

# BRISTOL CHANNEL YACHT CLUB

*Established 1875*



# SUMMER SERIES & COASTAL PASSAGE SERIES

NOTICE OF RACE

# 2026

---

Swansea · Watchet · Tenby · Ilfracombe · Helwick · Dale

# Contents

---

<b>Welcome from the Commodore</b>	3
<b>About Bristol Channel Yacht Club</b>	4
<b>Summer at BCYC</b>	5
<b>2026 Race Programme</b>	6
<b>Notice of Race</b>	
1. Rules	8
2. Advertising	9
3. Rating & Measurement Certificates	9
4. Eligibility & Entry	10
5. Fees	10
6. Schedule	10
7. Sailing Instructions	11
8. Race Area & Courses	11
9. Equipment Inspection	11
10. Penalties	11
11. Scoring	12
12. Communication	12
13. Support Vessels	13
14. Rights to Use Names & Likenesses	13
15. Insurance	13
16. Risk Statement	13
17. Privacy Statement	14
18. Further Information	14
<b>Other BCYC Racing &amp; Events</b>	15
<b>How to Enter</b>	17

## Welcome from the Commodore

---



This year's Sailing Season is set to be one of the most exciting in the history of the Bristol Channel Yacht Club!

After the inaugural Lord Mayor's Regatta at the end of April, the season gets under way on 31st May with the first of our Summer Series of Races, and these will continue until the end of August.

This year, and in collaboration with sailors from around Swansea Bay, the series will include 'Passage Races' to places as far afield as Tenby, and indeed, across the Bristol Channel!

Towards the end of the season, we look forward to the ever popular and exciting BCYC Pursuit Race on 9th August and the Scarweather Regatta that will take place over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd August.

Victory celebrations and tall tales will be shared at our annual Laying Up Supper on Friday 30th October.

Such a comprehensive programme can only take place with the committed support of many people, led by our Rear Commodore, Alyson Nicholson, and the BCYC Sailing Committee, and I would also particularly mention Adrian Lester, whose committed support has been invaluable in getting the Series 'off the ground'.

Of course, such an ambitious programme is expensive to arrange, and we are much indebted to our 2026 Sponsors: Paul Wayte (UHP Systems Ltd.), John Morse (John Morse Solicitors) and Geoff Cottle and Tony Pettican (Anchem Laboratories Ltd) – we couldn't do it without you!

Best wishes to all our sailors for safe, enjoyable and competitive racing!

**Bob Wigley**

*Commodore, Bristol Channel Yacht Club*

## About Bristol Channel Yacht Club

---



Founded in 1875 at a meeting held in the Castle Hotel on Wind Street, the Bristol Channel Yacht Club holds the distinction of being the first yacht club established on the Bristol Channel. In 2025, the Club proudly marked its 150th anniversary, celebrating a long and distinguished history at the heart of sailing in the region. At its inception, the newly formed yacht club was amalgamated with the Mumbles Billiard Club, reflecting the social as well as sporting spirit that continues to define the Club today.

In 1902, following the purchase of its present site, the renowned architect Glendenning Moxham was commissioned to design the clubhouse. His work, now commemorated by a blue plaque on the building, remains a defining feature of the Club. Before construction could begin, however, the site required significant preparation, including the blasting and removal of some 4,000 tons of rock. The completed clubhouse was officially opened on the 4th August 1904 by the Earl of Jersey, welcoming an initial membership of 230, and it continues to serve members to this day.

Over the years, the Club has played host to an impressive and varied fleet, ranging from working vessels such as trawlers and pilot cutters to some of the most celebrated yachts of their time. These included the famous J Class yachts, among them Shamrock, as well as King George V's yacht Britannia. During the golden age of yacht racing as a spectator sport, the foreshore would draw large crowds, all gathered to witness the spectacle and excitement of competitive sailing on the Bristol Channel.

**Find us online**

[www.bcyk.co.uk](http://www.bcyk.co.uk)

## Summer at BCYC



This summer promises to be an exciting season at the BCYC with an expanded social programme to provide fun and entertainment, both on and off the water.

Following the success of events held in 2025, the Club will continue to hold fund raising events for our 2026 nominated charities – Maggie's and the RNLI. Sunday lunches will be served on the first Sunday of each month with Supper Club on the third Thursday.

Themed and cultural events from a Summer Ball to a Dylan Thomas Dinner.

Pop-up chefs will be invited to show off their talent and tantalise your tastebuds.

Cocktail evenings are always fun. A chance to dress up and enjoy a Cosmopolitan accompanied with live music...

Or for those who prefer something a little more leisurely and relaxing we will also be offering "afternoon tea" served with freshly made scones, delicate sandwiches and the tea or coffee of your choice – or upgrade to a glass of fizz!

The Club is also a great venue for private dining, with rooms suitable for those more intimate occasions or the larger soiree.

And, of course, there are the sailing focussed events including guest speakers, post regatta socials and prize giving at our end of season Laying Up Supper in October.

Details of all events will be published at [BCYC.co.uk](http://BCYC.co.uk) For further information please contact the Hon Secretary at [bcychonsec@gmail.com](mailto:bcychonsec@gmail.com)

## 2026 Race Programme



This Notice of Race covers two series organised by the BCYC line in 2026: the **Summer Series** (round-the-cans and short offshore races in Swansea Bay and environs) and the **Coastal Passage Series** (longer passage races in the Bristol Channel). The Ilfracombe and Helwick races count towards both series. All times shown are in BST.

### Summer Series

Date	Races	First Start	Cat.	Notes
Sun 31 May	2	11:00	—	Races 1 & 2
Sun 21 Jun	2	11:00	—	Races 3 & 4
Sat 27 Jun	1	11:00	4	Race 5 — Ilfracombe <sup>†</sup>
Sun 19 Jul	1	11:00	—	Race 6
Mon 31 Aug	1	11:30	4	Race 7 — Helwick <sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Also counts towards the Coastal Passage Series. Cat. = OSR Category where applicable (see rule 1.3). “—” = inshore race, no OSR requirement.

### Coastal Passage Series

Date	Race	Start	Cat.	Notes	Entry by
Sat 2 May	Watchet	10:30	4		TBC
Sat 6 Jun	Tenby	10:30	4	Start at HW	TBC
Sat 27 Jun	Ilfracombe <sup>†</sup>	11:00	4	Summer #5. Alt: Cardiff	TBC
Sat 4 Jul	Dale	08:00	4+		TBC
Mon 31 Aug	Helwick <sup>†</sup>	12:00	4	Bank Hol. Finish BCYC	TBC

<sup>†</sup> Also counts towards the Summer Series. Cat. = World Sailing OSR Category (see rule 1.3).

**Please note:** Start times are shown as a guide and may be subject to change. Individual Sailing Instructions for each race will be published on the BCYC website at least 48 hours prior to the race.





**UHP** systems  
Ultra High Pressure Systems



[uhpsystems.co.uk](http://uhpsystems.co.uk)  
[uhpsystems.nl](http://uhpsystems.nl)



# Notice of Race

## 2026 Summer Series & Coastal Passage Series

---

The Organising Authority (OA) is Bristol Channel Yacht Club (BCYC).

### 1 Rules

---

**1.1** The event is governed by:

- (a) the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025–2028 (RRS); and
- (b) the National Authority (RYA) prescriptions, which can be found at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules>

**1.2** Boats shall also abide by:

- (a) the RYA Racing Charter, which can be found in the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing 2025–28) and at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter> and
- (b) all applicable harbour authority byelaws and regulations.

**1.3** Skippers/those responsible for boats must ensure satisfactory compliance with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations as follows:

<b>Helwick</b> (31 Aug)	One design classes shall comply with the safety requirements of their class or optionally OSR category 4. Other boats shall comply with OSR category 4.
<b>Watchet</b> (2 May)	OSR category 4 plus requirements of OSR 5.01 and 5.02 (lifejackets, deck safety harness & tethers) as Category 3.
<b>Tenby</b> (6 Jun)	
<b>Ilfracombe</b> (27 Jun)	
<b>Dale</b> (4 Jul)	

Races to which an OSR category applies are indicated in the schedule tables on pages 6–7. The Summer Series races within Swansea Bay do not carry an OSR category requirement.

**1.4** The Notice of Race may be changed by amendment or by the Sailing Instructions. In the event of a conflict, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.5.

**1.5** The Official Notice Board will be the BCYC website at

<https://www.bcyco.uk/sailing/>

The OA may establish a WhatsApp community for communication with competitors. Where such a community is established, best efforts will be made to share notices and information through it, but the website shall remain the definitive source.

**1.6** The racing fleet must have at least two boats registered and willing to race.

**1.7** Between sunset and sunrise (as defined in the Sailing Instructions) navigation lights shall be lit and the International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea shall replace the corresponding rules of the RRS.

**1.8** An engine may only be used for propulsion to recover a man overboard, to render assistance, or in any other grave emergency, but may be subject to protest. Full details must be reported on the race declaration. Any time penalty or disqualification will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 42.

**1.9** Self-steering gear may be utilised, including wind, electric or stored-power-driven, provided that a proper lookout is kept at all times, in the following circumstances: boats with no more than 2 crew; and while a spinnaker is flown, including setting and removal. This changes RRS 52.

## 2 Advertising

---

- 2.1 Advertising is permitted in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20 and associated RYA prescriptions.
- 2.2 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and/or supplied by the OA.

## 3 Rating & Measurement Certificates

---

3.1 Boats will be handicapped using the YTC system. Boats that do not have a valid 2026 YTC certificate may apply for one online at

<https://rorcrating.com/ryaytc>

**3.2 Summer Series:** If any alteration is made to a boat's rating after the first race of the series in which she competes, the lowest (most stringent) rating she has competed with shall be applied to all races in the series. Each boat shall be scored using the lowest YTC rating valid for any race she sails in the series. Boats declaring a white sails configuration will be so restricted for the entirety of the series, except that a boat may vary her declaration for the Ilfracombe and Helwick races (Summer Series Races 5 & 8) by notifying the OA in advance.

**3.3 Coastal Passage Series:** Ratings and electronic copies of rating certificates must be provided prior to each race. The OA must be advised of any change to a boat's rating by the entry deadline for the race concerned (see schedule, page 7). Boats shall declare to the OA prior to each race the YTC sail configuration with which they will compete. Boats failing to so declare shall be handicapped according to their spinnaker rating.

**3.4** Where the OA holds a certificate supplied for a previous race or series in the 2025–2026 year and a replacement is not supplied, the previous rating will be taken to apply. Boats in such circumstances must compete in the rated configuration.

## 4 Eligibility & Entry

---

4.1 The events are open to YTC-rated self-righting yachts.

4.2 Eligible boats may enter by completing the online entry form at

<https://www.bcyk.co.uk/sailing/>

**4.3 Summer Series:** A boat may enter the series at any point prior to its conclusion, but a valid entry must be received prior to the first race in which she participates. Boats should notify the OA of their intention to participate in each day of racing in advance of that day; races may be cancelled at short notice if insufficient boats have so notified.

**4.4 Coastal Passage Series:** Entry deadlines for each race are shown in the schedule on page 7. Timely entries are encouraged and a race may be cancelled if insufficient entries have been received by the date specified.

**4.5** For the Watchet, Tenby, Ilfracombe and Dale races, a full list of the boat's crew and details of a shoreside contact who holds their next-of-kin/emergency contact details must be provided to the OA prior to commencement of the race. A form for this is available on the BCYC website.

**4.6** For competitors under the age of 18, a parental consent form shall be completed no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the race. These forms are available via the official noticeboard.

## 5 Fees

---

**5.1** There is no entry fee for either series in the 2026 season. The OA is keen to encourage participation and to grow the fleet as the BCYC establishes its racing programme; entry fees are therefore waived for this inaugural combined season. We thank our sponsors for enabling this.

## 6 Schedule

---

**6.1** The 2026 race programme is set out on pages 6–7.

**6.2** The Summer Series will consist of 7 races with 1 or 2 races per day. The Coastal Passage Series will consist of 5 races. The Ilfracombe and Helwick races count towards both series.

**6.3** The first warning signal each day is expected to be at five minutes prior to the advertised start time. There may be an additional courtesy warning by radio 10 minutes prior to the start time, at the race committee's discretion.

**6.4** Races may be cancelled due to causes including insufficient demand or unsuitable weather.

**6.5** Start times may be changed due to weather considerations or by consent of the competitors for other reasons.

**6.6** Reasonable efforts shall be made to consult competitors prior to decisions to cancel races or change times.

**6.7** Times shown are in BST unless otherwise stated.

## 7 Sailing Instructions

---

Sailing Instructions for each race will be published on the official noticeboard at least 48 hours prior to the race.

## 8 Race Area & Courses

---

**8.1** The racing area for the Summer Series will be Swansea Bay and its environs. The racing area for the Coastal Passage Series will be the Bristol Channel and approaches.

**8.2** Courses will be set according to the individual Sailing Instructions.

## 9 Equipment Inspection

---

**9.1** There is no scheduled equipment inspection or event measurement.

## 10 Penalties

---

**10.1** The two-turn penalty as described in RRS 44.1 is replaced by a one-turn penalty (one tack and one gybe).

**10.2** A boat that may have broken a rule of RRS Part 2 or RRS 31 may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of the first related protest hearing, notify the Race Committee that she accepts a 30% scoring place penalty as stated in rule 44.3(c), except that the minimum penalty is two places provided that does not result in a score worse than DNF.

**10.3** Penalties arising from protests will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee and may be less than disqualification.

## 11 Scoring

---

**11.1 Summer Series:** The Low Point System of World Sailing Appendix A will apply with the following changes:

- (a) one race shall be completed to constitute a series; and
- (b) a boat's series score will be the sum of her six best results (lowest points).

Rule 5.3 of RRS Appendix A will apply.

**11.2 Coastal Passage Series:** RRS 90.3e shall apply. The Low Point System of World Sailing Appendix A will also be used to produce an overall series result, with the following changes:

- (a) one race shall be completed to constitute a series; and
- (b) a boat's series score will be the sum of her three best results (lowest points).

**11.3** Whether or not a committee boat or shore-based finish line is used, boats shall record their own finish times in local time (i.e. BST until the 25th of October and thereafter GMT) to one second accuracy, using GPS-acquired time as a reference, and convey these to the OA within 48 hours of finishing each race, normally via the declaration form on the BCYC website. The OA may specify a preferred means for such communication via notice of race and/or sailing instructions (as amended).

**11.4** Races that count towards both series (Ilfracombe and Helwick) will be scored separately in each series according to the rules for that series.

**11.5** According to the sailing instructions (as amended), boats may be scored according to their average lap time, for the number of laps they choose to complete, or achieve prior to a time limit, as specified.

## 12 Communication

---

**12.1** All boats shall carry a marine VHF radio and monitor the appropriate channel as defined in the Sailing Instructions at all times while competing.

**12.2** While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions except in communication with the Race Committee or other competitors on the specified race channel, and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. Any competitor transmissions on channels used by the Race Committee shall be limited to those pertaining to the race(s) taking place at the time.

**12.3** If necessary, by agreement of the competitors, the Race Committee afloat responsible for course communication and transmission of start sequence may be part of the crew of one of the boats competing. Rule 12.2 shall not apply to transmissions from that boat conducting the business of the Race Committee.

**12.4** Further to 12.2, RRS 41(c) is changed as follows. Help in the form of information freely available to all boats and any publicly offered internet or broadcast weather information from sources available to all competitors, whether on a subscription or free basis, is allowable. Allowable internet-sourced services received by a boat while racing must be computer-generated and not have any direct human input subsequent to the service provider from outside the boat. Competitors may use any means to retrieve the data. Accessing other information during the race will be considered a violation of RRS 41.

## 13 Support Vessels

---

**13.1** Support person vessels shall not be permitted.

## 14 Rights to Use Names & Likenesses

---

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. These may include photographs of boats and crew.

## 15 Insurance

---

Each entrant shall ensure that their boat is adequately insured for racing against all third-party claims with a minimum of £2 million cover.

## 16 Risk Statement

---

**16.1** 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:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (iii) they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (iv) their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (v) 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;
- (vi) the provision of patrol boat cover, if any, is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances;
- (vii) it is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event; and
- (viii) 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.

## 17 Privacy Statement

---

**17.1** The personal information you provide to the Organising 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 Organising Authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

## 18 Further Information

---

**18.1** All competitors are welcome as guests of BCYC on race days.

**18.2** Summer Series races have been scheduled according to predicted tides with a view to allowing timely transit through the Tawe barrage. However, advertised lock opening times may affect the schedule and it is each boat's responsibility to ensure adequate water for safe transit in and out of the lock.

**18.3** Contact details:

**The Rear Commodore**  
Bristol Channel Yacht Club  
744 Mumbles Road  
Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4EL

**Email:** [BCYCRearCommodore@gmail.com](mailto:BCYCRearCommodore@gmail.com)

**Web:** [www.bcyc.co.uk](http://www.bcyc.co.uk)



]

## Prizegiving

at the BCYC Laying up Supper  
Friday 30th October, 2026

---



## Other BCYC Racing & Events

---

The Summer Series and Coastal Passage Series covered by this Notice of Race are just part of a busy season at BCYC. The following events are also planned for 2026.

### Lord Mayor's Regatta

**Saturday 25 – Sunday 26 April 2026**

The Swansea Bay Lord Mayor's Regatta is a highlight of the early-season calendar, supported by the City and County of Swansea. A separate Notice of Race and entry form are available on the BCYC website.

### Pursuit race & Gower Challenge

**Saturday 08 – Sunday 09 August 2026**

In collaboration with Mumbles Yacht Club, the popular BCYC pursuit race and MYC Gower Challenge mixing yachts and dinghies for racing in Swansea Bay and along the Gower coast.

### Scarweather Regatta

**Saturday 22 – Sunday 23 August 2026**

A weekend of racing including the annual Scarweather race. A separate Notice of Race will be issued.



### Keep up to date

Check the BCYC website for the latest schedule, results and news.

[www.bcyco.co.uk](http://www.bcyco.co.uk)

*"May your tacks be fast, your lines be tight, and the wind be in your favour."*



**Anchem**  
LABORATORIES LIMITED

[www.anchem.co.uk](http://www.anchem.co.uk)

*Harness practical and personal legal solutions for you, your family and your business with John Morse Solicitors' quality legal advice and support.*



*"May you have calm waters and a steady course."*

# How to Enter

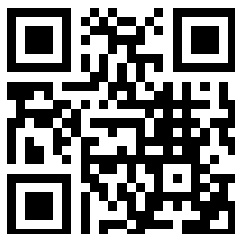
---

## BCYC 2026 Summer Series & Coastal Passage Series

Entry for all races is **online only**. To enter, please visit the BCYC sailing page using the link or QR code below.

Enter online at:

<https://www.bcyco.uk/sailing/>



Scan to go directly to the entry form

### When entering, you will need to provide:

- Which series and/or race(s) you wish to enter
- Boat name, make/model, sail number, LOA and draught
- Valid YTC rating and certificate
- Your contact details (phone, email, WhatsApp)
- Emergency contact details
- For OSR category races: a full crew list with next-of-kin details (may be provided separately prior to each race)

By entering, you agree to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and all other rules which govern this event, and you undertake to sail in compliance with the RYA Racing Charter.

If you have any difficulty with the online entry process, please contact the Rear Commodore at [BCYCRearCommodore@gmail.com](mailto:BCYCRearCommodore@gmail.com).

# BRISTOL CHANNEL YACHT CLUB

*Established 1875*



## 2026 Summer Series & Coastal Passage Series

744 Mumbles Road, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4EL

[BCYCRearCommodore@gmail.com](mailto:BCYCRearCommodore@gmail.com)

[www.bcycc.co.uk](http://www.bcycc.co.uk)

---

With thanks to our sponsors:

***UHP Systems*** · ***John Morse Solicitors*** · ***Anchem Laboratories Limited***