



ENGINEERING CHALLENGE CUP 2026 BULLETIN 04

From Recce to reality – route & lottery update

Dear ECC Skippers,

Earlier this month, the ECC 2026 team travelled to Croatia for the traditional Recce trip, the moment where plans become reality. Together we visited all marinas, met with local partners, checked facilities, and experienced the atmosphere that will define ECC 2026 in Biograd.

It was an inspiring couple of days, filled with useful insights, warm Croatian hospitality and a few toasts to another great edition ahead.

Following the Recce, we are now ready for the next big step, the lottery and boat allocation.

In this bulletin, you'll find a short recap of the trip, a preview of the route, and details about how the boat selection process will proceed over the coming days.



The Recce team

Representing both experience and fresh energy, the team explored the coast from Vodice to Biograd: Ron, Hendrik, Sasha, Cor and Arnoud were joined by local contacts and marina representatives along the route.

Their combined knowledge of previous ECC editions, event logistics and local sailing made this trip highly productive.



The ECC 2026 Recce Team in Croatia. From left to right: Ron, Hendrik, Sasha, Cor and Arnoud



Our mission

The goal of the Recce was clear:

- Confirm all marinas and anchorages
- Test sailing distances and timing between destinations
- Review catering and event locations
- Align logistics for safety, skipper meetings and crew events

We also took the opportunity to discuss local sponsorships, explore partnership options (for example with the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians Croatia), and collect detailed cost estimates for each event night.

The route - a first glimpse

The recce gave us a clear picture of what to expect for ECC 2026.

Our focus throughout the trip was on safety, atmosphere and logistics, ensuring that every stop along the route offers the right combination of comfort, charm and ECC spirit. We paid close attention to docking capacity, protection against wind, catering options and local authenticity.

Preliminary route – ECC 2026



ECC 2026 route and main stops along the Dalmatian coast



Saturday, May 9 – Biograd

Biograd will again be our starting point and the home of the opening event. The marina offers very good facilities, space for our entire fleet if needed and a welcoming atmosphere. It will accommodate our registration procedure on 9 May and the first skippers' briefing on Sunday morning, as well as offer a relaxed get-together before we set sail.



Sunday, May 10 – Žut

From Biograd we'll sail south into the Kornati National Park, heading for the island of Žut. Surrounded by crystal-clear water and untouched landscapes, Žut provides a true Croatian island feeling. The recce confirmed ACI marina for docking and a small restaurant that captures the essence of local island life, ideal for our first evening on the water.



Monday, May 11 – Sali (Dugi Otok)

Sali combines a picturesque harbour with lively local culture. During the recce, we explored mooring options in the town and discussed possibilities for a dockside dinner featuring regional food and live music. It's a wonderful stop for both sailing and socialising, just what ECC is about.





Tuesday, May 12 – Piskera

A breathtaking location in the heart of the Kornati islands, Piskera is all about nature. The marina is beautifully remote and surrounded by dramatic rock formations. We'll enjoy a calm evening, good company and perhaps dinner or/and a party at the small island restaurant overlooking the bay.



Wednesday, May 13 – Zlarin

Known as the “island of coral”, Zlarin offers a perfect setting for one of our social nights. The team met with local partners and identified a great spot for a Jetty Party with DJ and drinks. It's small, authentic and vibrant. Exactly the kind of place that creates unforgettable ECC memories.





Thursday, May 14 – Murter

Returning north, we'll stop at Murter, a convenient and friendly harbour that works well for our last evening before heading back to Biograd. The recce confirmed strong cooperation with the marina staff and the marina restaurant for a group dinner.



Friday, May 15 – Biograd (Closing Day)

We return to Biograd, where the week will come full circle. Here we'll host the Prizegiving Ceremony and celebrate the efforts of every skipper and crew, as well as the start of preparations for ECC 2027. The team also visited hotels and event spaces in Biograd during the recce to ensure smooth logistics for arrivals and departures.



The route and schedule will continue to evolve in the coming months as we finalise marina contracts and sponsorship support. But one thing is certain: Croatia is ready to welcome ECC again, and we can't wait to set sail.

Safety and support

As always, safety comes first. We are checking the availability of an AED device (the one used in 2025 may still be available), and will list local emergency contacts and any doctors within the fleet in the official logbook.

Budget and sponsorship

Following the Recce, detailed cost estimates are being collected for:

- Skippers' briefings and possible dinners on locations
- Jetty and closing party DJs
- Transfers between Split Airport, Marina Drage and Biograd

This will help us finalise the 2026 sponsorship packages. We also plan to reconnect with ECC sponsors from 2023, 2024 and 2025 to continue long-term partnerships.



Budget transparency

As in previous years, the ECC organisation is committed to transparency and efficiency in managing the event budget.

We are currently consolidating the cost estimates gathered during the Recce. The overall 2026 budget will be comparable to past editions, balancing marina and charter expenses with high-quality events and safety standards.

Next steps

The marinas and venues visited during the recce are now being confirmed, and cost estimates are being collected for each event location. These details will feed into the final program and sponsorship packages.

What's already clear: ECC 2026 will combine the best of Dalmatian sailing with the friendship and energy that make the ECC truly unique.

Lottery results

Please find attached (Attachment 1 – Lottery Results) showing the draw per group. In order to complete the allocation within a reasonable time, each skipper will have **three days** to get back to us with their choice. If we don't hear back from a skipper within three days of contacting him or her, we will move on to other participants and offer the next available space once the skipper gets back in touch.



Boat allocation

The ECC 2026 boat list will be shared today by email with all skippers. It includes links to all boats and an overview of prices and extras.

Most boats are based in the two adjacent marinas in Biograd, which will also be our starting and ending point. The 11 boats based in Marina Drage will have their berths available on Saturday, 9 May in Biograd.

Skippers can complete their check-in procedure in Marina Drage and sail their boats to Biograd (approximately 30 minutes). For those arriving later in the day and without time to transfer the boat, a land transfer will be available to Biograd for the welcome party (approx. 15 minutes).

On Friday 15 May, these 11 boats will check out in their home marina, and transfers will bring all participants back to Biograd for the prize giving event.

We look forward to seeing you all in Biograd, in May 2026,

Arnoud van de Merwe, Commodore ECC 2026, Boat 07

On behalf of the Organization Committee



Attachment 1 - Lottery results

Skipper	Boat No	Boat Size Allocated	Boat Selection Sequence No
Rudolf Bueltermann	81	S	1
Joachim (Joe) Lindemann	16	S	2
Markus Bedenk	60	S	3
Christian Bonk	12	S	4
Rudi Seibt	57	M	1
Claude Berteaud	71	M	2
Elvira luyckx	44	M	3
Lutz Weise	55	M	4
Bastiaan Timmer	11	M	5
Stefan Nufer	28	M	6
Michael Pleuser	75	M	7
Jan van Middelkoop	51	M	8
Paolo Napoli	35	M	9
Dieter Kenkenberg	79	M	10
Christian Sievers	54	M	11
Philipp Conen	86	M	12
Ralf Braune	26	M	13
Denis O'Brien	9	M	14
Martin Schmoelders	2	M	15
Jaap Van Nie	31	M	16
Matteo Brugin	91	M	17
Johan Cnossen	14	M	18
Emiliano Boccaletti	78	M	19
Robert Winia/Akkermans	43	M	20
Julian Dersch	98	M	21
Juan Vacas	77	M	22
Erik Koopman	66	L	1
Dietmar Czerny	84	L	2
Dirk Dentreder	22	L	3
Mario Rosendahl	13	L	4
Steffen Breiter /Mike Maneck	85	L	5
Tonno Van Bommel	10	L	6
Sieb Meijer	25	L	7
Jan Gerd van Senden	21	L	8
Kees Bakker	18	L	9
Malte Strohm	89	L	10
Fabio Tognola	45	L	11
Max Over	41	L	12
Ronny van Baal	40	L	13
Peter Teichmann	88	L	14
Kay Heinrichs	39	C	1
Pieter Hadjidakis	70	C	2
Max Panaro	97	C	3
Francois Abiven	68	C	4
Martin Fordham	24	C	5
John Hall Hall	5	C	6
Arnoud van de Merwe	7	C	7
Gilles Caprari	33	C	8
Peter Bisschop	50	C	9