

The International Flying Fifteen

Diamond Jubilee Regatta - Cowes



A Diamond Jubilee Regatta is to be held in Cowes during 4th to 8th May 2007 under the burgee of the Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club to celebrate 60 years since [Uffa Fox](#) designed and built the first Flying Fifteen – a planing keelboat. Since then, nearly 4000 have been built and raced all over the world making the Flying Fifteen a truly International class. Over 100 Flying Fifteens of all ages are expected to be in Cowes for the Diamond Jubilee Regatta. The regatta will also incorporate the Flying Fifteen Southern Area Championships, which is part of the British Isles world championship qualifying series.

This regatta will comprise a series of races over a variety of courses in the Solent to provide enjoyable yet demanding racing for boats of all ages and with crews of all skill levels. All boats will start together on the Royal Yacht Squadron line on the Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for the Diamond Jubilee race. This will be the premier race of the regatta and sailing spectacle not to miss. A comprehensive off water will complement the racing to provide the opportunity to socialise and relax with the other competitors and their friends. The social part of the regatta will include a cocktail party in Uffa's boathouse, a Jubilee dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron with various prize givings and meals held in the Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club marquee adjacent to where the boats will be berthed in the Cowes Yacht Haven Marina.

In short, the regatta will allow Flying Fifteen sailors and their friends to celebrate sixty years of racing this remarkably successful and exciting, 'one design' keelboat.

It is credit to Uffa Fox's original 1947 advanced design that the Flying Fifteen has been able to evolve and benefit from modern materials and manufacturing processes. Yet the graceful classic Flying Fifteen is still capable of thrilling its crew with exhilarating 'on the plane' sailing on both inland waters and in demanding inshore conditions. Not surprisingly, very many of the original wooden Flying Fifteens are still sailed today and, in skilled hands, can be competitive with their more modern counterparts. The original wooden prototype Flying Fifteen, 'Dainty Duck', is now in the process of being restored to a full racing condition whilst the most famous of these early boats was 'Coweslip'. This was very successfully raced by Uffa Fox and Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh and is now kept for the nation in the museum at Newport, IoW. Uffa's original design concept was for a 'one design' keelboat that could be built by anyone with moderate skill levels. The Flying Fifteen was one of the first modern keelboats to be built in solely in GRP. This rapidly increased its popularity as it reduced the initial build time as well as ongoing maintenance. It also allowed subtle design changes to be made to improve the hull shape yet remain within the 'one design' rules and tolerances. During the past decade or so, modern computer aided design techniques have further enhanced the performance of the boats.

The evolution process has led to Flying Fifteens built within certain age bands to be grouped together to allow for more competitive racing within their peer group. This is why that within the Diamond Jubilee Regatta, older boats will race in the 'Classic' fleet, middle age boats are termed 'Silver Fleet' with the young ones racing in the 'Open' Fleet. Any age boat can compete in the open fleet, but as in most sports, age usually takes its toll on speed and agility requiring higher levels of crew skill to be out in the front with the newer boats.

The primary objective of the Diamond Jubilee Regatta is to celebrate 60 sixty years of Flying fifteen sailing in its homeport of Cowes.

If you would like more information or to be part of this very special sailing event please see:

<http://www.ffsolent.org/diajub.html>

or contact Tony Bedingfield. Email tony@ffsolent.org or tel: 07860 333243.