



ROYAL
ESCAPE
RACE

2023
26th May



NOTICE OF RACE

Royal Escape Race 2023

Launched in 1977 to mark the Queen's silver jubilee, the historic Royal Escape Race is now amongst the oldest offshore sailing races in the country.

Celebrating the escape of King Charles II from Cromwell after the Battle of Worcester, the race follows the route that Charles took aboard the coal barge Surprise from Shoreham-by-Sea to reach safety in the Normandy port of Fécamp.

The apparently simple course nevertheless provides plenty of challenges for both enthusiastic offshore racers and the less experienced wanting to try their hand at some cross channel racing. Once ashore in France, a warm welcome can be anticipated at the Société des Régates de Fécamp located right on the quayside.

Route: Brighton to Fecamp (approximately 66.5NM)

Date of race: 26th May 2023

First warning signal: 08.00 BST

Organising authority: Sussex Yacht Club

1. Rules

The Royal Escape Race is governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 (RRS), the prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association when they apply, and (for boats racing in the IRC Class) the IRC Rule 2023 (save as amended by this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions) and by this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.

1.1 For all classes RRS Parts 1, 2 and 3 shall apply subject to the following amendment: Stored power may be used to operate winches and, for solo or double-handed entries only, stored power may be used for steering. RRS 52 and IRC Rule 15.1 are amended accordingly.

1.2 IRC Rule 22.4.2 shall not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight except as required for boats

racing in a one design class which shall comply with IRC Rule 22.4.1.

1.3 For all Yachts during the hours of darkness from sunset to sunrise, and for Escape Class Yachts under propulsion prior to rounding the turning mark, and Opted Motor Sailing Yachts, the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea will replace the relevant rules of Part 2 of the RRS.

2 Responsibility

A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety and nothing whether in the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, race website, race correspondence or anywhere else reduces this overriding and absolute responsibility.

2.1 It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By going to sea the

boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and her crew is competent to sail in them.

- 2.2 Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the race and event. 'The organisers' includes everyone involved in the administration of the race and the event and includes, among others, the organising authority, the race committee, the race officers and the crews of patrol boats. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities.
- 2.3 The boat is responsible to ensure that she is equipped and seaworthy to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience, training and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, of sufficient capacity, properly stowed and that the crew know how to use it.
- 2.4 That the race committee may conduct inspections does not reduce the responsibilities of the boat set out in this section (2).
- 2.5 The attention of all competitors is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4 "Decision to Race": "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- 2.6 It is a responsibility of the boat to ensure all its crew understand and accept the risks involved in competing

3 Insurance

Each boat shall be covered by Third Party Liability Insurance for a minimum of £3,000,000 and shall be covered for racing risks

4 Classes and handicaps / ratings

The race is open to boats holding a valid IRC certificate and to boats having a current Sussex Combined Clubs Handicap (SCCH)

- 4.1 IRC; All yachts holding an IRC certificate including short-handed certificates shall race within the IRC class.
- 4.2 SCCH; All other yachts shall race under SCCH (Sussex Combined Clubs Handicap).
- 4.3 Once entered, a yacht will not be permitted to change class.
- 4.4 The IRC and SCCH classes may be subdivided into a shorthanded division for boats with one or two crew (including skipper).
- 4.5 The SCCH class may be further subdivided into an Escape class for gaff-rigged or other yachts with limited windward performance. Inclusion in this class is by request and at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 4.6 Yachts racing in the IRC Class shall submit a copy of their current IRC certificate by email attachment to the race committee (TBC in Sailing Instructions) no later than noon on Friday 19th May 2023. No alteration in a yacht's TCC will be permitted after this date except as a result of a rating protest or to correct Rating Office errors.

5 Safety Regulations

Boats must comply with the International Sailing Federation Offshore Special Regulations for Race Category 3 with Life Raft, with the following exceptions:

- 5.1 That a suitable offshore marine life raft/s of sufficient capacity and with either a current 3 year or annual certificate (the

original or a copy must be available for inspection) is acceptable.

- 5.3 Although it is strongly advised that boats are fitted with an AIS transponder this is not mandatory. This changes Offshore Special Regulation 3.29.13.

6. Sailing Instructions

- 6.1 Instructions will be made available in good time by download from the race website at www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk
- 6.2 Changes to Sailing Instructions will be made in accordance with RRS 89.2.
- 6.3 The event notice board will be on the Event Website at www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk

7. Communications

- 7.1 Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be published on the event website.
- 7.2 On the morning of the Race, signals will be made by regular comms on VHF Ch.72 broadcast from the vicinity of Brighton Marina.
- 7.3 On 28th May 2023 communications may also be posted on the noticeboard of The Societe des Regates de Fecamp (SRF)

8. Prizes

Retention trophies will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each class/ division.

9. Mooring fees

Entrants will be entitled to free mooring in Fecamp for the nights 26-27 and 27-28 May

10. Social

- 10.1 The SRF will be open during the night 26-27 May. There will be an informal prizegiving event at SRF on the afternoon of 27 May 2023 with final timing TBC.
- 10.2 There will be a formal prize-giving event (at separate cost to the race entry fee), including awarding of trophies, at Sussex Yacht Club, 85/89 Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6RF at 7pm on 24th June 2023.

11. Entry and entry fees

- 11.1 Boats shall enter via the link on the event website
- 11.2 The closing date for entry will be 19th May 2023.
- 11.3 At the discretion of the Race Committee last minute entries may be accepted after the closing date on payment of the entry fee.
- 11.4 The entry fee will be £125 per boat
- 11.5 There will be an 'early bird' entry fee of £105 for entries received before 28th February 2023
- 11.6 Race entry fees will not be refunded if a yacht cancels their entry or retires.
- 11.7 In the event that for any reason the race is cancelled or abandoned by the organisers, a refund of 50% of paid race entry fees only will be made. The organisers accept no responsibility for any other costs incurred.
- 11.8 No other refunds or claims for compensation will be considered.