
MERSEA WEEK 2016

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 2013-2016, the RYA prescriptions thereto, the 2016 IRC Rules Parts A, B and C (if racing under IRC), this Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions and any Appendices issued.
 - 2.2 With the permission of the IRC Rating Authority, IRC Rule 8.2 is modified to include GBR or FRA boats holding single event ratings.
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 Regulation 20, the Advertising Code.
5. Eligibility
 - 5.1 Any boat owned or chartered to a member of any RYA recognized 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 2016 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.

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- 5.6 Helmsman
- Dinghies and MFOBs must be helmed by the person in whose name the entry has been accepted.
 - If the helm is aged under 12 he or she must have competed in the outside fleet of Cadet Week 2016.
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 13th August 2016.
- 6.2 Alternatively competitors may enter online by paying the appropriate fee and completing the online entry form available on our website www.merseaweek.com. Online entries must be received by midday Saturday 13th August 2016.
- 6.3 Fees are shown on the Entry Form contained in this programme and on the website.
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 and on the website) 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
- EPIRB and/or handheld VHF or 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.
- A sharp strong knife securely restrained and readily accessible from the deck or cockpit.
- Smacks are not required to carry these items but it is recommended that they do so.

10.3 Squib class keelboats must comply with their class safety rules see www.squib.co.uk and **in addition must carry a handheld VHF radio.**

10.3 MFOBs must comply with the specific safety requirements set out in the MFOB Sailing Instructions 2016:

- Mandatory Items
 - Lifejackets or buoyancy aids 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.
 - A painter 1.5 times length of boat with a float tied to the end.
- Recommended Items
 - Hand Flares
- Assistance
 - The nearest boat to any capsize 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.