



Ian Walker to talk at the Tiger Trophy

6-7 February 2010

By Dick Sanders 15 Jan 2010 09:37

The Rutland Challenge for the John Merricks Tiger Trophy will go back to its traditional slot in the sailing calendar and is being held over the first full weekend in February. Although the warmer weather of July 2009 was more comfortable following the postponement due to snow, conflicting regattas meant that entries were down.

The two day Regatta and the traditional Tiger Dinner, held at Rutland Sailing Club, raises funds for the John Merricks Trust with more than half of all income going to fund the activities of the trust in their support of youth sailing.

This will be the 17th Tiger Trophy, the first being won by John, an RSC member and the 14th dedicated to keeping his memory alive after his untimely death in Italy in 1997.

John and Ben Ainslie were responsible for rescuing Britain's Olympic sailing reputation at the Atlanta Games in 1996, winning two silver medals in the 470 and Laser classes after a barren period in the medal wilderness. The third person involved, John's crew in the 470, Volvo Ocean Race skipper, Britain's only recent America's Cup skipper, Star Silver medallist at the Sydney games and currently Extreme 40 tactician with Shirley Robertson on Rumbo Almeria, Ian Walker will be guest of honour at the Tiger Dinner on the Saturday evening and recall the character of his Olympic sailing partner.

He finishes the Oman leg of the Extreme 40 Asia Series - on Friday 5th, before jetting back to arrive in England for the Saturday evening. The current temperature in Oman with the Extreme fleet of 6 is around 25 degrees and the current temperature at Rutland, where some 150 boats are expected is minus 1 degree. Ian will certainly experience the extremes of both fleets at close hand.

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