



Concello da Coruña

# SAIL TRAINING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

**Celebrating 70 years of the Tall Ships Races;  
our heritage, our values, our future workshop**



@tallshipsraces

@sailtrainingyouth



@thetallshipsraces



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# THE TALL SHIPS RACES 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

How it started, our heritage & our values  
How should we celebrate in 2026?

**Paul Bishop**

What can we do to ensure that The Tall Ships Races are on track to commemorate their centenary, and retain their core values and key mission?



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# 1956

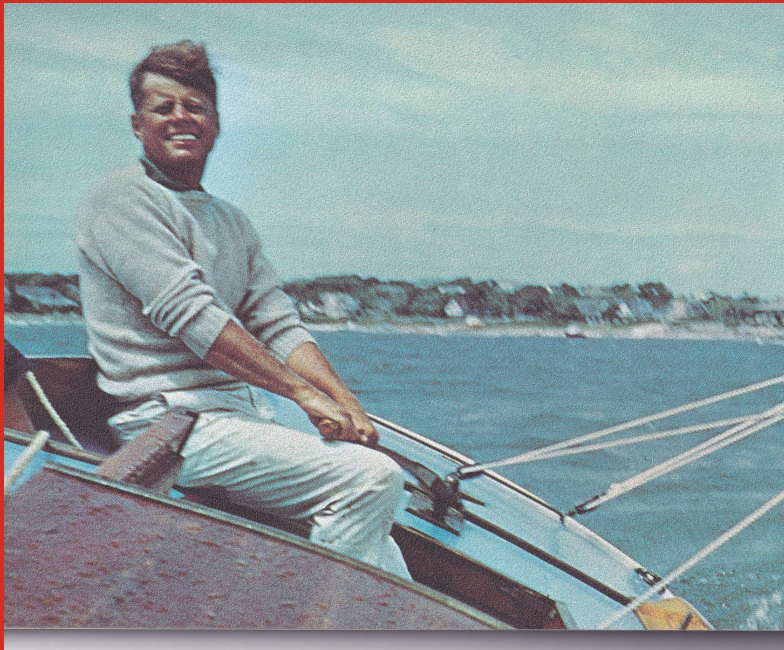
## How it all started



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# 1960s

## The First Transatlantic Race



THE WHITE HOUSE

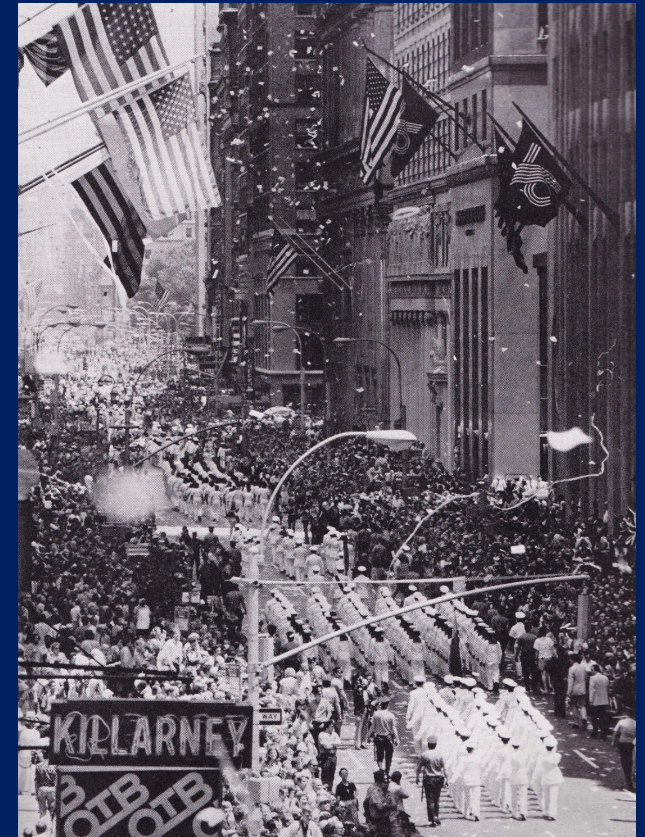
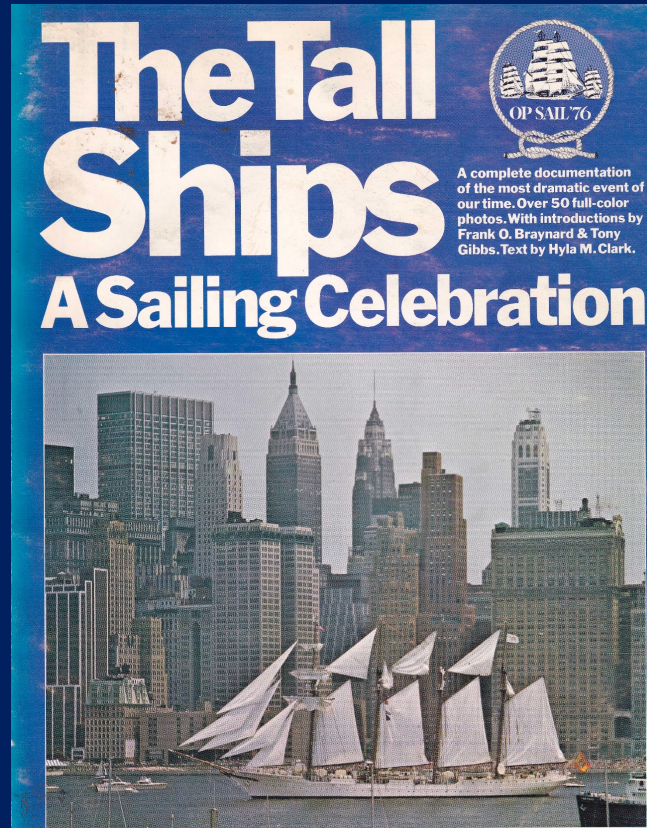
WASHINGTON

From my first race on Nantucket Sound many years ago to my most recent outing as a weekend sailor, sailing has given me some of the most pleasant and exciting moments of my life. It also has taught me something of the courage, resourcefulness and strength required of men who sail the seas in ships. Thus, I am looking forward eagerly to Operation Sail. The sight of so many ships gathered from the distant corners of the world should remind us that strong, disciplined and venturesome men still can find their way safely across uncertain and stormy seas.

John F. Kennedy

# 1970s

## The Russians Arrive & the USA Bicentennial



# 1980s

## A Tragedy, Australia 200 & the Coming of Age

Special Report

### Disaster At Sea

The 88' barque *Marques*, in the Tall Ships race from Bermuda to Halifax, sinks in severe wind squall with a loss of 19 crew. By Kevin Stevenson



*Marques* under full sail. She was 88' on deck; 117' including bowsprit. She was well found and had a certificate of seaworthiness.

What was to have been a glorious display of canvas as 39 ships in the Cutty Sark Tall Ships race set out from Bermuda to Halifax, Nova Scotia, last month turned into tragedy, barely 13 hours into the race. Sailing in heavy weather, the 88' barque *Marques* sank with the loss of 19 lives, when a severe wind squall struck the 67-year-old vessel on the

port quarter, rolling her onto her beam ends. Her bow buried and she sank within a minute. Only nine of the 28 crew survived. Survivor accounts painted a horrifying picture of disaster at sea. Among those lost were American skipper Stuart Finlay, 52, of Lincoln, Mass., his Antiguan wife, and 15-month-old baby.

"Nothing could have been done to save the ship," said John Ash, 24, of Pa., one of the nine survivors. The *Marques* was sailing under

heavily reefed sails when a squall of incredible intensity struck at 0400 on June 3, 78 miles north of Bermuda. There was little time to warn those down below, but an unidentified crew member was heard making a valiant attempt to rouse those sleeping, knocking on cabin doors and shouting "All hands on deck." He was among those who perished.

At the helm at the time was Englishman Philip Sefton, 22, a member of the regular crew. "The ship was on her side after 10



CUTTY SARK SOCIETY WHISKY £2.00 THE SAIL TRAINING ASSOCIATION

**THE CUTTY SARK TALL SHIPS' RACES** 850 ANNIVERSARY CITY OF LONDON LORD MAYOR 1850-1999

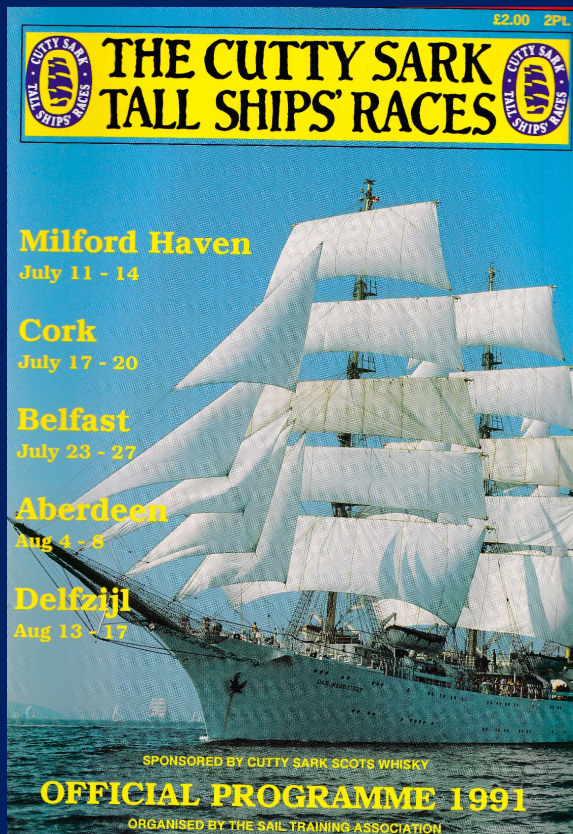
OFFICIAL GUIDE AND PROGRAMME 1989

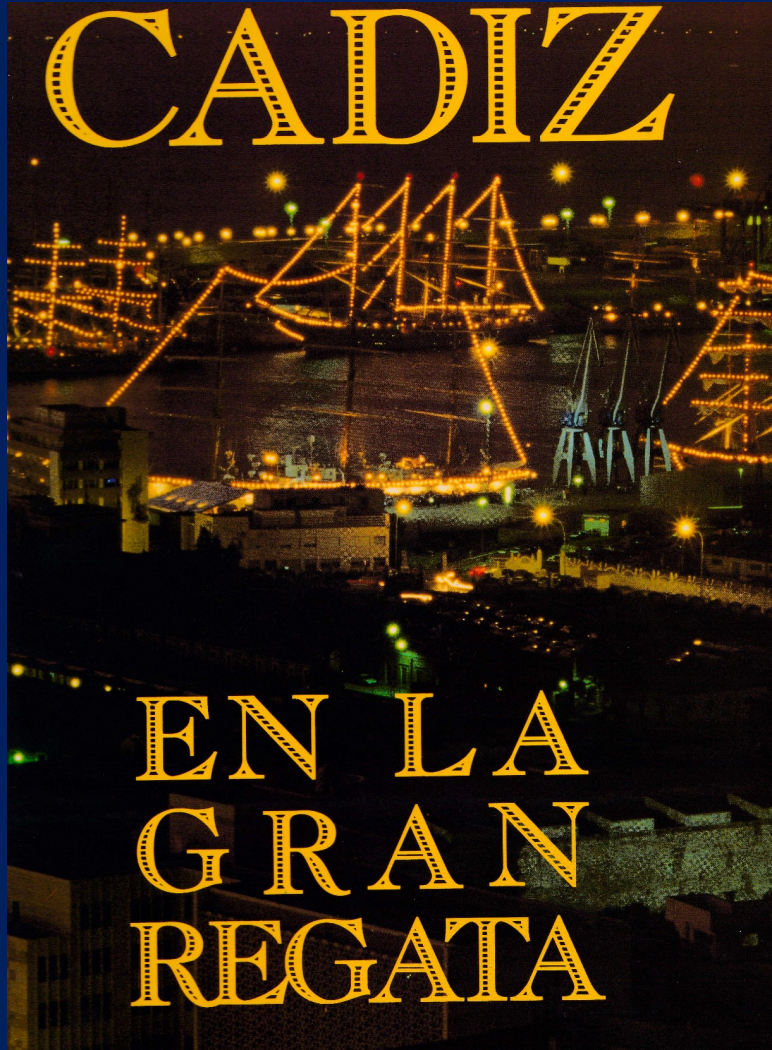
**CITY OF LONDON**  
(either side of Tower Bridge) **JULY 4-8**

Hamburg July 13-16  
Malmö July 23-27  
Travemünde July 29-Aug 1

# 1990s

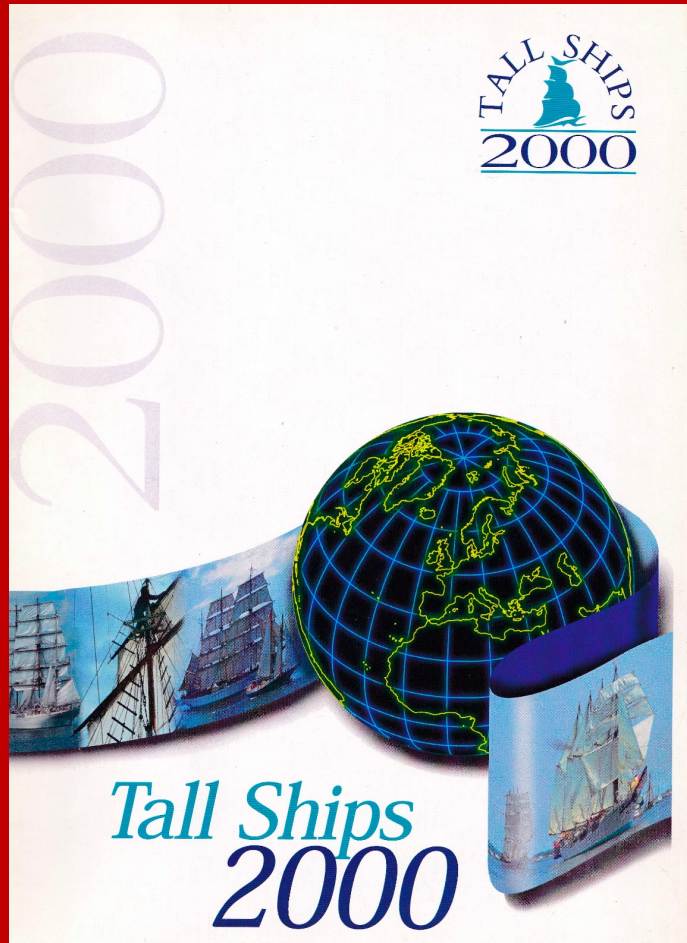
## The Island of Ireland Unites, Big Fleets and the Columbus Regatta





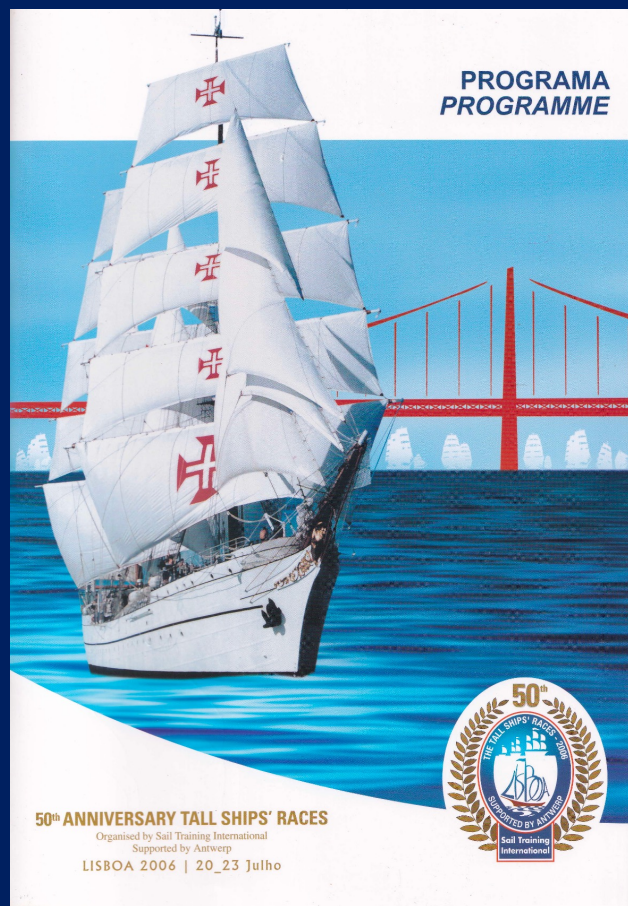


# The Turn of the Millenium & the Birth of STI



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# The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & the past Twenty Years



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# The Ships...



The Public..



# The Host Ports...



# The Crews...





*What can we do to ensure that The Tall Ships Races are on track to commemorate their centenary and retain their core values and key mission?*





**THE TALL SHIPS RACES  
OUR HERITAGE  
OUR VALUES**



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# OUR VALUES – are they still relevant?

- COMMITMENT TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP



STI - Kris Romański

- SUSTAINABILITY
- INCLUSIVITY
- DIVERSITY
- PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT
- CREATING LEGACIES



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# How should we celebrate our heritage and our values?



# What should we aim to do?

- Celebrate our heritage
- Celebrate our values
- Celebrate past trainees
- Reach more young people and inspire them to try sail training and take part in a voyage
- Promote the fleet
- Promote our host ports
- Promote our bursary schemes
- Increase awareness
- Be innovative
- Honour traditions
- Make it a year to remember



# THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2026



## START

**AARHUS** – Denmark

24 June 2026 – 27 June 2026

**RACE 1 – AARHUS TO HARLINGEN**

**HARLINGEN** – Netherlands

3 July 2026 – 6 July 2026

**CRUISE-IN-COMPANY – HARLINGEN TO  
ANTWERP**

**ANTWERP** – Belgium

11 July 2026 – 14 July 2026

**RACE 2 – ANTWERP TO STAVANGER**

**STAVANGER** – Norway

22 July 2026 – 25 July 2026

**RACE 3 – STAVANGER TO AALBORG**

**AALBORG** – Denmark

30 July 2026 – 2 August 2026



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- SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY LOGO
- SPECIAL TAGLINE
- ANNIVERSARY HASHTAG
- ENGAGE WITH ORIGINAL FLEET
- INVITE TRAINEES FROM OVER THE YEARS TO A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EVENT
- DURING THE TSR2026 – A NEW 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AWARD
- DURING THE TSR2026 - IN-PORT TRAIL TO CELEBRATE THE HISTORY OF THE TSR (engaging trainees, families, children, etc.)
- ENGAGE WITH OTHER EVENTS HAPPENING IN 2026
- CONSIDER EVENTS OUTSIDE OF EUROPE AND THE TSR
- SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN
- SHARE TRAINEE SUCCESS STORIES (where to start?)



# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- **In your groups, please take some time to discuss what you would like to see as a way of commemorating the TSR's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026**
- **Please come up with a shortlist of a maximum of 6 initiatives which you would like share with the wider group**
- **STI will note all suggestions and use them to inform our plans for this special landmark in our history over the coming months**



**THANK YOU**

**We will now get to work on  
putting together a plan 😊**



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**Thank you for joining us.  
Scan the QR code to give us your thoughts.**



**@tallshipsraces**  
**@sailtrainingyouth**



**@thetallshipsraces**



**Sail Training International**