



ROYAL THAMES
YACHT CLUB

Royal Thames Yacht Club 250th Anniversary Regatta

Incorporating the

RORC IRC Nationals, Tideway J/70 Nationals, RS Elite Class Nationals,
Etchells National and British Open Championship,
Sonar Class Nationals, RS21 Round 3 UK & Ireland Cup,
Dragon Class Southern Area Championships,
Daring Class Cory Cup, Cruiser Yachts,
Classic Yachts and Seaview Mermaid.

NEW CLASSES ADDED: SB20 and Redwing

Updated 14th March 2025 - IRC Nationals rules amendments

Updated 29th April 2025 – IRC Rating rules updates

11th-15th June 2025

NOTICE OF RACE

Royal Thames Yacht Club
Run from various locations in Cowes



Welcome

On behalf of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Flag Officers and members, I would like to invite you to join us at our 250th Anniversary Regatta in June 2025, in Cowes.

The Royal Thames was founded in 1775, and we will be celebrating our 250th Anniversary with a range of extraordinary events, on and off the water, throughout the year. The 250th Regatta will be a highlight in the calendar, a celebration of keelboat and yacht racing in the Solent. An event for all.

It will run from 12-15th June 2025, and we are delighted that so many classes will join us for their National Championships. The regatta will incorporate the RORC IRC Nationals for classes 0-4, Tideway J/70 Nationals, Etchells Nationals, Elite Nationals, Sonar Nationals as well as the Cory Cup for the Daring class, Dragon Southern Area Championship and Round 3 of the RS21 UK and Ireland Cup. There will also be fleet racing for the Mermaid, Classic yacht and cruiser classes.

To run a regatta of this scale, involving so many fleets, takes a lot of planning and co-operation from many parties. I would like to thank in advance all those from the Royal Yacht Squadron, Royal Ocean Racing Club and the Royal Southern Yacht Club, who will join our own Royal Thames team, making the event possible. In addition, we will be working closely with Cowes Harbour Commission, Cowes Harbour Master, Cowes Yacht Haven and Shepards Wharf Marina to deliver this regatta, so thank you all for your support and willingness to engage in putting together this celebration of sailing in the Solent.

The Royal Thames 250th Regatta would not be complete without providing you with a fantastic shoreside experience, and we are planning some unbeatable entertainment and socials each day. We will be using all of the Cowes Yacht Haven and Shepards Marina. There will be a regatta village featuring daily live entertainment and music, lots of pop-up food stalls and of course bars.

On the Saturday there is a Regatta Celebration Dinner for 400 as well as a Crew Party, that will be followed by a live band, fireworks and DJ Mark Covell late into the night. I look forward to seeing you next June. It will be very special.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Powell'.

Richard Powell

REGATTA ETHOS

The Royal Thames Yacht Club 250th Anniversary Regatta is being run as a celebration of yacht racing in the Solent. The first RTYC Regatta was held in the summer of 1775 on the River Thames and the club has held Regattas every year over the last 250 years. The Regatta is open to all competitors who want to take part in friendly, but competitive racing, across the Solent area. We will work hard to provide all yachts and keel boats with the best event and race management experience throughout the Regatta. We also pride ourselves on providing all participants and their guests a great Royal Thames shore side experience, please do to take full advantage of everything on offer. We look forward to you joining us for our Anniversary Regatta.

The organizing authority (OA) is the Royal Thames Yacht Club (RTYC). The Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS), Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) and Royal Southern Yacht Club (RSYC) will assist the RTYC to deliver this regatta and their support is greatly appreciated. The specific Race Course Areas and classes to be run by each club will be set out in the Sailing Instructions.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1. RULES

1.1. The event will be governed by the:

- a. Rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (2025-2028)
- b. Boats racing under IRC, IRC Rules Parts A, B, C.
- c. RORC IRC Nationals Classes 0-4 - boats can enter and race using their IRC rating (endorsed or standard), but only boats with a current endorsed IRC certificate will be eligible to be class winner or overall champion.
- d. IRC Rule 22.4.2 Crew Number/Weight is deleted and replaced by: "The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a yacht shall be the number shown on the certificate except that; when the crew includes EITHER– at least 2 females, at least 2x 25 years old or under (25 or under on 24 May 2025) OR at least 1 female and 1x 25 years old or under (25 or under on 24 May 2024) then the crew limit is certificate number plus 1. There is no weight limit."
- e. Class rules apply for one design entries, including crew limits and WS Sailor Categorization. (if applicable).

- f. 2025 UK and Ireland Series NoR's for the RS21 and J/70 classes.
- g. The following rules apply to the Classic Yacht participants only [NP] [DP]:
 - The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) for Category 4 will apply except as modified below or by
Class Rules for all IRC, Level Rating and Cruiser Classes, except that: Delete paragraph 5.01.1 and replace with: "Each crew member shall have a lifejacket in accordance with ISO 12402 - 3 (Level150) or equivalent, including EN 396 or UL 1180, clearly marked with the boat's or wearer's name, and if inflatable, shall have a gas inflation system and have crotch /thigh straps."
 - Parts A, B and C of the IRC Rules shall apply.
 - Yachts unable to comply with IRC 14.1 or RRS77 must inform the Organising Authority who may, in exceptional circumstances, permit the display of a sail number dodger with numerals and suffix letters at least 375mm high for yachts of 8.5m or greater LOA, and at least 300mm high for yachts less than 8.5m LOA as an alternative.
 - Anchors shall not be carried on deck, such that they protrude forward of the bow.

- World Sailing OSR 3.09.1, 3.09.2, 3.09.4 (cockpit self-draining capability, watertight integrity, and cockpit sole above LWL) and 3.14 (pulpits stanchions and lifelines) shall not apply. Add: "Boats racing in IRC classes shall comply with their IRC certificate in respect of OSR compliant lifelines."

- 1.2 Dragon Class only - rule 13.30 of the International Dragon Class rules (crew weight restriction and weighing) shall not apply.
- 1.3 The RYA Racing Charter. The Charter can be found on the RYA website at www.rya.org.uk/racingrules.
- 1.4 [NP] The Moving Prohibited Zone (MPZ), as detailed by the Associated British Ports of Southampton – Notice to Mariners No 06 of 2024, is designated as an obstruction. More information can be found by following this link: [2024 No 06 Port of Southampton - Precautionary Area \(Thorn Channel\).pdf](https://southamptonvts.co.uk/2024%20No%2006%20Port%20of%20Southampton%20-%20Precautionary%20Area%20(Thorn%20Channel).pdf) (southamptonvts.co.uk)

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions will be available no later than 30th May 2025 on the Official Notice Board (ONB).
- 2.2. This NoR may be changed by amendment or by the Sailing Instructions. In the event of conflict, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.5 (C) (2)

3. COMMUNICATION AND TRACKING

- 3.1 The online Official Notice Board (ONB) is located online via this link: <https://racing.royalthames.com/>
- 3.2 Registration for the regatta will take place at the Royal Thames Yacht Club shoreside clubhouse in Cowes. Registration opening times will be provided in Sailing Instructions and on the ONB.
- 3.3 Daily Competitor Briefings will take place at the Royal Thames Regatta Village within Cowes Yacht Haven. Details of timings will be provided within the Sailing Instructions.
- 3.4 All boats shall carry a marine VHF radio capable of receiving all channels.
- 3.5 On the water, the Course Race Committees will make broadcasts of important race

information to competitors on VHF radio and via the Course WhatsApp Groups.

The VHF channels to be used by each Race Course Area will be stated in the Sailing instructions.

- 3.6 Tracking - For safety and race management purposes, boats shall carry and use a RTYC 250th Anniversary Regatta approved tracking device, which shall be as follows:
 - An AIS transponder. Competitors shall use their best endeavours to ensure that their AIS device is switched on and transmitting at least every 5 seconds, OR
 - A compatible mobile device running the "Nautical Cloud Competitor" App. Competitors shall use their best endeavours to ensure that their boat has one or more such devices onboard and operating.
- 3.7 The OA and Race Committee will use an event and Course Area Whatsapp groups to facilitate communications with competitors regarding their intentions, notices, results, protest details and other information during the event. A joining link will be provided with the Sailing Instructions.
- 3.8 Questions regarding the notice of race or sailing instructions, may be submitted in writing to the RTYC Sailing Office via email: tim.hancock@royalthames.com

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. The event is open to the following classes:
 - IRC yachts – classes 0-4. The exact rating split for each class will be determined by OA and RORC and published by 5th June 2025. ADD: "No change shall be made to a boat's rating after the 5th June 2025, without specific written permission of RORC and the OA"
 - RS Elite
 - Etchells
 - J/70
 - Sonar
 - RS21
 - Dragon
 - Daring
 - Seaview Mermaid
 - SB20
 - Redwing

- Cruisers – potentially more than one class depending upon entry numbers.
- Classics (RTYC definition) – see below.
- Additional classes may be added at a further date.

4.2 RTYC Classic Yacht definition:

- This 250th Regatta is an open event for 'Classic Yachts', 'GRP Classic & S.O.T.' and 'Modern Classics' with a current IRC Rating Certificate. **DELETE "or Single Event Rating Certificate."** Fife yachts may collectively choose to race as a separate class using their current CIM rating.
- All yachts shall have a minimum LH of 7.32m (24ft).
- A 'Classic Yacht', for the purpose of the Regatta, is a monohull designed, built or adapted for recreational purposes in after wood, steel or aluminium to a pre-1975 design by traditional build methods.
- GRP Hull is 'Classic' if to a pre-1974 design, or 'S.O.T.' if with the appearance of a 'Classic Yacht'.
- A 'Modern Classic' for the purpose of the Regatta is a Spirit Yacht or yacht that the RTYC considers to be built with the appearance of a 'Classic Yacht'.

- The RTYC may decline the entry of any yacht or crew that it considers is not 'within the spirit of the regatta'.
- In exceptional circumstances Classic Yachts or Modern Classics unable to meet the eligibility criteria in 4.1 – 4.5 may apply to the RTYC for consideration.
- Subject to entries received, it is the OA's intention to sub-divide Classic Yachts, GRP and Modern Classics into various classes for racing.

4.3 Eligible boats may enter by completing the entry form and submitting it, together with the required fee by 1st June 2025. Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the OA.

4.4 Entries are currently not open to boats where any crew member holds a Russian or Belarus Passport or to a boat that is registered with or a member of the National Association in those countries.

4.5 Boats may enter the event by registering online using the link in NoR 3.1 above.

4.6 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements, including providing boat and crew details, and pay all entry fees.

5. ENTRY FEES

5.1 The entry fees for this event are shown below. Fees for further classes may be added at a later date.

Class	Early Bird Entry Fee – (before 1st April 2025)	Entry Fee - After 1st April 2025
IRC Nats: less than 10m	£320	£368
IRC Nats: 10m-13.99m	£480	£552
IRC Nats 14m- 17.49m	£850	£978
IRC Nats - More 17.5m	£1,250	£1,438
RS 21	£300	£345
J/70	£300	£345
SB20	£240	£276
Etchells	£380	£437
RS Elite	£380	£437
Cruisers - less than 11.99m	£300	£345
Cruisers more than 12m	£340	£391
Classics: less than 11.99m	£300	£345
Classics: more than 12m	£340	£391
Mermaid	£360	£414
Daring	Class funded	Class funded
Dragons	£240	£276
Redwing	£240	£276
Sonars	£100	£115

5.2 All entry fees are non-refundable after 1st June 2025.

6. ADVERTISING

- 6.1 Advertising is permitted in accordance with the Class Rule and World Sailing Regulation 20.
- 6.2 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

7. RACE SCHEDULE

- 7.1 Provisional race schedule:

Class	Wednesday 11th	Thursday 12th	Friday 13th	Saturday 14th	Sunday 15th
	No. of races	No. of races	No. of races	No. of races	No. of races
IRC 0			2	3	2
IRC 1			2	3	2
IRC 2			2	3	2
IRC 3			2	3	2
IRC 4			2	3	2
RS 21			2	3	3
J/70			3	3	3
SB20			3	3	2
Etchells		2 (Sep. Cup)	3	3	2
RS Elite	2	3	3	2	N/A
Cruisers			1	2	2
Classics			1	2	2
Mermaids		2	2	2	2
Daring			2 (informal)	2	2
Dragons			2	3	2
Redwings			2	2	1
Sonars				3	3

- 7.2 The first warning signal for the:
- RS Elite Class will not be made before 12.00 on Wednesday 11th June.
 - Etchells and Mermaid Classes will not be made before 11.00 on Thursday 12th June.
 - RS21 Class will not be made before 14.00 on Friday 13th June.
 - Sonar Class will not be made before 11.00 on Saturday 14th June.
 - All other classes will not be before 11.00 on Friday 13th June.

- 7.3 The planned start times and racing schedule for each day will be provided by 20.00 on the night before racing.

- 7.4 There will be no warning signal that will be made after 15.00 on the last day of each classes racing.

- 7.5 Tide times for the Regatta are as follows (Southampton Water and Solent):

Day	High Water (BST)	
Wed 11th June	11.53	4.3m
Thurs 12th June	12.34	4.3m
Fri 13th June	13.11	4.3m
Sat 14th June	13.45	4.3m
Sun 15th June	14.21	4.3m

8. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 8.1 Measurement spot checks, including checks of documentation and crew weighing, may be made at any time at the discretion of the Race Committee and Class Representatives. Details will be provided in the Sailing Instructions.

9. VENUE

- 9.1 The racing will take place in the Central and East Solent areas.
- 9.2 The location of the start line for each Race Course Area will be posted to the online official notice board by 0930 each race day.
- 9.3 Navigational Safety - Racing will take place near active shipping channels. The race committee would like to call special attention to the preamble to RRS Part 2 concerning the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, and the current ABP. Southampton Byelaws No.11 concerning a moving prohibited zone around vessels of 150m length or more. Boats are reminded to keep a good look out for all commercial traffic and recognize that large vessels have very limited manoeuvrability, particular in the shipping channel east of Norris Bay.

10. COURSES

- 10.1 The courses to be sailed by each class will vary. The OA will be working with each class to deliver the format of racing that each class prefers for the event.
- 10.2 Course diagrams and buoy descriptions for each Race Course Area and Class will be provided in the sailing instructions.

11. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 11.1 The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: "A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31 in an incident while racing."
- 11.2 In RRS 44.2 insert after the first sentence: "However, on a windward/leeward course, if Mark 1a (windward spreader mark) is set, a boat shall take a penalty for an incident in the zone around Mark 1 or on the leg between Mark 1 and Mark 1a, as soon as possible after leaving the zone around Mark 1a".
- 11.3 For breaches of any rule, other than a rule of RRS part 1 and 2 the penalty shall be at the discretion of the protest committee unless the penalty is stated in the rule itself. The penalty shall be applied to all races in which the rule was broken. The protest committee shall be guided by the World Sailing Discretionary Penalty policy.

12. SCORING

- 12.1 2 races are required to constitute a series for each class.
- 12.2 When fewer than 3 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 12.3 When 3 races or more have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

13. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 13.1 All support boats, must register with the Organizing Authority.
- 13.2 All support vessels shall carry a marine VHF radio and comply with RRS 37 'Search and Rescue Instructions'.

14. SUSTAINABILITY

- 14.1 As a leading yacht club, with a unique historical perspective, and recognising our responsibility as stewards of the sea. The RTYC's mission is to promote a culture of conscious boating and a deep connection with the marine environment. We will strive to achieve our 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.
- 14.2 Regatta commitments – RTYC are currently working with our various water and shore-based partners to develop a range of sustainability commitments for our regatta. We will publish our plans and commitments on our ONB prior to the start of the regatta.

15. BERTHING

- 15.1 Berthing is the responsibility of each competing boat. Berthing costs are not included in the entry fee.
- 15.2 RTYC has made provisional berthing and mooring bookings with Cowes Yacht Haven, Shepards Wharf Marina and Cowes Harbour Commission (moorings). Competitors are requested to make direct contact with these various organisations to make their own berthing and mooring arrangements. The three entities are collaborating to ensure that they can accommodate all entries. We have created an initial berthing plan with the various marinas and Cowes Harbour Commission, with the aim to keep each fleet or a particular class together. The various marinas will take each entrants booking and will initially allocate a berth to a particular marina or mooring but reserves the right to move a particular fleet to an alternative marina, depending upon entry level. Any proposed changes to a particular entry's berthing arrangements will be advised in advance, before any changes are formalised.

16. [NP] HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 16.1 All boats shall be afloat no later than 1800 the day before the first scheduled race for each class.
- 16.2 Boats shall not be hauled out during the event unless they have prior written permission of the OA.

17. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

- 17.1 Subject to marina regulations, competing boats may, at any time, scrub their hull using flossing, sponging or mechanical devices if no person enters the water.
- 17.2 No person shall swim or undertake any underwater or diving activities of any kind within Cowes Harbour without permission and/or a permit from the Cowes Harbour Master or the authorized Marina Manager. See: Cowes Harbour Commission General Direction 4.4 and 4.5.

- 17.3 Diving for inspections or repairs in either Cowes Yacht Haven or Shepards Wharf Marina shall only take place with and in accordance with the terms set out with prior written permission of the Race Committee.

18. DATA PROTECTION & RIGHT TO USE LIKENESS

- 18.1 The personal information you provide to the organizing authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organizing authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.
- 18.2 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the OA unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, photographs, video footage, and audio recordings taken of them prior to, during, and after the event without compensation.

19. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property whether afloat or ashore.

- c. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- d. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- e. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- f. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- g. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

20. INSURANCE

- 20.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

21. PRIZES

- 21.1 The winning boats will be awarded a range of prizes depending upon the class. A full list of prizes will be set out in the Sailing Instructions and posted on the ONB.

22. FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information contact:

Tim Hancock

Email:

Tim.Hancock@royalthames.com

Tel: 07983 873232

OR: racing@royalthames.com

END

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. BERTHING AND SHORE BASED STORAGE

RTYC has made arrangements for all boats to be berthed at a combination of Cowes Yacht Haven and Shepards Wharf Marina. In addition, moorings are available to be booked directly with Cowes Harbour Commission. Each competitor should contact directly the specified marina directly to make their own arrangements and payment for berthing.

The provisional berthing plan is as follows, but the various marinas reserve the right to move a particular fleet of boats to an alternative marina, depending upon entry numbers. They will aim to keep all boats of a particular class together and would only propose another location, after consultation with each owner/class.

Class	CYH	Shepards	Moorings	M Row	J Row	Trinity	TBD
IRC0	✓						
IRC1	✓						
IRC2	✓						
IRC3	✓						
IRC4	✓						
RS 21		✓					
J/70		✓					
SB20		✓					
Etchells	✓						
RS Elite		✓					
Cruisers							✓
Classics							✓
Mermaids			✓				
Dragons	✓						
Darings			✓				
Redwing			✓				
Sonars							✓

Berthing Contact details – Please ensure you advise them that you are participating the RTYC 250th Anniversary Regatta.

Cowes Yacht Haven:

Katy Ednay's
Marina Manager

Email: Berthing@cowesyachthaven.com

Phone: 01983 299975

Cowes Harbour Commission Event moorings and Shepards Wharf Marina:

Helen Martin
Marina Administrator

Email: shepards.chc@cowes.co.uk

Phone: 01983 297821

B. SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Cowes Yacht Haven (CYH) will be the hub for our social activities with our Regatta Village open from 8am to 8pm each day from Thursday morning. This time will be extended for Saturday night for the Crew Party. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided each day through our onsite partners with a range of pop-up food concessions and a bar. Full details will be provided nearer the time.

C. REGATTA CELEBRATION DINNER and CREW PARTY

On Saturday 14th June we will be hosting our Regatta Celebration Dinner which will be hosted within the Event Centre in CYH. The event will be limited to 400 people and is primarily aimed at everyone involved with the Regatta. The dress code for the dinner will be smart casual and will include dinner, a band, DJ Mark Covell and fireworks. Tickets will be made available from 1st February 2025 on a first come basis and can be booked through the Regatta portal.

In addition, there will also be a Crew Party on the Saturday night at CYH starting a little later but will give additional competitors and their guests the chance to join the celebration.

Further details of both the dinner and crew party will be provided in January 2025.

D. CLASS FUNCTIONS

Each class will be arranging additional class specific functions during the regatta at local yacht and sailing clubs and venues. These will be booked directly with each class secretary/organizer. Only the Regatta Celebration Dinner and Crew Party on Saturday night will be booked directly with the RTYC. Access to the Regatta Village and daily entertainment will be free to all competitors in the regatta.