

Left: (left to right) Gold medallists Saskia Clark, Hannah Mills and Santiago Lange were named 2016 Rolex World Sailors of the Year

## bailors of the Year crowned

impions Santiago rgentina and Britain's Ills and Saskia Clark 12016 Rolex World

at Rio in the Nacra 17 e most remarkable of s. Having competed at s, the 54-year-old, at back into the Olympic sons, Yago and Klaus, sailing the new mixed class with Cecilia was drawn back into third medal, to follow the Tornado class.

The pair's late-formed campaign was put under more pressure when Lange was diagnosed with cancer in 2015, eventually having half his left lung removed. Not one to dwell on setbacks, Lange described his cancer diagnosis as "a stone in the road" en route to Olympic Gold.

The female sailors' prize was jointly awarded to the 470 Gold medal pairing of Hannah Mills and Saskia Clark, who won in Rio with a day to spare. Their Gold medal capped off a hugely successful six-year campaign for the duo, which has previously seen them become world champions in the class and win Silver at the 2012 Games.





## New McKeon superyacht

The first fabulous shots of sailing trials by the new superyacht Missy were released in late October. The 33m performance cruising yacht was designed by Lymington-based Malcolm McKeon and launched from Green Marine/Vitters in August.

The carbon built sloop is designed as a world cruiser that will be fast and fun to sail while keeping the owner's young family safe in a sheltered, protected environment.

"Missy is a delight to sail," McKeon reported after the sail trials off Palma. "She is perfectly balanced with plenty of stability to carry her generous sail plan. Visibility from the helm stations is uninterrupted over her sleek, low profile and yet the raised saloon offers all-round visibility whilst seated below."

McKeon's signature styling is evident in Missy's elegant lines, particularly the long, low, flowing shape of the glass canopy that helps connect interior and cockpit. A fully automated bimini and dodger system allows the cockpit to be completely covered at the push of a button.

## oans ers at

one wanting to sail around xplore the Beagle ean government has cree that, as of this r season, effective ign flagged yachts llowed to make these Skip Novak. r colleagues from ny, and France to ignals the end of offering spectacular to sailors, hikers, anyone wanting at is truly a unique r the ban is a



protectionist measure for Chileans operating sailing or motor vessels that do not yet exist. Nor are there any locals with the expertise to conduct these specialist adventures in a safe and efficient manner. The Chilean Navy, which administers this region, has been left in no uncertainty by the Chilean government that they are not to issue port clearances to the existing charter fleet.

In spite of our efforts to convince the authorities that the lifeblood of local businesses in Puerto Williams depends to a large degree on our custom, they have chosen to ignore this appeal.

There are precedents in other countries that do not have homegrown yachts and crews capable of fulfilling this niche, but these involve joint ventures with a local entity. This model might be possible but it will involve years of negotiation in order for the government to create a law to allow those of us with foreign flagged yachts to operate. My only advice is to take your own boat south - it is a magnificent cruising ground.

## Sailor killed by militants in Philippines

German sailor who was held hostage by Somali pirates nine years ago is reported to have been murdered in a separate incident by Islamic militants in the Philippines. A body, believed to that of Sabine Merz, was found on board the abandoned yacht Rockall in

the Sulu archipelago on 7 November.

Jurgen Kantner, 70, and Sabine Merz were first captured in the Gulf of Aden in 2009, and held in Somalia for 52 days. After an ordeal that included being subjected to mock executions, the couple were released. A substantial ransom payment is believed to have been made to their Somali captors.

Against the German government's strongly worded advice, Kantner later returned to the Somali port of Berbera to recover his 53ft steel-hulled design, on which he had lived for over 20 years. The yacht had been ransacked by pirates and the engine removed, and it was nearly destroyed when a radio tower collapsed onto the deck. The pair then sailed her to Malaysia in 2010.



Kantner and Merz were captured again in November this year while cruising in the Philippines. The Philippine Daily Inquirer reported that Kantner had identified himself as a hostage by radio, and the militant group Abu Sayyaf had claimed responsibility for the kidnapping as well as the murder.

Abu Sayyaf murdered two Canadian sailors, Robert Hall and John Ridsdel, earlier in 2016. Both the UK and US government currently advise against travel to the Mindanao and Sulu regions of the Philippines.

Above: A woman's body was found on board the abandoned yacht Rockall in the Philippines