

MERSEA WEEK 2013

Notice of Race

1. Organising Authority
 - 1.1 The races are organised jointly by West Mersea Yacht Club and Dabchicks Sailing Club , known as the Joint Organising Authority.
2. Rules
 - 2.1 The races will be governed by the rules as defined by The Racing Rules of Sailing 20013 2016, the RYA prescriptions thereto, the 2013 IRC Rules Parts A, B and C (if racing under IRC),this Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions and any Appendices issued.
3. Race Committee
 - 3.1 The Joint Organising Authority has appointed the Mersea Week Committee as the Race Committee for the Mersea Week Regatta (RRS 89.2 (b)).
4. Advertising
 - 4.1 All boats and their crews shall comply with ISAF Regulation20, the Advertising Code.
5. Eligibility
 - 5.1 Any boat owned or chartered to a member of any RYA recognised Yacht Club or Sailing Club may enter these events subject to the following conditions.
 - 5.2 IRC Fleet
 - A boat racing in this fleet must be in possession of a valid 2013 IRC certificate or have been granted a limited validity IRC TCF. A copy of any valid certificate must be lodged with the Sailing Secretariat of WMYC or the Mersea Week Committee. Competitors must advise any alteration of the TCF during the week to Mersea Week Committee.
 - Owners of all yachts sailing under IRC one-design certificates are reminded that, under IRC rules 13.7 and 22.4.1, they are required to comply with their respective class rules.
 - IRC Rule 22.4.2 will not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight except as required for boats rated as one-designs, which shall comply with IRC Rule 22.4.1.
 - 5.3 Smacks
 - The handicaps used will be those issued by the local Smacks Handicap Committee.
 - 5.4 LH Cruiser Fleet
 - The handicaps used will be those issued by the Joint Handicap Committee. These handicaps are subject to amendment by the Joint Handicap Committee during the course of the week.
 - The Mersea Week definition of a Classic Yacht for the purposes of this event, this should be a Mono-Hull yacht of a 'Classic Yacht' style and constructed of any material either (a) built before 1975 or (b) built after 1975 but which in the opinion of the Committee has the style and appearance of a 'Classic Yacht'. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry for the Classic Yacht event which in their opinion fails to comply with the spirit of a 'Classic Yacht'. Such entries may race in other appropriate classes.
 - 5.5 Dinghy & MFOB Fleets
 - The handicaps used will be the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick System (Dinghy Classes) and the local handicaps in operation in respect of the MFOBs.

- 5.6 Helmsman
- Dinghies and MFOBs must be helmed by the person in whose name the entry has been accepted.
6. Entry
- 6.1 Eligible competitors may enter by completing the attached entry form, or a form downloaded from the website, and sending it together with the required fee to the West Mersea Yacht Club no later than 14.00hrs Saturday 10th August 2013.
- 6.2 Fees are shown on the Entry Form contained in this programme.
7. Schedule of Events
- 7.1 As set out in this programme.
8. Risk Statement
- 8.1 RRS Rule 4 states ‘The responsibility for a boats decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.’
- Sailing is by its very 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; and
 - g) For cruiser & smack classes they are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.
- 9 Disclaimer of Liability
- 9.1 The Race Organisers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew as a result of their taking part in the race or races.
- 9.2 Parents or Guardians of people under the age of 18 must be confident in their child’s ability to sail in the prevailing conditions and without support services. They should not permit their child to start or to continue to race if they are in any doubt as to their child’s ability.
- 10 Safety of Boat and Crew
- 10.1 Competitors sailing in cruiser fleets must before racing, deposit a Safety Declaration(contained within the entry form) with WMYC or the Mersea Week Committee.
- 10.2 All Cruisers shall carry the following safety equipment:
- Lifejackets for all crew members; it is strongly recommended that all persons on board be required to wear a lifejacket in appropriate conditions.
 - Lifebuoy
 - Coastal flares pack - 2 red hand held flares and 2 orange smoke flares, all to be in date.
 - Fog horn

- Echo sounder
 - Fire extinguisher
 - Anchor, 2m of chain and a minimum of 30m cable.
 - First aid kit.
 - Marine compass.
 - Manual bilge pump, permanently fitted and operated from cockpit.
 - Stout bucket & lanyard.
 - VHF radio.
 - Bolt croppers or other effective means of cutting rigging.
 - Heaving line & towing line.
 - Smacks are not required to carry these items but it is recommended that they do so.
- 10.3 MFOBs must comply with the specific safety requirements set out in the MFOB Sailing Instructions 2013:
- Mandatory Item
 - Lifejackets for all crew members
 - A suitable anchor and warp
 - A bucket
 - Adequate buoyancy, with the aim of keeping the boat in an upright position when swamped.
 - Recommended Items
 - A painter 1.5 times length of boat with a float tied to the end (strongly advised)
 - Hand Flares
 - Assistance
 - The nearest boat to any capsized must stand by and give assistance if necessary with due consideration for safety at all times.
 - Manual Means of Propulsion
 - In the event of gear failure all efforts should be made to return to a safe mooring under own power. Therefore a manual means of propulsion should be carried i.e. oars and rowlocks or sculling oar.
- 10.4 MFOB and Dinghy Fleets Sign-on/Sign-off
- All skippers must sign-on and sign-off before and after the race.
11. Support Boats
- 11.1 The Mersea Week Committee will provide Support Boat services for Dinghy and MFOB classes.
- 11.2 The provision of Support Boats does not relieve the boat of its responsibilities.
- 11.3 Support Boat Services may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice due to stress of weather, mechanical breakdown, shortage of crew, or other unforeseen contingency.
12. Insurance
- 12.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

MERSEA WEEK 2013

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Note These instructions do NOT apply to the Round Mersea Island Race on Wednesday 21st August, which is organised by the West Mersea Yacht Club nor to the Town Regatta on Saturday 24th August, which is organised by the Town Regatta Committee.

PART A Applies to ALL competitors

PART B Applies to Smacks and Cruisers only

PART C Applies to Dinghies and Mersea Fisherman's Open Boats only

PART A

General Rules Applicable to All Competitors Events 1 - 15

A1 RULES OF SAILING

The 2013-2016 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions and Class rules shall govern all races. Boats racing under IRC shall also be governed by the 2013 IRC Rules, Parts A,B &C.

A2 SAFETY

RRS Fundamental Rule 4 applies. The following will also apply:-

- The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the boat. These Sailing Instructions in no way limit or reduce this absolute responsibility.
- 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; and
 - g) For cruiser & smack classes they are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.

A2 Cont....

- The race organisers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races.

Notes

- Areas around the start line and other buoys may be busy with other boats that are also racing. Helms are warned to keep a good look out at all times and be aware of the possibility that other racing boats may be in the area. You are advised that racing rules continue to apply between boats racing in different classes, and that a protest against a boat in a different class is always possible.
- Boats in the Cruiser and Smack classes after finishing should keep clear of boats in the Dinghy and MFOB classes which may still be racing.
- Similarly, boats in the Dinghy and MFOB classes after finishing should keep clear of boats in the Cruiser and Smack classes which may still be racing.

A3 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted at the Race Centre, located in the Long Room at WMYC. The details of the amendment(s) may also be announced from the Committee Boat by VHF on channel 77. Copies of any written amendments will be available from the Race Centre.

A4 INSURANCE

Competing boats shall be insured with valid Third Party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

An entrant who is not the owner of the boat being raced must make certain that the owner's insurance extends to cover him/her. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS 75.

A5 HANDICAPS

All races are sailed under appropriate handicaps. Competitors are required to supply full particulars of the boat entered including any known performance figures. Absence of such particulars may result in the boat being placed in a different event from that indicated by the competitor on the entry and/or given an 'ESTIMATED' handicap.

A6 CLASSES

The Committee reserves the right to place a boat in any appropriate class and to combine starts and classes where there are insufficient entries to warrant individual races. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS 75.

A7 STARTING ORDER

The order of starting and start times are set out in parts B & C of these instructions, together with class flags.

A8 STARTING RACES

All races shall be started in accordance with RRS 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.

A9 RECALLS/INDIVIDUAL

In the event of an individual recall Code Flag 'X' will be displayed and one sound signal made in accordance with RRS29.1. No recall numbers will be displayed and it is the responsibility of each boat over the line at the start to return and start correctly. Failure to do so will result in being scored OCS.

A9 Cont.....

RECALLS/GENERAL

In the event of a general recall two sound signals will be made and 'First Substitute' flag will be displayed in accordance with RRS 29.2. The warning signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made one minute after the First Substitute is removed (one sound signal) and the start for any subsequent classes shall follow the new start.

A10 COURSE INFORMATION

The requesting or receiving of information regarding the course to be sailed at any time shall not be grounds for protest or grounds for redress. this amends RRS s 41&62.

A11 PROTESTS

These must be delivered to the Race Office within the time limit defined in RRS61.3.

A12 POINTS SCORING SYSTEM

The Low point scoring system (Racing Rules 2013p2016 Appendix A) will apply.

1st place = 1 point

2nd place = 2 points

Etc.

DNS, DNF, RET or DSQ 1 more than the number of boats entered in the series.

A13 RESULTS

These will be displayed as soon as practicable AFTER PRIZE GIVING at DSC and/or WMYC.

A14 NUMBER OF ENTRANTS

There must be at least two qualified starters for a race to commence. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS 75.

A15 PRIZES

- No second prize may be awarded unless there are 4 or more qualified starters.
- No third prize may be awarded unless there are 5 or more qualified starters.

A 16 COMPETITOR IDENTIFICATION

- All boats competing in Smack, Cruiser and MFOB classes must fly a Mersea Week 2013 pennant to indicate they are part of the race fleet. This will also indicate mooring requirements to the launch men. The Dinghy fleet may choose to fly the pennant but this is not obligatory.
- Pennants are available free from the Race Office from 19.00-20.00 on Saturday 17th August and from 08.30 on Sunday 18th August.

PART C

Additional Sailing Instructions

Applicable to Competitors in Dinghy Classes & MFOBs EVENTS 9 - 15 only

C1 RULES

In addition to the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions events 10 - 15 (class dinghies) will be governed by respective dinghy class rules.

Event 9 MFOBs will also be governed by the Class Rules and safety regulations of the Mersea Fisherman's Open Boat Association. For details please contact:-

Peter Rowe (Chairman) - Tel 01206 734734 or 07941 496028

C2 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flag mast at Dabchicks Sailing Club.

C3 CLASSES AND START TIMES

i Classes and Start Times

No	EVENT	Start Time Daily	Warning Signal
9	Mersea Fisherman's Open Boats	11.30	J
10	Slow	11.35	K
11	Feva	11.40	Q
12	Medium	11.45	R
13	Lasers Standard, Radial & 4.7	11.50	T
14	Medium fast	11.55	U
15	Fast	12.00	V

ii If any start is subject to a General Recall, subsequent starts will be delayed.

iii If races are not sailed on their scheduled day, the Committee reserves the right to re-schedule such races on later days. However no more than three races per event will be sailed on any one day.

C4 RACE AREA

The race area situated to the north east of the Naas beacon is shown in the diagram in this programme. The Committee Vessel and start line will be located within the Race Area.

Competitors are strongly advised to go afloat in adequate time to reach the start area.

- C5 **START LINE**
The Start Line for all races will be between the signal mast displaying an orange flag aboard the Committee Vessel and the outer limit mark which will be a yellow inflatable buoy laid for the purpose. An Inner Limit mark may be laid.
Competitors will start in the direction of the first mark of the course.
- C6 **COURSES**
- i No later than the Preparatory (4 minute) signal for each class, the Committee Vessel will display the course to be sailed by that class. The course displayed will be either:
 - a) A course taken from the courses printed elsewhere in this programme or
 - b) A list of marks to be rounded or passed on the hand and in the sequence shown.
 - ii If more than one lap is set, the Committee Vessel will also display the number of laps to be sailed, **INCLUDING THE FIRST WINDWARD MARK.**
NOTE; The course and number of laps displayed at the Warning (5 minute) signal for each class will relate to the preceding class.
 - iii **First Mark**
The first mark of all laps of all courses will be a yellow inflatable buoy laid approximately to windward of the start line.
The Committee Vessel will display a letter 'W'; if the letter 'W' is red then the first mark is to be rounded or passed to Port, if the letter 'W' is green the first mark is to be rounded or passed to Starboard.
 - iv After passing or rounding the first mark, the course to be sailed will be that displayed by the Committee Vessel.
 - v After their starting signal competitors must NOT pass through the start/finish line at any other time than when completing a lap or finishing a race. The penalty for breaching this Sailing Instruction will be disqualification without a hearing. This amends RRS 63.
 - vi Competitors must pass through the finish line at the end of each lap and when finishing.
 - vii If flag 'L' is displayed at Dabchicks sailing Club then the start times, start line and courses for the day will be displayed at the signing on station at DSC.
- C7 **FINISH LINE**
- i The finish line will be the same as the start line; competitors will cross the line in the direction from the last mark of the course.
 - ii Competitors are reminded that the sound signal usually given on finishing a race is not required by the Racing Rules and may be omitted, particularly when such a signal could cause confusion with another classes' start sequence.
- C8 **TIME LIMITS**
RRS 35 is changed. The time limit for each race shall be three hours. For any race to be valid the first boat must finish within three hours of the start time. In a valid race any boat that has not finished 45 minutes after the time limit has expired shall be scored DNF.
- C9 **SIGNING ON AND OFF**
All competitors covered by Part C of these instructions shall before going afloat sign on, using the form provided at the Dabchicks Sailing Club, and shall sign off as soon as practicable and in any event no later than 90 minutes after finishing racing for the day. This is a vital safety measure and failure to comply with this Sailing Instruction **WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION** without a hearing. This changes RRSs 63.1, 64 & A5
- C10 **IDENTIFICATION STREAMERS**
All competitors in classes 9,10,12,14 & 15 (Handicap Dinghies) are required to carry a coloured streamer tied to the head of their mainsail. Streamers will be available from the Race Office prior to racing. Failure to display the correct streamer whilst racing may incur a discretionary penalty

- without a hearing. This changes RRSs 63.1,64 & A5
- C11 POINTS SERIES
The five scheduled races (to be sailed on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday) comprise a series. If four or five races are sailed boats will discard their worst score. If three or fewer races are sailed, no discard is permitted.
- C12 SAFETY BOAT DUTY
The race committee may request that competitors assist with safety boat duties. Any boat prevented from sailing any race or races by such a request will be awarded average points for any such race or races, calculated at the end of the series.
- C13 CLASSES AND HANDICAPS
- i Handicaps for all competitors will be allocated on the basis of information available.
 - ii For event 9 the Race Committee will allocate the division between Fast and Slow classes.
 - iii The division between classes 10,12,14 & 15 will be determined by the Race Committee.
- C14 MARKS
The marks to be used are as follow:-
- Orange Race Marks - Numbers 4,8 & 11.
 - Orange Inflatable tetrahedron buoys laid for the week - T1, T2, T3 & T4.
 - Yellow Inflatable buoy laid each day - First Mark
 - Yellow Inflatable buoy laid each day - Outer limit Mark.
- Note: All marks are shown in their approximate positions on the diagram printed elsewhere in this programme.