

2024 WYC Sailing Programme

The 2024 sailing programme has been developed taking into account input received on the 2023 season both via the Meeting of Sailors and informally.

Objectives for the 2024 season are as follows:

- 1) Offer members highest possible quality racing throughout the season.
- 2) Maximise the number of WYC club races.
- 3) Improve volunteer support for WYC club races.
- 4) Focus WYC volunteer efforts on fewer, high quality outside events.
- 5) Use the Discover sailing day, Laserfest, Whitstable week and WYC cadet activities to actively promote membership.

Club racing:

There are a total of 112 races planned for 2023 vs 114 last year. These numbers include WYC regattas and are reduced due to slightly shorter Early and Spring series.

As per 2023, members who are more experienced as RO have been allocated to the WYC regattas, and members who have competed in 17+ races in 2023 have been allocated a 2nd duty either as RO or as Safety Boat crew to support less experienced RO's. **Please note your allocated date(s) and arrange a swap via your fleet captain if required – also advise Sally so she can keep the records straight.**

Outside events:

Our policy is to only host outside events that have a strong chance of a turnout of 20-30 boats. There will be no club racing during these events leaving the opportunity for members to volunteer in support of the event or to free sail.

Following the success of the Topper Coastal Championships in 2023, we will host a SE region training and open event in 2024, giving WYC cadets the chance to race with wider competition. WYC has been re-instated as host for a Merlin Rocket Silver Tiller event in June - we will also host a Tasar open that weekend. A Wanderer open will be combined with club racing also in June.

Whitstable week:

Will be held between Wed 31st July and Sun 4th August to allow members to participate but take fewer days off work, or to enjoy the final two days racing over the weekend and of course take part in the socials.

Laserfest:

Always a popular weekend with WYC Laser sailors, the 2024 event retain a sprint format and will be on July 6th/7th. We will promote to local clubs as a mix of friendly racing and great socials to showcase what a great place WYC is to sail.

Discover sailing:

Discover sailing is a national programme organised by the RYA to promote boating in general and in particular dinghy sailing. Our 2024 event will be on June 8th and will be co-ordinated by Jo Wyles and Ruth Oliver – however, volunteers will be needed to make the most of this important opportunity.

Organised cruises:

A programme of 10 organised dinghy cruises is included in the schedule to be organised by Richard Maltby and his team. Contact Richard for more information.

Cadet sailing:

There is a full programme of 24 cadet sessions, and 22 improvers sessions planned by Ruth and Jo. These are regularly oversubscribed - our challenge is to manage the numbers and to link families and sailors with wider WYC activities.

Transition to racing:

A new programme of four events designed to bridge the gap between improvers and club racing. Sessions will start on land with a little theory and follow up with the practical application of what was learned. Sessions will cover starting, sailing upwind, mark rounding and racing rules and will be held in the spring. Contact Ruth Oliver or Jo Wiles.

Kayak/SUP paddle in company:

We are planning a few Kayak/SUP events through the season to encourage members who own or can borrow a Kayak or an SUP to have a paddle in company. The dates are chosen with rising tide to give reasonable water depth but will rely on suitable weather to hold an enjoyable event – events will be rescheduled if necessary. Contact Kerry Collins (07857 418 473) or Steve Gray

Summary:

There were a total number of 1,691 starts by WYC boats in club races in 2023, a strong result and an increase on 2022. That was despite the loss of over 29% of club races to the weather.

The 2024 programme builds on some great racing and sailing enjoyed by members last year with additional events that take account of the feedback received in the recent online survey and meeting of sailors. We won't have got everything right, and things will change as we move through the season, but we believe the programme proves the basis for a great year of sailing.

Wishing you fair winds,



Steve Gray

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