

# BRISTOL CHANNEL YACHT CLUB

*Established 1875*



# SCARWEATHER REGATTA

## NOTICE OF RACE

22nd - 23rd August

# 2026

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## Welcome from the Commodore

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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**

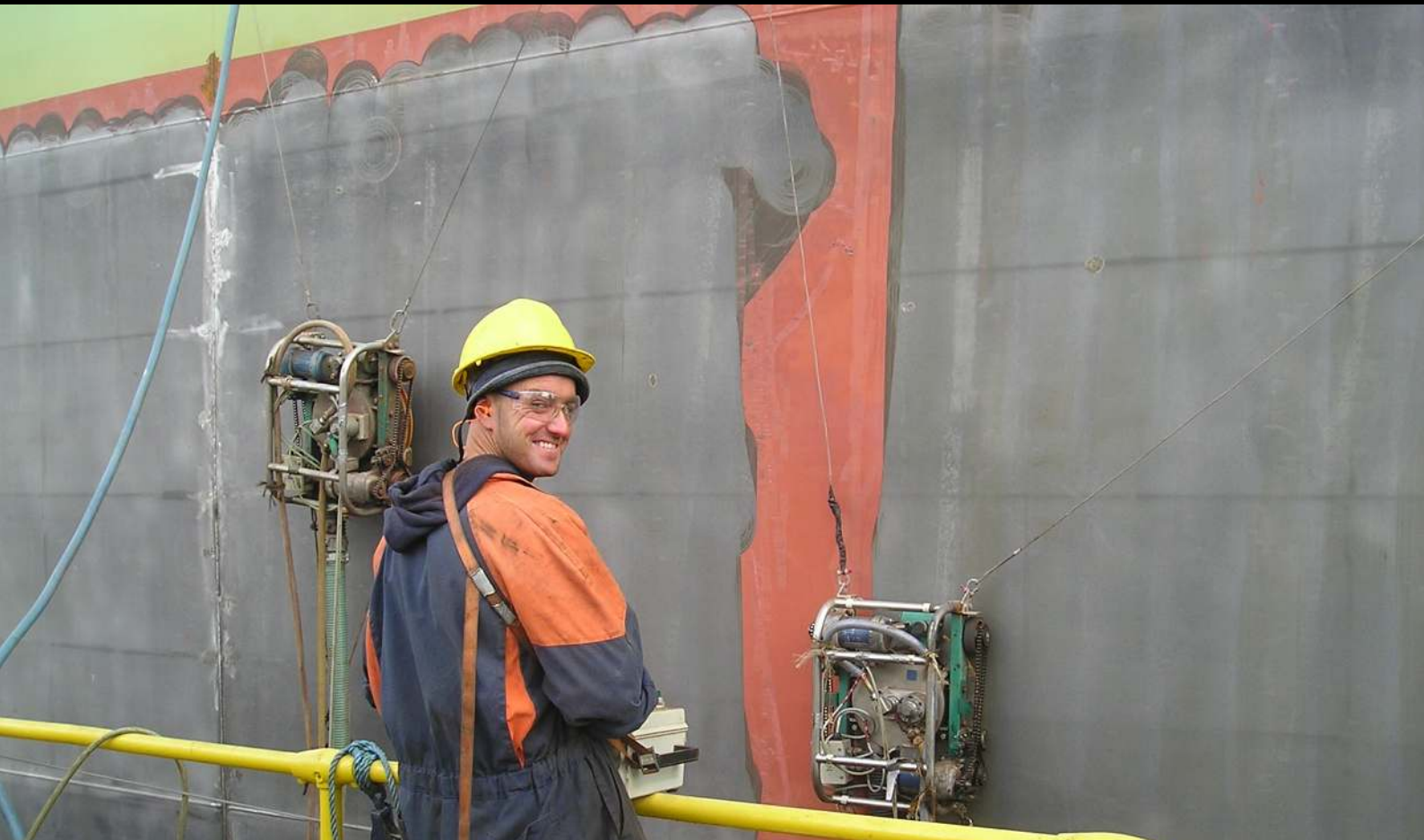
*Commodore, Bristol Channel Yacht Club*



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# Notice of Race

## 2026 Scarweather Regatta

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

### 1 Rules

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**1.1** The event is governed by:

- (a) the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025–2028
- (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 (RRS 2025–28) and at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>
- (b) All applicable harbour authority byelaws and regulations. For the Scarweather Race, skip-pers/those responsible for boats must ensure satisfactory compliance with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations category 4. Boats sailing in the configuration of a one design class may, as an alternative, comply with the safety requirements of their class.

**1.3** 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.

**1.4** The official notice board will be at

<https://www.bcyco.uk/bcyco-scarweather-regatta-2026/>

**1.5** 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.

**1.6** 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 Sailing Instructions

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**2.1** The Sailing Instructions will be available after 20:00 on 1st August 2026, published at

<https://www.bcyk.co.uk/bcyk-scarweather-regatta-2026/>

and shared on the event WhatsApp group which you can register for at:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GaihiuqWp025zmBTxICQvi>



## 3 Communication

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**3.1** 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.

**3.2** Competitors are required to monitor VHF radio channel M2/P4 for any broadcasts made by the race committee.

**3.3** The event's dedicated WhatsApp group will be used for supplementary communications.

## 4 Eligibility and Entry

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**4.1** The regatta is open to all classes of yacht

**4.2** Yachts are required to have a YTC rating. If a yacht does not have a YTC rating, the Organising Authority reserves the right to class them as DSQ/DNC or temporarily award a rating in line with similar vessels.

**4.3** Boats may enter the event by registering online at:

<https://www.bcyk.co.uk/bcyk-scarweather-regatta-2026/>

**4.4** Entry will not close, and entries will be taken on the day, providing the vessel can supply their YTC rating. Note: late entries must complete the online entry form and confirm their intention to race via the event WhatsApp Community or VHF radio channel before 11:00.

**4.5** By registering for the event, competitors grant the Organising Authority, event sponsors and their agents without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, recorded video of, or relating to the competitors, unless otherwise advised in writing prior to the Regatta

## 5 Fees

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**5.1** The Regatta is sponsored by UHP Systems Ltd, Anchem Laboratories Ltd and John Morse Solicitors and so there is no fee to enter.

## 6 Advertising

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**6.1** Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

## 7 Schedule

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**7.1** The Scarweather Challenge Race is scheduled to start at 11:30 on Saturday 22nd August 2026. The warning signal will not be before 11:25.

**7.2** Registration for the Scarweather Challenge Race: Yachts are to register their participation using the WhatsApp Community General Channel or VHF Channel M2/P4 (or equivalent) by 11:00 on the morning of the race using call sign BCYC Race Committee.

**7.3** The Scarweather Regatta “in bay” races will comprise 2 races and are scheduled to start at 11:30 on Sunday 23rd August 2026. The warning signal will not be before 11:25.

**7.4** Registration for the Scarweather Regatta “in-bay” races: Yachts are to register their participation using the WhatsApp Community General Channel or VHFChannel M2/P4 by 11:00 on the morning of the race using call sign BCYC Race Committee

## 8 Equipment Inspection

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

## 9 Venue

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**9.1** Racing on 22nd August will take place within the Bristol Channel, between Swansea Bay and the Scarweather West Buoy.

**9.2** Racing on 23rd August will take place within Swansea Bay and its environs

## 10 Course

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**10.1** The courses will be announced on VHF radio channel M2 / P4 and the event WhatsApp community no later than 10 minutes before the warning signal of each race.

## 11 Penalty System

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**11.1** RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

**11.2** 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 RC 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.

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

## 12 Scoring

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**12.1** The Low Point System of World Sailing Appendix A will apply

**12.2** 2 completed races will constitute a series

**12.3** A boat's score will be the sum of the 3 scheduled races, or, in the case of abandonment, all completed races.

**12.4** RRS 90.3e shall apply

## 13 Support Person Vessels

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**13.1** Support person vessels shall not be allowed

## 14 Data Protection

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**14.1** The Bristol Channel Yacht Club has a data protection policy.

## 15 Risk Statement

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**15.1** RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes'.

## 16 Insurance

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**16.1** Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per incident or the equivalent

## 17 Prizes

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**17.1** The Scarweather Challenge Trophy shall be presented to the winner of the Scarweather Challenge Race.

**17.2** The Scarweather Salver shall be presented to the winner of the overall, weekend regatta

**17.3** Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the event sponsors and Race Officer

## 18 Further Information

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**18.1** Mooring: Swansea Bay has good holding for anchoring but is open to wind from the South and East. Visitors' berths are available at Swansea Marina

<http://www.swanseamarina.org.uk/visitors>

Please mention your entry to the regatta when enquiring.

**18.2** B14 Championships: Mumbles Yacht Club are hosting the B14 Championships in Swansea Bay on 22nd and 23rd August. Every effort will be made to designate appropriate sailing areas, but skippers will be required to maintain increased vigilance to ensure safe and fair sailing.

### 18.3 Social activities

The Presentation for the BCYC Scarweather Regatta will take place at the Bristol Channel Yacht Club following racing on Sunday 23rd August. Food will be available for all competitors who entered before Thursday 20th August. If possible, meals will be provided to late entries, subject to availability. Meals are also available for spectators and guests – details will be available at

<https://www.bcyco.uk/bcyco-scarweather-regatta-2026/>

## 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)

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# BRISTOL CHANNEL YACHT CLUB

*Established 1875*



## 2026 Scarweather Regatta

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