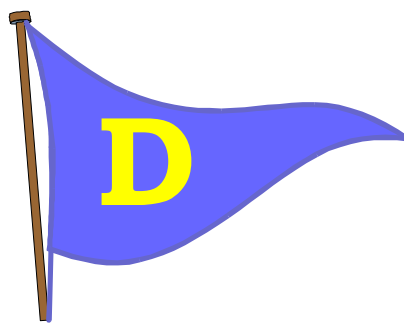
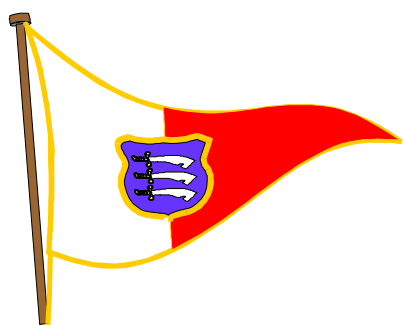


WEST MERSEA YACHT CLUB

&

DABCHICKS SAILING CLUB



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2017

SPONSORED BY



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1 The races will be governed by the rules as defined in Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), together with the RYA National Prescriptions, the Notice of Race, these sailing Instructions and all Appendices if appropriate, Rules and Byelaws of the West Mersea Yacht Club and the Dabchicks Sailing Club.
- 1.2 Rules 44.3 (scoring penalty) and RRS 52 (manual power) shall not apply
- 1.3 Automatic mechanical and wind vane devices for steering are prohibited
- 1.4 The National Squib will race in compliance with their Class Rules
- 1.5 Separate Appendices accompany these instructions relating to West Mersea White Sail Series and Short Handed Series, WMYC Ladies Regatta, WMYC Centenary Regatta, WMYC Autumn Trophy and Finola Cup Races, DSC Friday Series, DSC commodores Regatta and squib fleet races.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the entrance hallway of WMYC.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any changes to sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect
- 3.2 Oral changes to sailing instructions may be made from the Committee Boat using VHF Channel 77 call sign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary'. When oral changes have been issued, the Committee Boat will display Code Flag L over Flag O.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be flown from the yardarm in front of WMYC.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 Races are scheduled in accordance with the 2017 WMYC and DSC Sailing Programmes.
- 5.2 Unless an amendment notice or an appendix to these Sailing Instructions is applicable, the scheduled start times for all races will be as published in the 2017 sailing programme.
- 5.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least five minutes before a warning signal is made
- 5.4 In any fleet, the minimum number of yachts required for a race to be started is two.
- 5.5 When the OOD has abandoned or postponed a race and it cannot be sailed on its original day the Sailing Committee may convene a meeting to decide what action to take. They will take into account the individual circumstances and the knock-on effect on any of the race series.

6 CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1 The following Class Flags will be used :-

IRC Fleet	Numeral Pennant 1
LH Fleet	Numeral Pennant 5
White Sail	Numeral Pennant 4

- 6.2 Class flags shall be flown from the backstay by all competitors
- 6.3 Legible Sail numbers shall be worn on at least the mainsail of all competing yachts

7 Racing Areas

- 7.1 The Race area is the Blackwater and Colne estuaries
- 7.2 The locations of the Racing marks may be found using the WMYC and DSC course chart which is produced annually.

8 COURSES

- 8.1 Unless amendments or alternative sailing instructions are given, courses will be taken from the 2017 WMYC and DSC combined Course Chart. The number of the course to be sailed will be that displayed on the rail of the Committee Boat at the Fleet warning signal. The course number may be removed after the Start Signal and replaced with the course for any following fleet. If the number of the course displayed on the Committee Boat is followed by X2, this denotes that 2 laps of that course should be sailed, X3 denotes that 3 laps of that course should be sailed, etc.
- 8.2 If course number 77 is displayed then the OOD will broadcast the course to be sailed on VHF Channel 77, call sign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary'. The broadcast will be issued approximately 15 minutes before the start of each race effected and may be displayed on a blackboard on the committee boat.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 The racing marks are yellow can shaped buoys that may additionally have a black flag. They are identified by their sponsor name and or their number.
- 9.2 Their approximate positions are shown on the Course Chart
- 9.3 If a mark is damaged or missing it may be replaced temporarily by a mark of a different appearance.
- 9.4 All other race marks shown on the Course Chart are charted navigation marks.
- 9.5 A Dan buoy will be orange with an orange flag
- 9.6 Laid marks shall be orange or yellow inflatables of any shape

10 THE START

- 10.1 Races will be started using rule 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal
- 10.2 The starting line will be either;
 - 10.2.1.1 One of the club starting lines- defined as a line between the main mast of the Committee Boat moored to the Committee Boat mooring buoy (approximately 200m to the south west of the Nass Beacon) and the OLM displayed on a board on the Committee Boat.
 - 10.2.1.2 If the board displays 'S' then Outer Limit Mark 'S' - (yellow buoy with a black flag) will be the OLM.
 - 10.2.1.3 If the board displays 'E' then Outer Limit Mark 'E' - (yellow buoy with a red flag) will be the OLM.
 - 10.2.1.4 If the board displays 'W' then Outer Limit Mark 'W' (yellow buoy with a green flag) will be the OLM

Or:

- 10.3 A Committee Boat Line – defined as a line between the main mast of the Committee Boat moored adjacent to a chosen mark or dan buoy.
- 10.4 A transit between the pole with a black flag on the Middle Ouse, and the Flagstaff on the WMYC lawn.
- 10.5 Which start line to be used shall be decided by the OOD and this information will be transmitted on VHF channel 77 using the call sign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary', a minimum of 15 minutes before the start of the race.
- 10.6 The starting countdown sequence may be broadcast on VHF channel 77, call sign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary'. This broadcast will be advisory only; competitors should refer to the start signals.
- 10.7 Competitors shall start in the direction of the first mark of the designated course.

11 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 11.1 To change a leg of a course the race committee will lay a new mark and signal in accordance with RRS 33 except the old mark may not be removed

12 THE FINISH

12.1 The finishing line will be between the main mast of the Committee Boat moored to the Committee Boat mooring buoy and the Outer Limit Mark 'S' (Black Flag) to the South of the Committee Boat mooring buoy.

OR

12.2 The finishing line will be between the Committee boat mast flying an orange flag and a danbuoy flying an orange flag

Or

12.3 A transit between the pole with a black flag on the Middle Ouse, and the Flagstaff on the WMYC lawn

13 TIME LIMITS

13.1

Event	First boat Time Limit	First mark Time limit First boat	First boat Target Time
Multi Race day	2 hours	30 mins	1.5 hours
Single Race days	3 hours	30 mins	2 hours

13.2 Any boat finishing within this time limit shall make the race valid. Boats failing to finish within 60 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be deemed to have retired and scored as DNF. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

14 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

14.1 A boat which wishes to lodge a protest shall verbally inform the OOD aboard the Committee Boat as soon as possible after finishing or retiring.

14.2 Protests shall be lodged in writing to the relevant Clubhouse by 18.00hrs on the day of the race, or within two hours of finishing, whichever is earlier.

15 SCORING

15.1 A boat disqualified (DSQ) shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that come to the starting area for that race. A boat that does not come to the starting area(DNC) shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series. This changes Appendix A4.2

15.2 OODs who normally race will receive their average points for the races in which they have competed during that series, for any race missed in that series while serving as OOD, calculated at the end of the series. See DSC Friday Series Appendix for separate rule relating to that series.

15.3 Results will be published separately for all yachts that have an IRC handicap

15.4 All yachts will be given an LH handicap by the Joint Handicap Committee and results will also be published including every yacht that raced on each occasion.

15.5 The White Sail Series is intended to appeal to boats which are less than fully crewed and do not have an IRC Rating. Scoring for these series will be by NHC handicap. See separate series appendices for any change

15.6 Points will be awarded on the following basis: Mersea Spring Points, Mersea Autumn Points and WMYC Club IRC Championship – points will only be awarded to yachts holding a valid 2017 IRC rating.

15.7 DSC Club Championship – points will be awarded based upon the overall results of yachts in the Mersea Spring Points Series, Mersea Autumn Points Series and DSC Friday Series using LH results.

Position in a series

15.8 In a series, each boat's score shall be the total of her race scores, excluding the number of her worst scores as specified in 15.12 below. The boat with the lowest series score wins and others shall be ranked accordingly.

Ties in races and series

- 15.9 Boats with the same corrected time in a race will be awarded equally the position as if one boat had that corrected time. Subsequent boats will be allocated positions as if tied boats ahead had been placed with different corrected times. This changes RRS Rule A7.
- 51.10 When there is a tie in a series, the tie will be broken in accordance with RRS Rule A8.

Extracting results for other series

- 15.11 For WMYC and DSC series within combined races, each boat will have its points calculated for the relevant event as if only boats for that particular event had been racing.

Number of Races and Number required to make a Series

- 15.12 The number of races scheduled in each series and the minimum number required to make a series in each case is set out in the following table:-

SERIES	NUMBER OF RACES	MINIMUM REQUIRED
MERSEA SPRING SERIES	7	4
MERSEA AUTUMN SERIES	7	4
WMYC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP	14	8
WHITE SAIL (NHC) CRUISER SERIES	8	5
DSC FRIDAY SERIES	15	7
SHORT HANDED SERIES	4	2

Discards Allowed

- 15.13 The number of scores that will be excluded for each boat in a series will be determined by the number of races completed in that series in accordance with the following table:-

Number of Races Completed	Less than 3	3-6	7-9	10-12	13-16
Number of Scores Excluded	None	1	2	3	4

See West Mersea White Sail Series and DSC Friday Series Appendices for separate rules relating to those series.

16 PRIZES

- 16.1 In general, prizes will be awarded in relation to the number of entries for each Race, Series, Division or Fleet as appropriate.

Up to 4 entries	1st Place only will be awarded.
5 to 8 entries	1st and 2 nd places will be awarded.
Over 8 entries	1st, 2nd and 3rd places will be awarded.

- 16.2 **Trophies and prizes will be presented at each Club's end of season prize giving event.**
- 16.3 Where there is more than one race on a day the trophy will be awarded based upon a boats combined score on that day. Individual trophies for MSP and MAP will be awarded based upon local handicap

results.

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 17.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the OOD as soon as possible.

Safety Declaration

- 17.2 Before competing in any race boat owners shall submit to the WMYC Secretariat a signed Safety Declaration as per the attached form APPENDIX 1. WMYC will copy these forms to DSC on a weekly basis. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN BOATS BEING SCORED D.N.C. This changes Rule A4.2, A5, A9

Safety Equipment

- 17.3 All boats shall carry a minimum of all the following safety equipment:

Lifejackets for all crew members

Lifebuoy

EPIRB and/or Handheld VHF or

Coastal Flare pack - 2 Red hand held flares and 2 Orange smoke flares, all in date

Fog Horn

Echo Sounder

Fire Extinguisher

Anchor, 2m chain and a minimum of 30ft cable

First Aid Kit

Marine Compass

Manual Bilge Pump permanently fitted and operated from cockpit

Stout Bucket with lanyard

A working VHF Radio

Bolt croppers or other effective means of cutting rigging

Suitable knife accessible from the deck effective for cutting sheets and halyards

Heaving line & Towing line

- 17.4 The following items are recommended:

Safety harnesses (one for each crew member)

kedge anchor and warp

storm jib

- 17.5 We require all Squibs to carry a hand held Marine Band Radio with charged batteries.

- 17.6 This list is not the basis of any definitive safety at sea recommendation by WMYC or DSC.

Inspections

- 17.7 The technical committee or their representatives of WMYC and DSC reserve the right to board any boat before or after any race to check safety equipment or class compliance. A boat found not to comply may be protested.

18 RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 18.1 Except in an emergency a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones, mobile PC's or similar electronic equipment.

- 18.2 Information regarding the race may be broadcast on VHF Channel 77 callsign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary', competitors are strongly advised to monitor that channel before and during the race.

19 RISK STATEMENT

- 19.1 Rule 4 of the RRS states "The responsibility for a boats decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone"
- 19.2 Sailing by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the events, each competitors agrees and acknowledges that;
- 19.2.1 They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk while taking part in the event
- 19.2.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore
- 19.2.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions
- 19.2.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate
- 19.2.5 The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities
- 19.2.6 The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- 19.2.7 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 safety briefing held for the event.
- 19.2.8 Competitors 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.

20 INSURANCE

- 20.1 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 in any currency

21. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are most grateful to those individuals, companies and organisations listed below that have kindly sponsored our racing marks for the 2017 season.

MARK	MARK NAME	SPONSOR
R.M 1	QUEST	Quest Motor Group
R.M 2	GOSLING	J. Gosling Insurance Ltd.
R.M 3	MICRO SCOOTERS	Micro scooters Ltd
R.M 5	PAYNES TURF	F.E.Payne & Son
R.M 6	BLACKWATER ESTATES	Blackwater Estates
R.M 10	ELLISONS	Ellisons Solicitors
R.M 12	WMYC	West Mersea Yacht Club
R.M 14	GEOFF HUNT	Geoff Hunt Boatbuilding
R.M 17	MILLER MOTOR GROUP	Miller Motor Group Ltd
R.M 18	WILLIAM HACKETT	William Hackett Chains Ltd
R.M MG	FRESH CATCH	Fresh Catch
O.L.M(W)	WHITTLE	Whittle and Co Chartered Accountants
O.L.M(S)	DABCHICKS	Dabchicks Sailing Club
O.L.M(E)	WORK SPACE	Space workplace Ltd
CB Mooring	MERSEA HOMES	Mersea Homes Ltd
Quarters Spit Nav. Buoy Thompson Smith & Puxon Solicitors		

APPENDIX 1
WMYC & DSC JOINT CRUISER
SAFETY DECLARATION 2017

In accordance with the Mersea Joint Cruiser Racing Sailing Instructions, and RRS92 The technical committee shall before racing ensure that, all yachts racing have signed and submitted to WMYC Secretariat a copy of this Safety Declaration.

A. INSURANCE - I confirm that my yacht named / Sail Number..... has a minimum of £2 million third party insurance cover.

B. SAFETY EQUIPMENT - I confirm that my yacht carries all the following items of equipment:-

Lifejackets for all crew members

Lifebuoy

EPIRB and/or working handheld VHF or

Coastal Flare pack - 2 Red hand held flares and 2 Orange smoke flares, all in date

Fog Horn

Echo Sounder

Fire Extinguisher

Anchor, 2m chain and a minimum of 30ft cable

First Aid Kit

Marine Compass

Manual Bilge Pump permanently fitted and operated from cockpit

Stout Bucket with lanyard

A working VHF Radio

Bolt croppers or other effective means of cutting rigging

Suitable knife accessible from the deck effective for cutting sheets and halyards

Heaving line & Towing line

Signed _____ Owner _____ (Print Name)

Date _____

Contact Email Address _____