



Sail Training International

ANNUAL REVIEW

2023

SAIL TRAINING INTERNATIONAL



Welcome to our review of activities in 2023. It has been a busy year, with two major Tall Ships events in the North Sea and South to the Iberian Peninsula. We brought the ships to nine different ports over three months and provided nearly 8,000 young people with a life-changing chance to experience adventure under sail.

I was able to visit four ports in person and had a chance to dust off my very limited square-rig skills sailing from Hartlepool to Fredrikstad in the German barque Alexander von Humboldt II.

My crewmates, from 12 different countries, and the positive reactions from people I met in port, all reminded me yet again of the reasons why we do this and what motivates the hundreds of volunteers who make The Tall Ship Races happen.

The long financial fall-out from Covid is still affecting our finances, but with diminishing effect, and we can see our way forward to a more sustainable (in every sense) business model.

We have been able to fund berths for 275 new participants through the Oman Bursaries and our two project funds, and we are able to resume some modest support for small research projects that can help to improve the practice of sail training around the world. We are now looking for new sponsorship so that we can expand our support for sail trainers and young people.

We now have firm plans for events through 2026 and are talking to potential host ports for 2027. I look forward to meeting you then and at our approaching conference in Dunkirk.

Once again, I want to thank the volunteers, staff, funders, ships, and ports who make it all possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jonathan Cheshire'.

Jonathan Cheshire OBE
Chairman, Sail Training International

THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2023

Our first event of the summer saw us return to the North Sea for The Tall Ships Races 2023.

Across the races, we welcomed 53 ships from 16 different countries around the world to take part in over 1,000 nautical miles of sailing. Between them, the fleet brought the exciting experience of The Tall Ships Races to over 4,400 trainees and crew.

On the water the Tall Ships took part in 3 races that saw them face a number of varied and challenging sailing conditions. Once all was said and done, the ultimate prizes went to Dar Młodzieży (Poland), who came first overall on elapsed time, Fryderyk Chopin (Poland), who finished first overall in Class A, and Tara (Denmark), who topped the table overall in Class D.

The main prize of the series, the coveted Friendship Trophy, was awarded to Capitan Miranda (Uruguay), who took the core theme of international friendship to their hearts throughout the series.

The trophy is awarded to the vessel – on the votes of all Captains – which has contributed the most to promote international friendship and understanding within the fleet throughout the whole of The Tall Ships Races.

Throughout the series, the whole crew embraced the spirit of the event and showed everyone a warm welcome in every port, showcasing the very best of Uruguayan culture along the way.

We would like to extend congratulations to the crew of Capitan Miranda for this wonderful achievement and being a true champion of the Races' core values of youth development and the fostering of international friendship and understanding.



53
SHIPS

16
NATIONS

105
PRIZES AWARDED

1,000
MILES SAILED

4,400
CREW

1.2M
VISITORS





A ROYAL VISIT TO LERWICK

Lerwick was privileged to welcome royalty to the in-port celebrations on days Two and Three as HRH Princess Anne made a special visit to The Tall Ships Races 2023.

The Princess Royal arrived on Thursday 27th, joining the Captains' Dinner that evening, and took part in a tour of the event on Friday 28th July. During the visit she was able to meet the captains of the fleet and tour several ships, meeting crews and young trainees.

During her visit of the event site and fleet, Princess Anne was able to tour several ships, including Christian Radich, Roald Amundsen, Zenobe Gramme, Alba Explorer, Atene, Tenacious, Swan and Ocean Spirit of Moray.

As well as seeing the majestic ships up close, she was also able to speak with a number of trainees about the life-changing experiences and adventures they've enjoyed during the races.

Having made a number of visits to Lerwick over the years and having a keen interest in the benefits of sail training experiences, the visit was the perfect demonstration of the positive impact of The Tall Ships Races visit on the young people taking part and the Shetland community.





THE TALL SHIPS RACES & REGATTAS HOST PORT SEMINAR FREDRIKSTAD

One of the important events behind the scenes at The Tall Ships Races every year is our Host Port Seminar. This year, we were delighted to once again welcome over 70 delegates to Fredrikstad to take part in a series of sessions and workshops.

The seminar was an excellent resource for attendees and offered a rich and informative programme. With an increased focus on participation and encouraging the Tall Ships family to share their collective knowledge and experience, we would like to extend a special thanks to all for their contributions during the day.

Alongside the programme, the seminar also provided delegates with the unique opportunity to network with the participating fleet as they saw the excitement and spectacle of the Fredrikstad event first-hand.

With a packed calendar of upcoming events already confirmed, it was a valuable experience that looked at ways to help Host Ports deliver successful events and continue improving The Tall Ships Races model for young people, ships, Host Ports and visitors.



THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED

- 1 A Review of The Tall Ships Races 2023 from the Fredrikstad Host Port Team
- 2 The Opportunity to Remind Delegates what Sail Training is and why The Tall Ships Races are Organised
- 3 Marketing The Tall Ships Races to a Greater Audience of Young People
- 4 The Tall Ships Races and Engagement with the Wider Community
- 5 The Value of The Tall Ships Races Brand and Creating a Host Port Visual Identity
- 6 Reflections on the Outcomes of the Las Palmas Conference 2022 on Supporting Ships to Generate Income whilst in Port

THE TALL SHIPS RACES MAGELLAN-ELCANO

Following on swiftly after The Tall Ships Races 2023, we brought the magnificent spectacle of the Tall Ships fleet to southern Europe with The Tall Ships Races Magellan-Elcano.

The Event celebrated the first circumnavigation of the world by Ferdinand Magellan and Sebastián Elcano over 500 years ago. As one of the most important journeys undertaken in the history of maritime navigation, the landmark expedition epitomises the unique and impactful experience of The Tall Ships Races.

Having postponed our last two planned visits to southern Europe due to the pandemic, we were excited to be able to return to the Channel and Iberian Peninsula for the first time seven years. Visiting Falmouth, A Coruna, Lisbon and Cadiz, the Event saw 16 ships from eight nations enjoy over 1,000 miles of sailing.

On the water, the fleet enjoyed two exhilarating races that brought with them some challenging sailing conditions. At the final Prize Giving ceremony in Cadiz, it was Fryderyk Chopin (Poland) and Stella Polare (Italy) who claimed the honours with first place overall in Class A and Class C/D respectively.

Once again though, it was the Friendship Trophy that took centre stage as the main prize of the series. This time it was claimed by Cuauhtemoc (Mexico), who embraced the message of international friendship in spectacular fashion across the Event.

Everyone here at Sail Training International would like to warmly congratulate the crew of Cuauhtemoc for this amazing achievement and being a shining example of one of the central theme of every edition of The Tall Ships Races.



16
SHIPS

8
NATIONS

1,000
MILES SAILED

2,300
CREW

61
PRIZES AWARDED



SAIL TRAINING RESEARCH

During our 2022 conference in Las Palmas, one of the areas of focus was supporting research into the benefits of sail training for all stakeholders in the worldwide community. In order to explore future support for research programmes, a Research Working Group was established in January of this year.

The remit of the Working Group is to explore how Sail Training International can support, disseminate and encourage research into sail training for the benefit of its members. The Working Group, led by Murray Henstock of the board of trustees, has developed a number of recommendations to support ongoing research.

We look forward to providing more updates on the progress of the Working Group to support sail training research at our upcoming International Sail Training & Tall Ships Conference in Dunkirk and the coming months.



WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

1

The development of an online library of existing sail training research, which is now live and can be found under the Resources section of the Sail Training International website.

2

Providing support for members in how to assess and use existing research to support their aims and objectives, including guidance on different models to use when conducting research.

3

Exploring different avenues to provide funding for sail training research projects, both through direct funding and the development of a communal funding model.

Are you currently conducting research into sail training and would like to get involved, or would you like to find out more about using existing research to support your sail training activities?

Get in touch and we'll be happy to help!

SAIL TRAINING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL



The Youth Council have continued their important work in 2023 as they look to promote sail training around the world. With representatives from over 20 countries, they delivered a number of projects and initiatives, designed to further sail training around the world, that have reached a truly international audience.

In addition to delivering these fantastic projects, the Youth Council have also taken a lead role in our review of The Tall Ships Races brand. With the aim of ensuring we continue to make our events an exciting option for young people, they have provided invaluable insights as the voice of youth within Sail Training International.

With the development of young people the central focus of everything we do, we are continually thankful for the crucial role the Youth Council play within the sail training community family.

PROJECTS IN 2023



After the success of their first International Voyage project in 2022 that brought 8 trainees together in European waters, the Youth Council repeated this voyage on a larger scale in 2023. The project saw 16 young people with previous sail training experience join Baltic Beauty (Poland) in September for a voyage that provided the perfect environment for building friendships, exchanging skills, and sharing stories.



The Youth Council's promotional activities went from strength to strength in 2023, with their Promotional Materials group expanding their social media activities and delivery of online workshops and webinars.

Having grown their online following and increasing engagement with new digital content, we're excited to see what the future holds as they continue their efforts to promote the wonderful world of sail training.



To further support inclusion across the world of sail training, the Youth Council began work developing an expanded information and certification scheme for ships following our Las Palmas Conference.

Following several workshops, the project will soon enter its next phase of surveying previous sail training participants for their feedback on the information required to make well-informed decisions when choosing ships to sail on.

JACK DIGNAN JOINS SAIL TRAINING INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In more exciting news, we were pleased to welcome the Chair of the Youth Council, Jack Dignan, to the Sail Training International Board of Trustees.

Having Chaired the Youth Council for several years and helping expand their activities during the challenging period of the pandemic, Jack will be able to bring a wealth of experience to the Board.



BURSARIES AND FUNDING NEWS

Across the year, we were delighted to be able to deliver a number of bursaries and funds to support the delivery of sail training across the world. With the return of the Oman Bursary Scheme, the Youth Development Fund and the Canada Legacy Fund, we were able to provide over £60,000 in funding.

These funds and bursaries have helped provide young people from all backgrounds the chance to take part in a sail training experience – particularly those who wouldn't otherwise be able to participate in this transformative experience.

Alongside our annual Oman Bursary, we were able to support a range of sail training projects once again with the \$25,000 (CAN) Canada Legacy Fund and £25,000 Youth Development Fund.

BURSARIES AND FUNDING PROVIDED IN 2023

37

BURSARY RECIPIENTS

13

NATIONS REPRESENTED

6

PROJECTS FUNDED

£60,000+

FUNDING PROVIDED

We would like to once again extend our thanks to the Royal Navy of Oman whose generosity has made the Oman Bursary Fund and Youth Development Fund possible.

Having supported young people to have a sail training adventure through the Bursary scheme, their continued support means we are able to bring the transformative experience of sail training to young people around the world.



B.A.P. UNIÓN WINS BOSTON TEAPOT TROPHY

The Peruvian Naval Class A ship, B.A.P. Unión, has been awarded the Boston Teapot Trophy for part of their voyage between Callao and Tahiti.

Their winning entry saw them sail 1,261 nautical miles with an average speed of 10.71 kts between 05 July and 11 July 2023. The award marks the first time B.A.P. Unión has won the trophy since its inception in 1964.

The winning voyage took place during the start of the Peruvian Naval ship's circumnavigation of the world, which sees them visiting 14 countries across five continents over a 10-month voyage.

Everyone at Sail Training International would like to warmly congratulate B.A.P. Unión and her sailing crew for an amazing award winning voyage.

If you would like to enter a voyage for consideration for The Boston Teapot Trophy you can apply with your voyage details on the Captains' Page of the Sail Training International website.

Visit sailtraininginternational.org to find out more.



WHAT IS THE BOSTON TEAPOT TROPHY?

The Boston Teapot Trophy was created in 1964 when two Tall Ships were voyaging back from the US to Europe after the first transatlantic Tall Ships Races event. The aim of the Trophy was to create competition for their young sail training crews on their journey.

Since then, it has been contested annually ever since between some of the greatest Tall Ships in the world.

To recognise the award, Brooke Bond Tea obtained permission from the Boston Fine Arts Museum to copy a silver teapot which was in use in Boston at the time of "The Tea Party".

This prestigious trophy has been awarded annually ever since to the vessel that sailed the greatest distance within 124 hours with a sail training crew aboard.

The extended time of the voyage helping to counteract any short-term effects of gusty winds and other factors that might provide short peaks of speed.



COMING UP ON THE HORIZON: THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2024



As we continue our preparations for The Tall Ships Races 2024, we have enjoyed our first in-person planning visits to the Host Ports of the event. We had some great visits to Tallinn, Klaipeda, Helsinki, Turku and Mariehamn recently and look forward to seeing our friends in Szczecin in the coming weeks.

These visits give the project teams in each Host Port the chance to discuss plans for the event site, tour the event site and berthing areas, and ensure the logistical plans are in place to create an unforgettable welcome for trainees, the fleet and visitors in each city.

“Following the unfortunate cancellation of The Tall Ships Races 2021, which was due to take place in the Baltic Sea, we’re delighted to be able to return after seven years and bring the majestic and unique spectacle of The Tall Ships Races to the region.”

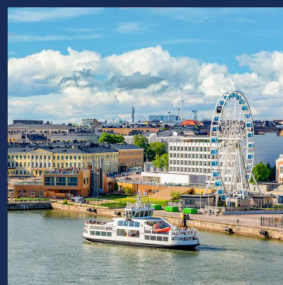
“We are confident these ports will embrace the international Tall Ships fleet, with their maritime legacy, commitment to youth development and adventurous spirit which goes hand in hand with our values of international friendship and understanding.”

The Tall Ships Races Race Director
Magda Makowska

The Tall Ships Races 2024 is now open for entries...
If you would like to take part, just complete an entry form found on the Captains' Page of our website and send it to office@sailtraininginternational.org



Klaipeda:
27 - 30 June



Helsinki:
4 - 7 July



Tallinn:
11 - 14 July



Turku:
18 - 21 July



Mariehamn:
24 - 27 July



Szczecin:
2 - 5 August

COMING UP ON THE HORIZON: THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2025



Looking further on the horizon, plans are well underway for The Tall Ships Races 2025 which will see us visit Le Havre, Dunkirk, Kristiansand, Aberdeen and Esbjerg.

In January we enjoyed a productive Joint Host Port Meeting in London with representatives from each of the Host Ports. The visit gave the project teams the chance to discuss upcoming plans for the event and get a better understanding of what is required to create a successful event for the fleet, trainees and visitors.

“It was with great pleasure that we were able to announce the Host Ports for The Tall Ships Races 2025, welcoming back old friends of the races and new friends to the sail training family.”

“Following our meetings in January we are more confident than ever that these ports will embrace the international Tall Ships fleet.”

“With each Host Port enjoying a rich history of delivering marquee international events, and sharing our commitment to youth development, we are sure the series will offer another excellent opportunity for young people from around the world to experience the adventure of a lifetime.”

Tall Ships Races International Commercial Director
Vanessa Mori

Alongside the Joint Host Port Meeting, we were also invited to Dunkirk as the city officially signed their contract for the event. With a number of media outlets covering the announcement, it is heart-warming to see the entire region embracing the races' first visit to Dunkirk.



Le Havre:
4 - 7 July



Dunkirk:
10 - 13 July



Aberdeen:
19 - 22 July



Kristiansand:
30 July -
2 August



Esbjerg:
6 - 9 August

FIVE HOST PORTS OF THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2026 ANNOUNCED



In more exciting news for our events, we were delighted to announce our return to Northern Europe with five Host Ports confirmed for The Tall Ships Races 2026, Aarhus, Harlingen, Antwerp, Stavanger and Aalborg.

The series will begin on Wednesday 24 June and continue through to Sunday 2 August, offering three exciting and challenging race legs and a scenic Cruise-in-Company. With each Host Port having held several magnificent events in the past, there is sure to be a stunning reception for the fleet at every stop.

As with every edition of the world-famous race series, The Tall Ships Races 2026 will offer the perfect opportunity to experience the adventure of a lifetime as it brings together young people from around the world to embark on a voyage of challenge and self-discovery.

“Between them, the ports of Aarhus, Harlingen, Antwerp, Stavanger and Aalborg have hosted over 20 editions of The Tall Ships Races. With this rich and storied legacy, we are confident they will all once again welcome the Tall Ships fleet with a spirit of adventure, and a commitment to our core values of youth development, and international friendship and understanding.”

Chief Executive Officer, Tall Ships Races International Ltd
Alan James

The bidding process is now open for The Tall Ships Races 2027, which is currently planned to visit the Iberian peninsula sea area. We are though welcoming bids from cities from around Europe who have an interest in hosting the event.

Please do get in touch if you would like to discuss applying to host The Tall Ships Races in 2027 or beyond by contacting Vanessa Mori at:
Vanessa.Mori@sailtraininginternational.org



Aarhus:
24 - 27 June



Harlingen:
3 - 6 July



Antwerp:
11 - 14 July



Stavanger:
22 - 25 July



Aalborg:
30 July -
2 August

FUTURE RACES, FESTIVALS & EVENTS

ENDORSED EVENT: DELFSAIL 2024



13 June -
16 June 2024

THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2024



27 June -
5 August 2024

THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2025



4 July -
9 August 2025

THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2026



24 June -
2 August 2026

We are always keen to hear from cities or ports who might be interested in hosting a Tall Ships Races or Regatta Event.

Please contact Vanessa Mori at vanessa.mori@sailtraininginternational.org if you would like to discuss hosting a future event, or if you would just like to receive more information.

**"I LEARNED SO
MUCH ABOUT
MYSELF AND
OTHERS, AND I
THINK EVERYONE
NEEDS AN
EXPERIENCE LIKE
THIS...."**

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