



## THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2018

organised by Sail Training International

### Sail Training International Race Team Biographies

The Race Chairman has overall responsibility for the organisation and management of all aspects of The Tall Ships Races 2018. They Chair the Race Committee and Emergency Management Committee (if required) and are the main points of contact with the local authorities and the host port management committee. As the principal spokesperson for The Tall Ships Races 2018, and Sail Training International's representative, the Chairman is available for interviews with the media and formal presentations and speeches. They are also STIs representative at social events and all formal occasions associated with The Tall Ships Races 2018.

#### Sigurd Dale, Race Chairman (Stavanger and Harlingen)



Sigurd Molstad Dale is this summer's Race Chairman in Stavanger and Harlingen and is a board member of the Norwegian Sail Training Association.

He started his sail training career on the Oslo YMCA sea scout sailing vessel *Mohawk II*, participating in his first Tall Ships Race from Hamburg to Malmö in 1989.

In 1998, Sigurd bought the Colin Archer *Kvituren* and sailed as a captain on several Tall Ships Races before *Kvituren* was sold in 2006.

In his daily life, Sigurd lives in Oslo with his wife and two kids, and he works in the Telecom business.

#### Knut Western, Race Director (Sunderland and Esbjerg)



Knut is a yacht enthusiast and has been involved with the Tall Ships Races since 1997, occasionally participating as a "trainee."

He has a higher university degree from a humanistic faculty and is retired from his position as head of information with Fredrikstad City Council. He was Chairman of the Norwegian Sail Training Association 2005-2009.

## Paul Bishop, Race Director (Sunderland and Esbjerg)



Paul is responsible for the organisation of race briefings for captains in the fleet, race start procedures and all technical aspects of the race 'on the water'. He is also responsible for ensuring that the host ports provide good berthing and infrastructure/arrangements for the fleet and in-port facilities for the trainee crews.

Paul started his career as a professional seafarer at the age of 21 mainly skippering sail training vessels around Europe. He has completed several Transatlantic crossings and went out to Australia and Tasmania during which time he skippered a vessel in the Australian Bicentennial Tall Ships Race. He retains his commercial licence and regularly sails as a volunteer skipper for a UK sail training charity. He has been a keen racer entering regattas such as Cowes Week.

## Ben Stuart, Race Director (Stavanger and Harlingen)



Ben joined Sail Training International in October 2017. He comes from Malta, in the Mediterranean, where he was the Director of Malta's national maritime college. Ben comes from a sailing background, is the founder and chairman of the Malta Sail Training Association, and has been involved in organising a number of sailing races in the Mediterranean.

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Interviews can be arranged on request:

- **SUNDERLAND:** Ben Clark: [ben.clark@sailtraininginternational.org](mailto:ben.clark@sailtraininginternational.org)
- **ESBJERG:** Anna Wardley: [anna.wardley@seagrassuk.com](mailto:anna.wardley@seagrassuk.com)
- **STAVANGER:** Anna Wardley: [anna.wardley@seagrassuk.com](mailto:anna.wardley@seagrassuk.com)
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