



Merlin Rocket 76th **Aspire** National Championships

Brading Haven YC

30th July – 3rd August 2023

Organising Authority: Brading Haven Yacht Club (BHYC)
in conjunction with the Merlin Rocket Owners' Association (MROA)

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the RYA Racing Charter.
- 1.2 Any amendment to this Notice of Race will be posted on the MROA website no later than 1st July 2023.
- 1.3 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes procedures shall apply (for information on the procedures, go to www.rya.org.uk/go/rulesdisputes). The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee, but an arbitration cannot be reopened or appealed.
- 1.4 **Sail numbers are not required on spinnakers**

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Sailing Instructions (SI) will be available from the MROA website no later than 18th July 2023.
- 2.2 At the discretion of the Organising Authority, draft Sailing Instructions may be released earlier on the MROA website.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official noticeboard location will be published with the Sailing Instructions and may be online.
- 3.2 All competitors are strongly advised to join a WhatsApp group for the event which may be used to draw attention to Notices to Competitors and other event information.
- 3.3 **[DP]** Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to boats of the Merlin Rocket class with a valid measurement certificate and whose helm is a current member of the MROA at the time of the event.
- 4.2 **The maximum entry is limited to 100 boats.**
- 4.3 Eligible boats may enter by submitting a completed entry form and paying the appropriate entry fee via the MROA website.
- 4.4 Entry will close on **1st June 2023**. Later entries may be accepted subject to payment of an additional fee.
- 4.5 Helms and crews less than 18 years of age during the event shall submit signed Parent/Guardian Declarations at the time of entry.

5. ENTRY FEES

- 5.1 Entry Fee per boat:

Standard Entry £175

Commented [1]: Does this still need to be in place, I thought this was sorted

Commented [2R1]: I think you're right but it doesn't hurt to leave it.

Commented [3]: Do we need to say where the official noticeboard is?

Commented [4]: Can we say expected? This could be seen as decimating against those who don't use WhatsApp. Asked to join yes. But I presume all official noticeboards and flags will be in place otherwise?

Commented [5]: What does DP mean?

Commented [6R5]: Discretionary penalty

Commented [7]: Is this new, this implies people can use a phone to VHF to communicate externally. Do we need to clarify what an 'emergency is' if this is the case?

Commented [8]: I thought we were aiming for and actively pushing for 100 boats?

Commented [9R8]: This can be amended later without controversy.

Commented [10]: This seems rather early?

Under 25 crew entry - £150

Under 25 helm entry - £150

Under 25 Helm and crew entry - £100

Late entry fee - £250

6. CREW LIMITATIONS

6.1 Merlin Rocket Class Rules will apply. *(Shall consist of two persons)*

7. ADVERTISING

7.1 Advertising shall comply with WS Regulation 20 and the Merlin Rocket Class Rules.

7.2 Boats may be required to display event-supplied competitor advertising as per the Class Rule C.4.1.

7.3 The area of mainsail below the bottom batten shall be reserved for advertising by the event sponsor.

Commented [11]: Do we need to highlight this is different to the Classic Series?

Commented [13]: Do we need to say in the event of conflict which rule overrides the other?

Commented [14]: remove competitor and replace with sponsor or event?

Commented [15]: IS this relevant, as competitors are not allowed to put anything here anyway?

8. EVENT SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Warning signal (Not before)	Event
1	Saturday 29 th July	09:00-17:00 09:30-18:00 20:00	Equipment inspection Registration (in MBSC Clubhouse) Competitors' Briefing (Details of how these will work will be published before the event. Registration may be completed online and the briefing streamed online.)
2	Sunday 30 th July	09:00-11:00 11:55 ASAP after race 1	Registration (in MBSC Clubhouse) Race 1 – Founders Trophy Race 2 – Beechers Cup
3	Monday 31 st July	11:55 ASAP after race 3	Race 3 – Clyde Quaich Race 4 – West Country Trophy
4	Tuesday 1 st August	11:55 ASAP after race 5	Race 5 – Silent World Trophy Race 6 – Top Hat Trophy Crews Race
5	Wednesday 2 nd August	11:55 ASAP after race 6	Race 7 – Ranelagh Trophy Race 8 – Winter Trophy
6	Thursday 3 rd August	11:55 17:30	Race 9 – Howard Trophy Prizegiving

Commented [16]: Brading Haven Clubhouse?

Commented [17]: Brading Haven Clubhouse

No warning signal will be made after 14:00 on Thursday 4th August 2022 unless fewer than three races have been completed in the series.

Commented [18]: Thursday 3rd August 2023

9. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

9.1 Boats may be subject to pre-event measurement checks at the times prescribed in “NoR 8. Event Schedule”.

9.2 Additional measurement checks may be carried out at any time during the event.

9.3 The measuring authority is the Royal Yachting Association.

9.4 Entrants will be required to produce a valid RYA Measurement Certificate at Inspection and Registration

9.5 The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this Notice of Race.

10. CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

- 10.1 RRS 50.1 will apply
- 10.2 RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times while afloat

11. VENUE

- 11.1 Racing will take place in The Solent to the northeast/east of Priory Bay.

12. COURSES

- 12.1 Example courses are at Appendix 1.

- 12.2 The expected race target time for the lead boat to finish will be;
 - (a) 70 minutes when one race is scheduled (and for the Ranelagh Trophy race if run on a day when two races are scheduled).
 - (b) 60 minutes when two races are scheduled.
 - (c) 50 minutes when three races are scheduled.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 Appendix P shall apply as modified by the Sailing Instructions.

14. SCORING

- 14.1 The Scoring System will be as follows:
 - (a) Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
 - (b) When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
 - (c) When five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
 - (d) When nine races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- 14.2 The Crews' Race, if sailed, will not form part of the scoring series.

15. SUPPORT BOATS

- 15.1 [DP] Support boats shall register at the Race Office at the time prescribed in NoR 5 and shall be responsible for payment of any launching fees direct to the appropriate authority.
- 15.2 [DP] Support boats shall, at all times, remain clear of the race area unless specifically directed by the Race Officer or Event Safety Officer.
- 15.3 [DP] Support boats shall carry a VHF radio and monitor Channel 37A (M1) for communications from the Race Committee.
- 15.4 The Jury boat will display IC flag "J" or a white flag with JURY in black lettering

16. BERTHING/LAUNCHING

- 16.1 [DP] Boats shall be berthed on their launching trollies in their assigned places in the boat park.
- 16.2 [DP] Launching and recovery will be from the beach on the east side of Bembridge Harbour.

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, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

18. RISK STATEMENT

- 18.1 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.'

Commented [19]: What does DP mean this is in loads of places?

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:

- (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;
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise 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. INSURANCE

19.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent thereof.

20. PRIZES

20.1 Prizes will be awarded as follows:

Yachting World Trophy	The helm of overall winning boat
City of Plymouth Trophy	The winning crew sailing the same boat throughout the event.
Daily trophies	See section 8
Abererch Trophy	First helm aged between 45 and 55
Draycote Water Spring Series Trophy	First helm aged 55 or over
Anniversary Trophy	First Helm aged 20 or under
King Cup	First boat with an aggregate age between helm and crew of 49 or under.
Centennial trophy	First boat with a combined age between helm and crew of 100 or over.
Grafham Goblet	First crew aged 18 or under sailing in the same boat throughout the championship
Minima Trophy	First female competitor sailing in the same boat throughout the championship.

Amazons cup	First female helm.
Neil Henderson Cup	First helm and crew related by birth or marriage sailing in the same boat throughout the championship
Ball and Chain Trophy	First boat sailed by a couple not married or related by birth sailing in the same boat throughout the championship
Heavyweights prize	First helm and crew with a combined weight of 26 stone (165kg) or more sailing in the same boat throughout the championships.
Triangle Team Trophy	Club scoring the lowest total points with their best three boats sailed by the same three helms throughout the championships
Buttercup Trophy	Lowest placed boat having completed all qualifying races in the series (i.e. all races sailed)
Old boats prize	First boat with sail number 3603 or below.
Looe Board	Most cheerful competitors as judged by the host club.

Commented [20]: See earlier comment

Where qualification for a trophy is age dependant, ages are to be taken as on the 30th July 2023.

Entries will be allocated into Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze fleets as decided by the MROA.

Three Islands Trophy	Highest placed boat in Gold Fleet
Jack Holt Plate	Highest placed boat in Silver Fleet.
Maurice Cockerill Trophy	Highest placed boat in Bronze fleet.

Sparkling wine will be awarded to the first 21 boats to finish the Ranelagh Race. Glassware will be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority, details to be published with the sailing instructions.

Commented [21]: This isn't quite as glam as the 'Champagne Race'

Commented [22R21]: Its been sparkling wine for years

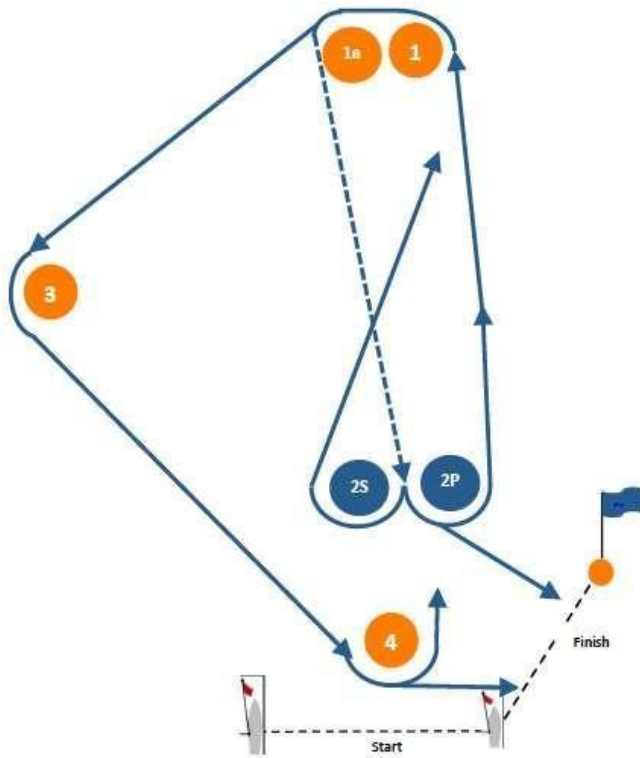
21. FURTHER INFORMATION

21.1 Information websites: Further information about the event and venue may be found at the following websites:

Merlin Rocket Owners Association: www.merlinrocket.co.uk
Brading Haven YC (www.bhyc.co.uk)

APPENDIX 1

Sausage/Triangle (ST)



COURSE	
ST2	Start - 1 - 1a - 2S/2P - 1 - 1a - 3 - 4 - finish
ST3	Start - 1 - 1a - 2S/2P - 1 - 1a - 3 - 4 - 1 - 1a - 2P - finish
ST4	Start - 1 - 1a - 2S/2P - 1 - 1a - 3 - 4 - 1 - 1a - 2S/2P - 1 - 1a - 3 - 4 - finish
ST5	Start - 1 - 1a - 2S/2P - 1 - 1a - 3 - 4 - 1 - 1a - 2S/2P - 1 - 1a - 3 - 4 - 1 - 1a - 2p - finish