Dream Yacht Charter		
25	 SKY	Corrected	Finished



Building connections on the water: Alexeys story

This is the beginning of a new series where club members share their personal story how they got attached to sailing. Let us kick off the series with Alexey.

From the Baltic to the Alps – A Sailor’s Unlikely Journey

For most of my life, I lived in direct proximity to the sea. And yet, I’ve only been sailing for about five years. So ending up in a sailing club in land-locked Switzerland feels like a rather unlikely outcome. I grew up on the Baltic coast but was never exposed to water sports. Sailing always seemed reserved for the wealthy – the barrier to entry felt high. Later, after moving to the Netherlands, yachting appeared more accessible, but another challenge emerged: learning to sail in Dutch, a language I wasn’t fluent in, felt daunting.

Learning to Sail – Finally, in Boston

The right conditions aligned during a prolonged stay in Boston, MA. With its many (student) sailing clubs and lessons in English, I finally got started – learning on Olympic-class Soling boats. I didn’t fully appreciate it at the time, but Boston Harbour was a brilliant training ground: shifty winds, commercial traffic, and complex currents from both river and tides. Unfortunately, my course was cut short – I returned to the Netherlands, and soon after, the world shut down due to COVID.

Pandemic as an Unexpected Opportunity

The pandemic took away many things, but also gave some of us unexpected freedom. In the Netherlands, indoor sports were banned, but you could sail – with distancing – in small Valk boats. I lived by a lake and could tell from my window whether there was enough wind to go sailing. With a more flexible schedule, I started calling the sailing school whenever the weather looked promising. I ended up sailing two to three times a week – often single-handed, due to distancing rules – making plenty of mistakes and learning from them.

From Crew to Skipper

In 2021, I had the chance to go for an RYA skipper license, but I declined. I wasn’t sure I’d enjoy larger boats or sleeping onboard. Instead, I joined a local club and participated in season-opening and -closing events as a crew member. These weekend-long trips turned out to be the perfect format to try out life on larger boats and to gradually take on more responsibility. After two such events, I felt ready to step up. I completed my RYA Day Skipper license in 2022 and joined the next trip as a first-time skipper.

A New Perspective on Skippering

I discovered that being a skipper – especially on coastal trips – is less about sailing and more about people and organisation. Surprisingly, I found this very rewarding. It has translated into other areas of my life, and I actively look for ways to improve. Today, I hold an RYA Coastal Skipper license, a couple of Dutch sailing certifications, and several marine VHF licenses. I aim to keep growing – both practically and theoretically – and perhaps it’s time to finally get that Swiss lake license! Whereas some of my longer-term plans include getting ready for the RYA Coastal Yachtmaster exam and obtaining long-range communication certification.

Why It’s Worth It

Organising sailing trips is no small task. But what makes it worth the effort is the chance to design a route that turns a trip into a shared adventure. I don’t have a single favourite area, but I have a strong affinity for the “northern” waters – the Atlantic coast, with its unpredictable weather, dramatic nature, and hidden harbours. That’s why this July, together with fellow ZISC members, we’re heading to the Outer Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland for two weeks of exploration. As for next year’s trip – the ideas are still raw, but one thing is certain: the Atlantic will once again be calling.

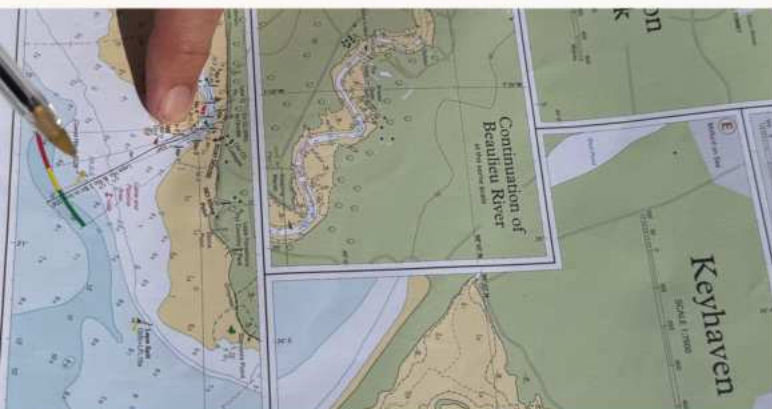




Trip report: Crossing the British Channel without crossing it

SKIPPED BY LUISA, ALEXEY, MARIELLE, ANJA

The “Cross Channel Weekend” organized by Grant in May has turned into an extraordinary adventure, despite the unforeseen challenges. Originally planned to traverse the English Channel, the voyage transformed into a remarkable sailing experience along the picturesque South Coast of the UK, clocking over 200 nautical miles.



The trip featured a series of exhilarating activities, including night watches and navigating through tidal gates and overfalls. The crew (Grant, Luisa, Alexey, Marielle, Anja, Mihai, Theresa, Abby, and birthday celebrant Elisa) navigated along the southern coast of England, visiting beautiful picturesque coastal villages.

When the group found themselves short on wine and without a dinghy on Elisas birthday, neighboring sailors came to the rescue, illustrating the spirit of camaraderie that characterizes ZISC. In a surprising turn, the MOB throw bag proved to be an excellent substitute for a wine bottle holder.

The crews route started in Hamble Marina, Lymington, and an overnight circumnavigation of the Isle of Wight, Poole, Weymouth, and the scenic Beaulieu River, before returning to Cowes and Hamble. Despite challenges such as fog and hidden wrecks, the team's resilience and sense of adventure were on full display. We look forward for the next attempt to cross the channel.



Arriving at Oudeschild, Texel, we were greeted by the vibrant colors of the traditional Dutch architecture and the welcoming atmosphere of the marina with sheeps right next to it. We also used the opportunity to rent bikes to explore beach clubs, trying local seafood. Following our stop, we navigated our way back to Andijk, reflecting on the remarkable experiences along the journey.

Alexey skippered the trip and knows the area quite well: “The Netherlands offers a remarkably diverse sailing ground – much more than one would expect given the country's size. One can start the day sailing on a lake, and find themselves calculating tidal streams and heights for a passage in the North Sea by the afternoon. Combined with the intricate waterway infrastructure—such as locks, bridges, and canals—you will be hard-pressed to find a better area for honing your skills as a sailor.”

Sailing in this region is not merely an adventure; it is a journey through time. The Dutch naval history, tracing back to the 15th century. As we sailed, we were immersed in the legacy of sailors who navigated these waters long before us. Next time we will also try to find time to visit the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam.

Trip report: Discovering the rich maritime history of the Netherlands

SKIPPED BY ALEXEY AND ANDI

Route: Andijk → Makkum → Waddenhaven, Vlieland → Oudeschild, Texel → Andijk

Our sailing trip through the beautiful waters of the Netherlands in April was a blast. Covering a total of 130 nautical miles, we explored with two ZISC crews an extraordinary route that offered a perfect blend of natural beauty and rich maritime history.

Starting from Andijk, we set sail towards Makkum with docking the boat in the windy night. The initial leg of our journey introduced us to the stunning landscapes of the Dutch countryside, dotted with charming villages and windmills. As we continued towards Waddenhaven, Vlieland, the wind picked further up.



What's next? Check our website frequently to not miss out highlights like these



Editorial team: Anja and Tatiana.



**ZÜRICH INTERNATIONAL
SAILING CLUB**

**JOIN US ON JULY 19, 2025
(12:30–15:00)**

**FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL
ZISC CHARITY CRUISE**

As in previous years, we will sail
from Zurich to Kilchberg to
raise money for the good cause and
finish with a social lunch in local
restaurant Mönchhof am See

**REGISTER TODAY
AT www.zisc.club**



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