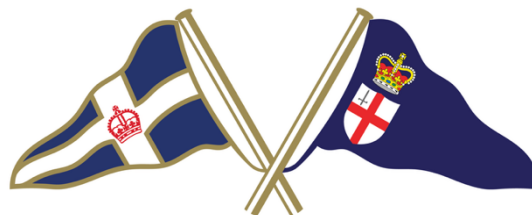




COWES CLASSICS REGATTA
now in its 18th year
Incorporating the UK Dragon Classic Class Championship

4th June – 7th June 2026



The Organising Authority (OA) is jointly the Royal London Yacht Club (RLYC) and the Royal Thames Yacht Club (RTYC). The OA would like to thank the other local Cowes-based yacht and sailing clubs for their support in enabling the 18th edition of this regatta to take place.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their on-going support in running this regatta.

NOTICE OF RACE

Cowes Classics Regatta is open to all classic yachts keelboats and Old Gaffers designed over 50 years ago. This includes all metre boats, classic dayboats and one designs. In addition, racing will be provided for Spirit of Tradition yachts, provided they are of a classic design.

Class racing will be provided for all one-design classes with sufficient entry numbers. Handicap racing will be offered for all other classes using the AERA YTC Rating system. Gaffer class boats will use the OGA rating system.

*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 is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028 and, for cruisers, World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations, Appendix B for inshore racing.
- 1.2 RYA national prescriptions apply.
- 1.2 Each boat in the Classic Yachts, Spirit of Tradition Yachts, and Old Gaffers shall comply with World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for inshore races (Appendix B).
- 1.3 For classic yachts, classic dayboats (not sailing in class) and Spirit of Tradition boats the AERA YTC handicapping system will be used.
- 1.4 Arbitration – WS Appendix T shall apply, however T.1 (b) is changed so that the penalty is reduced to 20%.
- 1.5 [NP] The Moving Prohibited Zone (MPZ), as detailed by the Associated British Ports, is designated as an obstruction. More information can be found by following [this link](#).
- 1.6 Competitors should note that the OA implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The sailing instructions (SIs) will be available from the Cowes Classics Regatta [online Official Notice Board](#) on or before Friday 29th May 2026.
- 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

- 3.1 The Official Notice Board (ONB) is located online on the Cowes Classics Regatta website at the [Official Notice Board](#).
- 3.2 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of receiving all channels.
- 3.3 On the water the race committee (RC) will make broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The vhf channels to be used on each course area will be set out in the Sailing Instructions.
- 3.4 It is the intention of the OA and RC to use one or more WhatsApp group(s) to communicate with competitors and further details will be contained in the SIs.
- 3.5 While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY, ENTRY AND CONDITIONS

- 4.1 The event is open to all classic metre boats, classics dayboats and one designs, classic yachts, Old Gaffers and Spirit of Tradition yachts. If any non-specified classic yachts would like to enter, they may make a request to the OA.
- 4.2 For classic yachts, classic dayboats (not sailing in class) and Spirit of Tradition boats the AERA YTC handicapping system will be used. Any boats racing in a handicap class will need to apply for a free

rating and submit it to the OA before or at registration. To obtain a rating, boats entering should follow this link: <https://rorcrating.com/ryaytc>

- 4.3 Additional classes maybe added and any class that has 6 or more boats will be offered their own start and class racing.
- 4.4 All helms racing in a one-design fleet shall be a member of their relevant class association.
- 4.5 Boats may enter the event by registering online at [Cowes Classics Regatta 2026/Enter online](#). To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.
- 4.6 Entrants, crew and their families are granted Temporary Membership of the RLYC for the duration of the regatta and are invited to use all the RLYC facilities.

5. FEES

5.1 Entry fees for the regatta as are follows:

Class	Entry Fee £
Old Gaffers, Classic yachts, Spirit of Tradition yachts MORE than 13m LOA	460
Old Gaffers, Classic yachts, Spirit of Tradition yachts LESS than 12.99m LOA	380
XOD, Bembridge OD, West Solent OD, Loch Long OD, Fife OD, Etechells, Dragon, Daring	290
Squib, Flying Fifteen	120
Victory, 6 metre, Sea View Mermaid, Sonar	120

- 5.2 The entry includes a free launch service plus free entry for all sailors for the following social events:
 - Tea and cakes after racing each day
 - Welcome Drinks Reception on Friday 3rd June
 - Kendalls Drinks Reception (limited numbers) on Saturday 6th June
- 5.3 The entry fee does not include berthing and mooring costs. Please refer to NoR 14.1.
- 5.4 The closing date for entries will be Tuesday 2nd June 2026. Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the OA.
- 5.5 All entry fees are non-refundable after 16th May 2026.
- 5.6 The nominated 2026 regatta charity is the Andrew Cassell Foundation. A £20 charitable donation will be added to each fee at the point of entry, unless the entrant opts out.

6. ADVERTISING

6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA. Full details will be provided in the sailing instructions.

7. SCHEDULE

- 7.1 Signing On, including details of all crew, shall be completed online before attending the Race Office to register and collect race pack.
- 7.2 The table below shows when the Race Office at Royal London Yacht Club is open for registration:

Date	From	To
Wednesday 3 rd June	13.00	18.00
Thursday 4 th June	09.00	17.00
Friday 5 th June	08.00	10.00

7.3 There will be initial competitor race briefings at the Royal London Yacht Club at 09.30 on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th June 2026.

7.4 Provisional racing schedule:

Class	Thursday 4 th June No. of races	Friday 5 th June No. of races	Saturday 6 th June No. of races	Sunday 7 th June No. of races
Classic yachts, Old Gaffers, Spirit of Tradition yachts MORE than 12m LOA	2	3	3	2
Classic yachts, Old Gaffers, Spirit of Tradition yachts LESS than 11.99m LOA	2	3	3	2
XOD, Bembridge OD, West Solent OD, Loch Long OD, Fife OD, Etchells	Invitational	3	3	2
Sonar, Dragon	Invitational	2	3	2
Flying Fifteen	Invitational	2	3	2
Victory, 6 metre, Seaview Mermaid			3	2
Daring	Invitational	3	3	2

7.5 No warning signal will be made on Thursday 4th or Friday 5th June before 11.55.

7.6 If a particular class would like to race for a different number of days than set out in the Provisional racing schedule above, then they should contact OA via the details provided in NoR 21.

7.7 The race schedule for the following day, will be published on the ONB before 20.00 each day.

7.8 On the last scheduled day of racing in the schedule above, no warning signal will be made after 15.00 on Sunday 7th June 2026.

7.9 The tide times for the Regatta are as follows (Portsmouth):

Day	HW (BST)
Thursday 4 th June	15.01 4.3m
Friday 5 th June	15.39 4.3m
Saturday 6 th June	16.22 4.2m
Sunday 7 th June	17.10 4.1m

8. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

8.1 Measurement spot checks and boat inspection may be made at any time by a member of the OA and Class Representatives during the event.

9. VENUE AND COURSES

9.1 Racing will take place in the Central Solent area.

9.2 The OA has the option to run the various race courses from either committee boats or the RLYC shore line race box.

9.2 The location of the start line for each race-course area will be posted on the ONB by 09.30 each day.

9.3 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. This could include both windward/leeward and “round the cans” racing formats.

9.4 Course diagrams and buoy descriptions for each race-course area and class will be provided in the sailing instructions.

10. PENALTY SYSTEM

10.1 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.”

10.2 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”.

- 10.3 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.

11. SCORING AND HANDICAPPING

- 11.1 2 races are required to constitute a series for each class.
- 11.2 All classes, that have more than six entrants, will be scored in class, with no rating system applied. For all other classes, the AERA YTC handicap rating system will apply. Gaffers will use their OGA Handicap system.
- 11.3 When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 11.4 When 5 or more races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her scores excluding her worst score.

12. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 12.1 All support boats must register with the OA.
- 12.2 All support person vessels shall carry a marine VHF radio and comply with RRS 37 ‘Search and Rescue’ Instructions.

13. SUSTAINABILITY

- 13.1 As leading yacht clubs, we recognise our responsibility as “stewards of the sea”. The OA’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.
- 13.2 Regatta commitments – the OA is currently working with various water and shore-based partners to develop a range of sustainability commitments for the regatta. Plans and commitments will be published on the ONB prior to the start of the regatta.

14. BERTHING

- 14.1 Berthing is the responsibility of each competing boat and berthing costs are not included in the entry fee. The OA has negotiated an event berthing discount with Cowes Harbour Commission – details as to access this discount are provided at the end of this NoR.
- 14.2 Arrangements for swinging moorings for Bembridge OD, XOD and Victory classes should be made through their class associations. For all other classes/boats, mooring arrangements should be made directly with [Cowes Harbour Commission](#), [Shepards Wharf Marina](#) and [Cowes Yacht Haven](#). Their contact details have been provided at the end of this NoR.
- 14.3 A launch service will be run from Trinity Landing opposite the RLYC Clubhouse to boats on swinging moorings in Cowes Harbour.

15. LAUNCHING AND HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 15.1 Boats shall be afloat before the end of the registration period and shall not be hauled out during the event without the prior written permission of the RC.

16. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

- 16.1 Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats from the end of Registration until the end of the event without the prior written permission of the RC.

- 16.2 No person shall swim or undertake any underwater or diving activities of any kind within the harbour without a valid permit to dive from the Cowes Harbour Master or the manager of the marina you wish to dive at. This prohibited activity is legislated under Cowes Harbour Commission General Direction 4.4 and 4.5.

17. RESULTS AND PRIZES

- 17.1 Results will be posted on the [Cowes Classics Regatta website](#).
- 17.2 Trophies will be awarded for the first overall in each class.
- 17.3 The New Helm Trophy will be awarded to a helmsman who has not previously helmed at the regatta. The Trophy winner may be from any class, calculated using a formula which will be set out in the SIs.
- 17.4 The David Gower Bowl will be awarded to the youngest average age crew in the event, subject to an upper average age limit of 45. Details of eligibility will be set out in the SIs and must be declared on the Registration form.
- 17.5 The OA will also award an overall winner's prize for the whole regatta. The methodology for calculating the winner of this trophy will be set out in the SIs.

18. DATA PROTECTION & RIGHT TO USE IMAGES

- 18.1 The personal information you provide to the OA will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the RRS 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 OA'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, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event, provided that they do not infringe the privacy rights of participants.

19. RISK STATEMENT

- 19.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing 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 familiarize 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 competitor or 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 million per incident or the equivalent.

21. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 21.1 For further information, visit the [Cowes Classics Regatta website](#) or contact the following:

Principal Race Officer: Tim Hancock tim.hancock@royalthames.com
Regatta Secretary: Anna Howie sailing@rlyc.org.uk

Alternatively, please contact the RLYC, The Parade, Cowes, PO31 7QS, Tel +44 1983 300727.

NOTICE OF RACE ENDS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

1. PROGRAMME OF SOCIAL EVENTS

Day	Event	
Thursday 4 th June	Pre-gatta Dinner including a welcome drink	Ticketed
Friday 5 th June	Post-racing Tea & Cakes	Included
	Mermaid Gin Drinks Reception and daily prize giving	Included Ticketed
	Welcome BBQ	
Saturday 6 th June	Post-racing Tea & Cakes	Included
	Kendalls Drinks Reception and daily prize giving	Included (limited tickets)
	Regatta Dinner	Ticketed
Sunday 7 th June	Drinks Reception & regatta prize giving	Included

Social tickets will be available to book on the website soon.

2. BERTHING OFFER

We have negotiated a 10% discount berthing rate for all visiting boats who are competing in the 2026 Cowes Classic Regatta. This discount rate is also extended to boats who enter the Cowes Spring Classics event and then want to keep their boats at Shepards or on a CHC swinging mooring. To access the discounts, any competitor must contact Shepards Marina directly: **Medina Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7HT | 01983 297821 | shepards.chc@cowes.co.uk | www.cowes.co.uk**

We are grateful to all our event partners



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