



# OCEAN CRUISING CLUB®

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **The OCC Recognises the Schwartz Family Adventures with the Barton Cup**

**Devon, UK, 25 January 2023** – Now that cruising has returned to somewhat normal territory, the OCC Awards Subcommittee has found numerous achievements to recognise.

For 2022, the OCC has awarded the **OCC Barton Cup to Jon and Megan Schwartz and their young sons Ronan (15) and Daxton (13)**, an American family, who, with their two cats Poseiden and Athena, left France on their new Boreal 47 *Zephyros* at the end of 2018 bound for the Caribbean.

In mid-2019, they headed to Panama, from where they transited to the Galapagos, on to Ecuador, and down to Easter Island, before continuing east to Chile, arriving before Covid hit the world. They enjoyed their exploration of Patagonia for more than a year. The boys grew up quickly, becoming capable crew and sailors as they explored and raced dinghies with the local Chilean kids.

At the end of 2020, *Zephyros* headed across the Drake Channel for their FIRST trip to Antarctica. They had a great time exploring before returning for another year in Chile (all done legally, with full permits and no bending of Covid restrictions). At the end of 2021, they returned to Antarctica, then sailed back up to Cape Horn and Chile, and on to the south Atlantic, with long passages to the Falklands, St. Helena, and Ascension Islands, before heading back to the Caribbean, completing their multi-year circumnavigation of South America.

Commodore Simon Currin stated, “We thoroughly admire the Schwartz family for their seamanship, as well as for their low key approach to their adventures, rare in today's challenging times. They're great ambassadors of the OCC and the cruising community in general and very deserving of this, our most coveted, award.”

Their blog [Sailing Zephyros](#) provides interesting reading.

**The OCC Seamanship Award goes to the parties involved in the rescue of a participant in the Golden Globe Race (GGR 2022) in the Southern Ocean some 500 miles off the coast of South Africa: Tapio Lehtinen, Kirsten Neuschäfer, Capt. Naveen Kumar Mehrotra & the crew of the *Darya Gayatri*, and MRCC Cape Town.**

Tapio Lehtinen set off his EPIRB, donned his survival suit, grabbed his ditch bag, and deployed his liferaft just before his Gaia 36 *Asteria* sank, within 5 minutes of beginning to take on water at the stern. He was rescued from his liferaft by fellow competitor Kirsten Neuschäfer (who was about 100 miles distant at the time of the sinking) and was transferred to the bulk carrier in 3m seas and 25kn winds. Kristen then resumed racing.

For more information, please visit the [OCC website](#).

**The Lifetime Cruising Award is shared for 2022 by two extraordinary sailors: Joanna (Asia) Pajkowska and OCC Founding Member Ian Nicolson.**

**Captain Asia Pajkowska** is perhaps Poland's most accomplished sailor. She has completed three circumnavigations. In 2019, at the age of 60, she completed her first solo nonstop circumnavigation on a borrowed boat, *FanFan*, sailing from Plymouth to Plymouth. She has taken part in numerous short-handed and fully crewed bluewater race events, winning top honours in many and receiving numerous awards from the Polish Yachting Association (Polski Związek Żeglarski) and others.

On 8 January 2009, Joanna Pajkowska completed a solo trip around the world with just one stop (in Port Elizabeth, RSA) aboard the sailboat *Mantra ASIA*. The estimated distance was 25,000 nautical miles and the trip lasted 198 days; it was the fastest circumnavigation by a Polish yacht person.

In 2010 - 2011, Joanna completed another circumnavigation on board *Mantra ASIA*, this time cruising together with her husband Captain Aleksander Nebelski. After a year and 4 months of cruising, they travelled about 22,000 nautical miles, touched every inhabited continent: the Americas, Australia, Asia, Africa, and in Europe, and visited 22 countries, stopping in more than one hundred places.

Captain Pajkowska for several years has sailed mainly in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea with a base in Poland. Frequently she sails as a mate on board STS *Pogoria*, taking part in an Education Under Sails STA program for young people. She also does yacht deliveries and is a charter skipper.

After her solo nonstop voyage around the world, Asia was awarded the First Prize and Silver Sextant in the Rejs Roku (Sailor of the Year) competition for the third time,. She is the only Polish yachting person to receive this award three times. For her Solo 360 Nonstop circumnavigation, Cpt. Asia Pajkowska was also awarded the TransOcean Prize, the most prestigious German sailing award.

<https://www.asiapajkowska.pl/>

**Ian Nicolson**, who turned 94 in August 2022, is a highly-respected yacht designer and the UK's most experienced surveyor. He continues to race his Maxi 1000 ST BRIDGET regularly, interspersed with singlehanded and family cruises on the west coast of Scotland. He has also written 27 books with two more in the works, some 20 of which are still in print, not to mention having submitted numerous articles to OCC's flagship publication *Flying Fish* over the years. He has also found time to be our Port Officer for the Clyde ever since the network was created in September 1959.

Ian began his design apprenticeship with Fred Parker in Poole, Dorset during the Second World War at a wage of £1/5/- (£1.25) per week, then served his journeyman ship with ship and yacht builder John I Thornycroft Ltd (later Vosper Thornycroft plc). Judging from his CRUISING SIXTY YEARS AGO in *Flying Fish* 2014/1, Ian and his sister spent any free time sailing pretty well any boat they could get their hands on, some more seaworthy than others and always on a shoestring.

Ian's qualifying passage for the OCC was made in 1952 aboard the 45ft ketch *Maken*, which he had crewed aboard from England although he chose the 3200 miles from Panama to San Francisco as his qualifying passage. See THE IAN NICOLSON TRILOGY for the full story, including his purchase of the part-completed 30ft *St Elizabeth* and his singlehanded passage in her back to the UK.

Following his return, Ian worked for noted designer Alan Buchanan and also became *Yachts & Yachting* magazine's resident naval architect. Later he joined A Mylne & Co, set up in 1896 by Alfred Mylne I and the country's oldest yacht design firm. Although based in Scotland, Ian travelled throughout the UK and abroad to survey yachts. One of these was the J-Class 127 foot *Shamrock V*, as Ian is understood to be the last person in the UK licensed to survey yachts of composite construction (*Shamrock V* features mahogany planking over steel frames). He became senior partner at A Mylne & Co and took over the firm following Alfred Mylne II's death in 1979.

In 2007 Ian sold the company to naval architects and design consultancy Ace Marine Ltd of Dunfermline, Scotland but, rather than take early retirement at a mere 79 years of age, Ian simply went freelance. Drawing on a lifetime of experience, Ian Nicolson & Partners offer a wide variety of design, survey, drawing, alterations and consultancy work, specialising in historic and traditional vessels up to 150ft (45m) in length.

Over the years Ian has also given regular lectures at three Scottish universities, and found the time to build five yachts for his family as well as numerous dinghies. Watch [YouTube](#) to see Ian in action.

More about the winners of additional awards can be found on the OCC website.

- [Vasey Vase: Lars & Susanne Hellman](#)
- [Jester Award: Cal Currier](#)
- [OCC Award \(members\): Jeremy Firth and Daria Blackwell](#)
- [OCC Award \(open to all\): Patricia Dallas & David Sapiane and Russell Frazer](#)
- [PO Service Award: Chris & Bill Burry, Peter Dodd, and Mike Hodder](#)
- [Qualifier Cup: Ainur Mutiyeva](#)
- [David Wallis Trophy: CAPSIZE! by Anthea Cornell Stock and SAILING AND DIVING THE MANY MOTU by Ellen Massey Leonard](#)

Nominations for the awards are made by Full Members of the OCC, winners are selected by a highly experienced team of bluewater cruisers, and selections are approved by the OCC General Committee.

# About the Ocean Cruising Club



## ***The Worldwide Community for Adventure Sailing Since 1954***

The OCC is the “home port” for those who have sailed long distances across big oceans. With 59 nationalities represented among more than 3400 members, and Port Officers around the world, we have a more diverse membership and a more international reach than any other blue water sailing organisation.

The Ocean Cruising Club exists to encourage long-distance sailing in small boats. A Full Member of the OCC must have completed a qualifying voyage of a non-stop port-to-port ocean passage, where the distance between the two ports is not less than 1,000 nautical miles, in a vessel of not more than 70ft (21.36m) LOA; associate members are committed to achieving that goal. This standard distinguishes the OCC from all other sailing clubs.

Our membership as a whole has more experience offshore than any other sailing organisation – in the number of circumnavigators, in the range of extraordinary voyages members have completed, and in the number of solo sailors and female sailors among our ranks. This is what sets us apart, even as it draws us together.

Web: [www.oceancruisingclub.org](http://www.oceancruisingclub.org)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OceanCruisingClubMembers/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/oceancruisingclub/>

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