



Match broken for *Spirit of Bermuda* and *Belle A'venture*

Marion, MA – June 7, 2013: The ocean match race between two classic yachts— *Belle A'venture* and *Spirit of Bermuda*— was broken this week when Belle's captain Dave Thompson notified the Marion Bermuda Race organizers that they would not be able to race in the 645-mile crossing to Bermuda on June 14th. *Spirit*, the big blue Bermuda sloop had anticipated the challenge of a 645-mile match race in the new Classic Yacht Division against the 94-foot Fife Ketch *Belle A'venture* sailed by an all New England crew.

This leaves the fleet with 37 boats in the Founders Division and one in the new Classic Yacht Division. *Spirit of Bermuda* is the largest boat, with Founder's Division entry *Shindig*, an Andrews 68 entered by Mass Maritime, 44 feet shorter but perhaps faster in some conditions. This should be the battle for line honors at St David's Lighthouse, Bermuda

The smallest boat is *Roust*, a Sea Sprite 34, sailed by Ian Gumprecht of Oyster Bay, NY.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances with the owners' schedules," Thompson wrote to the organizers, "S/Y Belle Aventure will not be able to sail to Bermuda this year during the Marion to Bermuda race. We were looking forward to racing, but will have to hold off for a different year. Both the crew and the owners apologize for any inconveniences this may cause and wish you all luck in the race this year. Fair Winds and Smooth Sailing."

Upon learning of the withdrawal, Bermudian Preston Hutchings said, "Their withdrawal is disappointing. Nevertheless, we will have a safe and fun time sailing *Spirit to Bermuda* and competing for the Blue Water Sailing Club Board of Governors' Trophy." The trophy is awarded to the yacht with the shortest elapsed time. Hutchings had been looking forward to matching up against another classic yacht for this race. In 2012 *Spirit of Bermuda* had also sailed as the only classic.

Back in February 2012, Hutchings was participating in a Bermuda Sloop Foundation fundraiser, trying to raise money for *Spirit of Bermuda* and to save himself from walking the plank. He asked Alan Burland, co-founder of the foundation about the possibility of someone chartering *Spirit* for the next Marion Bermuda Race. The charter price was settled in a few days and Hutchings and his friend Patrick McGee of Dallas TX took the plunge, but not off the plank.

They took a joint charter for the 2013 race and are set to start at 12:10PM on June 14. McGee had once told Hutchings that he would like to race to Bermuda with his family. Going on a typical boat with McGee and his sons wasn't really a possibility so the idea lay dormant for years. Now that they had *Spirit*, a boat that would need a crew of 21, the dream was rekindled.

McGee will be joined by his son William. Hutchings will be joined by his two sons William and Alistair. They will also be joined by another family... navigator and executive director of Team Adventure Larry Rosenfeld, his wife Amy and their son Willie.

Hutchings and McGee have also endowed the division for American Sail Training Association (ASTA) rated boats and have dedicated the division winner's trophy in the memory of Ed Williams, the former captain of Sir Bayard Dill's yacht the *Dutchess of Devonshire*.

Alan Burland commented on Ed Williams role in making the *Spirit* dream come true: "Ed Williams Sr. was a wonderful Bermudian sailor, ambassador, and friend of *Spirit*." Burland had begun his eulogy at Williams' funeral by saying "Captain Ed Williams was a loyal and steadfast supporter of the Bermuda Sloop Foundation... Capt. Ed wanted to help young Bermudians to learn real life long skills, to build character, to work together, to be resilient, and to excel – the very lessons he learnt so well." Ed Williams Jr. will be aboard for the race.

This is the second "Bermuda" race for *Spirit*. In 2012 she sailed Newport Bermuda as the sole entry in the Traditional Division with a largely Bermuda youth crew, young people who had trained aboard her as part of their island educational program. *Spirit* is a sail training vessel manned by Bermuda schoolboys and schoolgirls, sailing masters and teachers. It is a seagoing classroom that teaches both an educational curriculum and life lessons.

The 2013 Marion Bermuda Race for *Spirit* will be quiet different. She will be pushed harder this time by a more experienced crew and the crew hopes to cross the finish line of Bermuda's St. David's Lighthouse first. Hutchings, this year's skipper, was first to finish in 2007 with his modern 42-foot Swan *Morgan's Ghost*.

Hutchings is bringing aboard 20 other sailors this time to go for the goal. 14 have multiple Bermuda Race experience, 2 have extensive offshore experience in other venues and 4 are experienced inshore sailors. Co-charterer McGee and his son and a friend Dan Routman are all inshore sailors from Texas. Oliver Sarkozy, brother of the former French President, is an inshore sailor as well.

Spirit's biggest and closest competition for line honors will be from a more modern cruiser-racer, an Andrews 68 named *Shindig*. The proof of the pudding is the performance. Follow *Spirit* Of Bermuda and all the other yachts in the Marion Bermuda Race with the Yellow Brick tracker program available on the Marion Bermuda web site— <http://www.marionbermuda.com/>

All in Bermuda are welcome to share in the post-race festivities and come down to the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club to walk the docks and see all of the yachts that have sailed from Marion in the classic ocean race. Celebrate the week of the solstice at RHSADC, Bermuda Style.

About the Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association

Since its inception in 1977, the biennial Marion Bermuda Race has been a premier 645 mile ocean race and sailing event which appeals to a broad range of cruising and racing enthusiasts. The spirit of the race is one focused on Family and Fun, and all yachts and crew are participating for the joy and pleasure of sailing, competition, and the camaraderie that accompanies such an offshore event. The Marion Bermuda Race encourages the development of blue water sailing skills on seaworthy yachts that can be handled safely offshore with limited crew. The Marion Bermuda Race is a 501(c)(3) organization and among other educational efforts, supports and encourages [Youth Sailing](#) programs. The Marion to Bermuda Race is organized and run entirely by hundreds of volunteering

members of The [Beverly Yacht Club](#) (BYC), [The Blue Water Sailing Club](#) (BWSC) and [The Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club](#) (RHADC) for the Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association.

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2011 Race PHOTOS: <http://www.spectrumphotofg.com/marionbermuda/index.html>

2011 Race Results may be found here:

<http://www.marionbermuda.com/index.php?page=results>

Website: www.marionbermuda.com

Race Forum/Discussion: <http://racetobermuda.ning.com>

BLOG: <http://marionbermuda.wordpress.com>

