

## Welcome to Southport!

The race is held under the burgee of West Lancashire Yacht Club, in collaboration with the RYA, the Associations and the competing clubs, helping to stage the event for the 53<sup>rd</sup> time. This ‘Captain’s Guide’ summarises what you and your team need to know to compete successfully in the race and have a safe, enjoyable and memorable weekend.





# 'Captain's Guide'

Updated 21 07 2024



## Southport

West Lancashire Yacht Club, founded in 1894, is located on the Marine Lake in Southport. In September it becomes the destination for hundreds of sailors and visitors, from dinghy sailing clubs throughout the UK, competing in this unique event. Use the postcode PR8 1RY and your sat-nav will get you here.

The first WLYC 24 Hour Race in 1967 was held to celebrate the centenary of the Borough of Southport and this will be the 53<sup>rd</sup> time the event has been staged. The overall winner of the race is awarded the Southport Centenary Trophy. However, there are many races within the race with over thirty trophies to be won. Every team that finishes the race receives a distinctive shield to mark their achievement and to display in their home clubhouse.

## Car & Boat Parking

Access to West Lancashire YC off Marine Drive is clearly signposted. A one-way system will be in operation on the access road to the Club, please follow the signs and direction of Club members on arrival. All vehicles with trailers entering the dinghy park will enter via the northern gate entrance of Southport Sailing Club (SSC). You will be directed to a space where your vehicle and trailer can be parked for the weekend.

Each competing boat is allocated a 9.75m x 2.5m space in the dinghy park to accommodate the boat, trolley, road trailer and towing vehicle. The maximum towing vehicle size should not exceed 2.3m wide x 5.5m long. Boats arriving on double-stacked trailers will need to be off-loaded. An area in the WLYC main car park will be allocated for the storage of double-stacked trailers if required. When leaving the dinghy park all vehicles must exit via the southern WLYC gate. Parking for ALL other vehicles is in the designated parking area on Marine Drive, immediately behind WLYC.

The public car parks on Marine Drive are run by Sefton Council and parking charges will be in force before and during the event. Details of the charges will be published in August. Payment should be made at the pay machine. Payment cannot be made using your mobile phone. The parking ticket must be displayed in your car together with a 24 Hour Race Visitor's Parking Permit, the absence of which will result in a parking fine.

Please observe the no-parking cones along the access road to the Club. Clear access is required for the emergency services.

## Team Bases

Each competing boat will be able to set up a team base in the marked 3.0m x 3.0m slots adjacent to the side of the lake. Clubs with two or more boats will be allocated a 3.0m x 6.0m slot.

## Accommodation

Some Clubs and teams will want to camp on the shore of the Marine Lake to be close to the action. Space for camping under canvas will be limited at the neighbouring Southport Sailing Club (SSC) and will be available on a first come first served basis. Campers will be requested to make a donation to SSC. There will not be space for any camping



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vehicles to be left in the dinghy park. Please refer to the Camping Rules if you intend to pitch a tent or gazebo.

Sefton Council have confirmed that caravans and camper vans may park overnight in the designated car park on Marine Drive.

There are also commercial accommodation options in the town, including the Premier Inn with free parking for residents (10 minutes' walk), as well as nearby guest houses and Air B&Bs and the Travelodge. It will be good to book early because the Fireworks Festival will take place in Victoria Park on the same weekend. For those who come to enjoy a more leisurely weekend in Southport supporting their club team and watching the event, the four star Waterfront Hotel (15 minutes' walk) is offering 24 Hour Race participants and event visitors a 20% discount (code: EVENTBB) and complimentary parking if booked directly with the hotel.

## **Camping**

Please help everyone by adhering to the rules which will be published on the WLYC 24 Hour Race webpage for safe management of the site, which includes the dinghy park, car parks and camping areas at SSC.

## **Catering**

Competitors are encouraged to patronize the catering and bar services provided, to support the financial viability of the event. Hot and cold food and drinks are available from **Clayton Park** caterers throughout the weekend and the bar will be open until the early hours, selling alcoholic and non-alcoholic wines, beers and spirits. Card transactions are preferred. The WLYC Club lounge will be open to sailors and spectators wearing dry clothes. There will be a marquee with an additional card-only bar on the front terrace of the Club to accommodate any overflow and those wearing wet clothes.

If you're feeling a bit jaded after the Friday evening entertainment or a stint on the lake on Saturday night perhaps a strong coffee from the Clayton Park outlet is required. During the day on Saturday & Sunday speciality coffees will be available.

## **Entertainment**

If you want to meet up with friends and dance the night away, you need to arrive on Friday evening. The band will be playing live at 21:00, followed by our very own DJ Steve Blackburn until the early hours.

## **Tracking**

Many Clubs set up team bases on the shore of the lake. You must arrive early to get the best spot! You (and your supporters at your home clubs) will also be able to track developments online using SailRacer – please note the GPS tracking will be indicative and will not include deductible penalties or be valid for race scoring purposes.

During the race frequent updates of current team positions are published by the Scoring team on the Sailing Notices Board in the club lounge windows. The club lounge and the marquee in front of the club bar should both provide a good view of the race, including the changeover action in the docking area and entertainment when the C mark is a gybe mark.



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## **Chandlery**

No problem! If your boat needs a repair, call in to the on-site chandlery in the dinghy park, run by our main sponsor Marine Supplies Direct. There is a large stock of equipment to help get you back on the water. While you're there you might even pick up a sale bargain!

## **Information Centre**

We have a team of WLYC members in our Information Centre who will be able to answer any queries you may have during the weekend. They are based in the front porch of the clubhouse.

The Information Centre, located in the main entrance to WLYC, is open from Friday 12:00 – 22:00, on Saturday from 08:00 – 00:00 and on Sunday from 07:00 until 14:00. Registration is online by 31<sup>st</sup> August and you'll need to call in to the Information Centre on Friday 20th if any registration details have to be amended. If there are no changes to your team you will still need to call in on Friday or Saturday morning to confirm the registered details are correct and to collect essential items such as the night lights for your boat.

## **Duty rota**

The online registration form includes a section inviting the competing clubs' sailors and non-sailing supporters to volunteer for the duty rotas. Participants will be volunteering for a variety of roles, including assistant race officers, safety boat, first aid, observing/timekeeping and 'scrutineering' as well as parking marshals – see the descriptions for each of these roles which are published on the WLYC 24 Hour Race webpage. Team Captains are asked to ensure that any changes in volunteer shifts affecting their team members are minimized and any essential changes are communicated to the relevant duty shift leaders well in advance.

## **Environment**

Please help us to care for our environment by taking part in our sustainable sailing initiatives and keeping the dinghy park and camping areas tidy for everyone.

Around the site there will be coloured bins which will be clearly marked in order to segregate recyclable and non-recyclable waste.



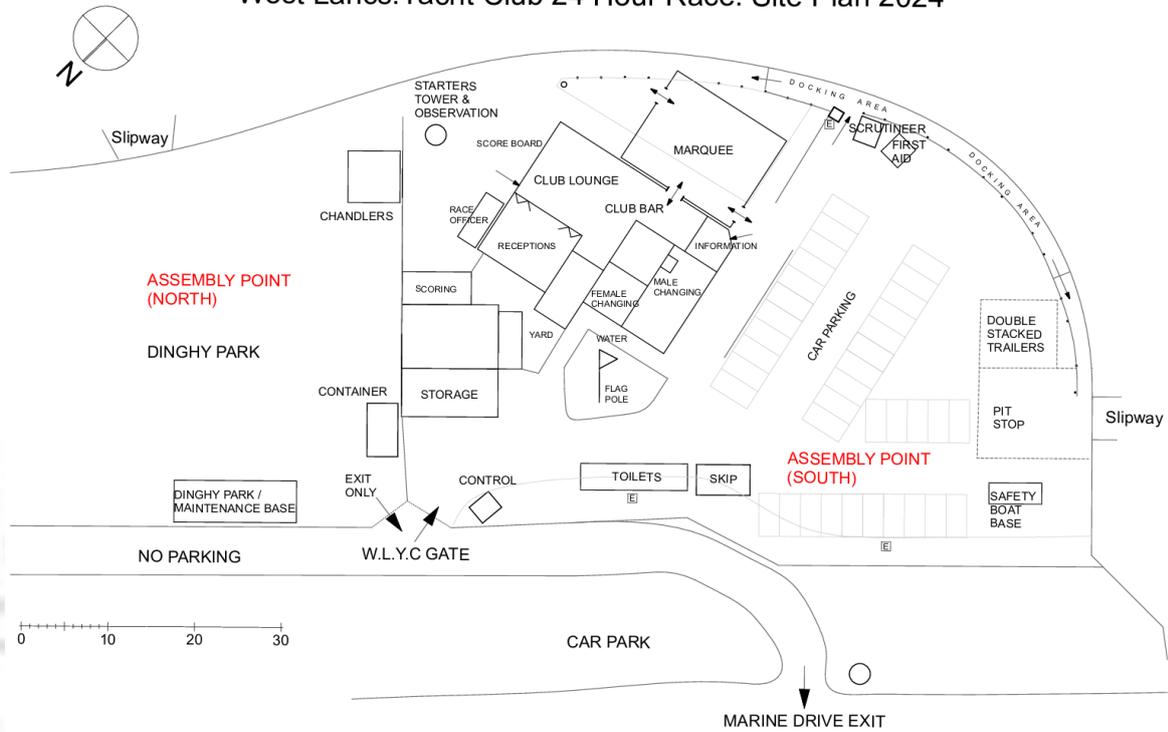
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Provisional site plan below is indicative and will be updated

West Lancs. Yacht Club 24 Hour Race. Site Plan 2024



***NB The following sections provide some guidance relating to the race and do not form part of, or vary, the Sailing Instructions.***



## **Boats**

Ensure in good time that your boat's measurement certificate and insurance policy conform with the Sailing Instructions.

You need to prepare your boat! At least check the standing and running rigging, put together, tighten any shackles, replace any frayed lines and put together a collection of spares to be available by the pit crew.

If possible, stick on the black adhesive vinyl patches onto the hull that are going to carry your club number (used for scoring) in advance, it can be difficult to achieve good adhesion on the day, especially if its damp or blowing.

Navigation lights are required when sailing at night, glow sticks coloured red and green can be purchased from the Information Centre when you check in. These should be attached to the shrouds by tie wraps.

Consider whether you may want to shorten sail (reef, use cruising sails in an Enterprise or a midi genoa in a GP). Consider too whether (within your class rules) you can have a spoon rudder blade available, or at least have a good mechanism for raising and lowering the rudder blade to clear the weed which sometimes builds up in the lake.

Make sure that you have a protest flag (see the Sailing Instructions) available in the boat, if not, these are available at the Information Centre.

Crews should be alert to the risk of weed catching on the boat's foils.

## **Start**

The race starts in a series of flights, each typically comprising 10 boats, at one-minute intervals. Boats are allocated to flights based broadly on their finishing position at the last event. Flight 0 (numbers 1 to 9) starts at 12:00, flight 1 (numbers 10 to 19) at 12:01 and so on.

A holding line is set behind the starting line and, after the preparatory signal (11:55), the area between the starting line and holding line is a no-go zone for boats until a minute



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before their starts - so launch in good time to get back behind the holding line before the preparatory signal. Failure to do so will incur a penalty.

Premature starters (boats over the starting line at their start) should keep going (they will be penalised 5 minutes for their sin) - this is to avoid their return interfering with the start of the next flight.

## Course

The clockwise triangular course starts towards the northeast. The turning marks at the apexes of the triangle are tetrahedral tubular structures, sat on the lakebed. Beware of getting too close, especially with the boat heeled, as the centreboard could catch on an underwater leg of the tetrahedron

Once round the first mark (A mark) and returning on the east side of the lake, watch for the concrete breakwater which extends from the promenade nearly halfway across the lake. Red lights are positioned along the length of the breakwater to indicate its location. Past the breakwater, sailing between the islands and the promenade, be aware of the wind shadow from both; it rarely pays to be close to either.

Crews must take care to avoid shallows, particularly around the perimeter of the islands. These are marked by posts each with a yellow navigation light.

After rounding B and C marks, the lap is completed as the boats cross the starting line.

A large inflatable yellow buoy (D mark), towards the club house end of the line, should be left to port **unless** you wish to acknowledge an infringement of the rules, when you should pass inside D mark, leaving it to starboard and thereby accepting a five-minute penalty.

Most racing incidents are resolved by one party leaving D to starboard at the end of the lap and accepting the penalty incurred. However, if the incident is disputed a protest flag should be hoisted until the boat next docks and it has been drawn to the attention of the scrutineers who will issue a protest form.

## Docking

The docking area is the only place where boats may change crews or receive outside assistance. It is marked by a row of buoys in front of the clubhouse between C mark and the starting line. Teams are reminded that crews must choose their approach so that the changeover is executed safely.

Some clubs send out their crews for fixed periods (typically 1.5 to 2.5 hours depending on wind strength) while others prefer to be more flexible and call in crews (some by shouting, some by exhibiting a pre-arranged signal board) for a changeover depending on performance, the state of the race or to take advantage of a period of light traffic in the docking area.

## Nighttime

Towards dusk (typically 19:45) sound and light signals from the control tower indicate the boats' port & starboard navigation lights must be activated. Most competitors use the glow stick lights obtained from Information which last until dawn.



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The lap line (starting line) where the boats are scored is well lit from the clubhouse side; night vision is best preserved by avoiding looking at the lights.

Even if it's been balmy in the day, the September nights are generally cold and it's wise to dress accordingly; the coldest hour is just before dawn.

There are several safety boats on patrol during the race, with a view to offering assistance to those who need it. Boats accepting assistance will have that lap disallowed and are normally towed back to the docking area by the patrol boat concerned.

## **Infringements**

The safety boats can also carry, from time to time, designated observers (generally qualified judges) watching for infringement of the unfair propulsion rules and applying penalties (advised to the team ashore and posted on the notice board) when these are observed. Rocking, ooching and pumping will be penalised.

## **Protests**

Ashore, the teams should watch the Sailing Notices Board for notice of protests (although none are held at night).

## **Declarations**

Clubs should be ready to check the official lap and penalty counts (the 'Declaration Reports') published on the Sailing Notices Board at approximately 8-hour intervals and at the end of the race. If you think that these records for your team are wrong, come to the Information office with evidence for your belief (eg recorded lap times) within one hour of publication of the Declaration Report. Depending on the evidence provided by you (eg 'we lapped at 12.30, 13.00 etc', not 'I am sure we are ahead of X and they have been credited with 1 lap more than us'), the race officers may be prepared to look again at the records. If, after an hour since publication of the report (half an hour at the end of the race) it has not been challenged, teams are deemed to have accepted it. The object is to spot any discrepancies so that these can be resolved as the race goes on.

## **Results**

Interim positions are shown in the clubhouse, and sometimes throw up apparent anomalies. For example, if the wind has dropped and you have done one lap more than your nearest competitor, the interim results may show you behind him. This is because the interim results are based on average lap time and your extra slower lap has brought down your average lap time. The end of race calculation is designed to avoid this problem.

## **Finish**

The finish is at 12:00 on the Sunday. A signal from the control tower will sound at 12:00 and following this each boat crossing the Finishing Line will be marked by a sound signal. When you are finished clear the line as soon as possible.

## **Trophies**

Please pass by the Information office before you leave to collect your finisher's plaque, unless you expect to have won a prize or trophy, in which case, please do stay for the prizegiving which will take place in the clubhouse lounge and adjacent marquee.



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## Captain's 'to do' list

1. Prepare the boat
2. Coach the team
3. Fit the allocated race number to the boat (instructions and materials will be supplied in advance by WLYC). Fix at least the black backing panels for the identification numbers in advance, and preferably also the numbers themselves.
4. Fit the SailRacer GPS tracker to the boat on arrival (instructions will be provided in advance and the trackers on arrival)
5. Ensure all team members and volunteers complete the registration form and encourage them to sign up for volunteer duties