



Royal Thames Yacht Club 250th Anniversary Regatta – Sustainability Strategy

1. Background

As a leading and world recognised royal yacht club, with a unique historical perspective, we understand our responsibilities as stewards of the oceans.

RTYC's mission is to promote a culture of conscious boating with a deep connection with the marine environment. Our members and guests sail, motor and enjoy the worlds seas and oceans so we encourage them to take ownership for their actions and the impact they have on the marine environment. We will strive to achieve our overall sustainability mission and make a difference, guided by these principles:

- Leading by example: Adopting standards and guidelines for our members, that are embedded in our maritime activities.
- Education: Through training, events and member engagement.
- Fostering collaborative partnerships: Seeking partnerships with like-minded clubs and organisations.
- Advancing Innovation: Promoting and supporting events, products, and initiatives, that have a positive impact on the marine environment.

2. 250th Anniversary Regatta – strategy

The Royal Thames 250th Anniversary Regatta is our most significant on the water event of this special year in the club history. We are aiming for the event to be run as a celebration of yacht racing in the Solent. We have invited a wide range of competing yachts and keelboats across 16 classes to enjoy excellent on the water race management as well as an amazing traditional Royal Thames shore side experience for racers and their guests.

From the outset, we have aspired to organise and run this regatta, on and off the water, in the most sustainable way, minimising the impact on the environment, particularly the marine environment. We have also decided to measure the success of the specific plans we have put in place and have registered both the Royal Thames Yacht Club and our 250th Anniversary Regatta with Sailors for the Sea – Clean Regatta programme to enable our efforts to be assessed.

3. Event specific plans – Organisers, competitors and partners

Run any event, particularly one of this complexity involving around 250 yachts and keelboats over 5 races course areas requires the support all stakeholders -especially as we worked hard to get all parties to buy into our environmental objectives. For everyone to better understand our plans, we have set out the key initiatives we are putting in place for the event:

RTYC – Organisers

- Race management – dedicated online event portal with no printed documentation.
- Registration bags, event wristbands, drink token all made from recyclable materials and then recycled after the event – no single use items.
- All event and race management flags have been produced from recycled plastic bottles and will be reused at future events.
- All prizes made from recycled wood.
- Careful selection of local sustainable food and beverage vendors, sourcing all products from within 25 miles.
- Non single use plastics, with free docks beers all supplied in Cans.
- Collect all surplus food each day and delivered to the local Cowes Food Bank.
- Organise daily “Green teams” to ensure sites kept clean and all waste products placed in the various recyclable bins throughout the two marinas.
- Provide bins and collect all waste sailing equipment and ropes and delivery to a local upcycling centre.

Venues

Cowes Yacht Haven and Shepards Wharf Marinas, we are delighted to report, have completely bought into our aspirations and plans to deliver a sustainable regatta. So specifically, they will:

- Enable RTYC to sponsor the free filtered water fountains at both locations.
- Supply sufficient recyclable bins and signage across both marinas and near to the various docks.
- Provide marina staff members to join our “Green Teams” to ensure the site have been kept clean throughout the regatta.
- Ban the application and monitor the use of toxic cleaning products to prevent them entering the water.
- No vehicles allowed onsite, and all competitors encouraged to either use the local e-scooter service or walk.

Competitors

It is vital that all competitors and their guests play their part in helping us deliver the large regatta as sustainably as possible, so we would like to ask all competitors to commit to the following:

- Always use the water refilling stations – we suggest you nominate one of the crew to be responsible for the whole team’s hydration.
- Do not bring any single use plastics to either regatta venue.
- Use the recycling waste bins located across both marinas and dock areas
- Hand over any surplus food each day to one of our “Green Team” members to enable us to share this with the local food bank.
- Place any broken or worn-out sailing equipment and materials in the provide “Boat bits bins” to enable to delivery them to our recycling partner.
- Do not use any toxic materials to clean your boats – there are plenty of environmentally sustainable alternatives available.

Supply Chain Partners

As agreed within their supply chain vendor agreements:

- All food and drink products must be sourced from suppliers within a 25-mile radius.
- No Plastic straws are allowed.

- All dinnerware and cutlery must be made from recyclable materials.
- No single use plastics allowed, with only either glass or re-useable and washable plastic cups.
- All waste separated and placed in the appropriate bins.

4. **Final Thoughts**

Finally, we want you enjoy the whole 250th Anniversary experience - race hard (but fairly), party hard (but not so it hurts in the morning), have fun and help us deliver a truly memorable regatta as sustainably as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Royal Thames Yacht Club 250th Anniversary Regatta Organising Committee

