



## WLYC 24 Hour Race – Questions & Answers

### **Main Questions**

**So you've tested the water and we all want to know, will the 24 Hour Race go ahead this year?**

Yes, sailing clubs tell us they are eager to take part this year, so we plan to go ahead. The enthusiasm shown has been overwhelming. The event has been held 52 times and several clubs are wanting to maintain their unbroken run by participating for the 53<sup>rd</sup> time. More than 30 clubs have competed more than 30 times. It's a very special, iconic event which no one wants to miss.

**Will the 24 Hour Race be the same as in the past?**

Yes, we'll retain all the spirit and excitement of the traditional WLYC 24 Hour Race on the water, whilst streamlining some onshore facilities. What is going to change is that in common with the spirit of the times we'll adopt an innovative, collaborative model in running the event, sharing some of the organisational load and learning from the best practice of other sailing clubs and organisations.

**What does collaboration mean in practice?**

The RYA have been extremely helpful in advising and supporting us on race management and race officials. We're grateful to the GP14 Association who will manage online entry for teams sailing both Enterprises and GP14s and the Enterprise Association have supported the publicity.

We're asking all clubs which enter a team to provide some trained resources to help us make the event safe and enjoyable. Budworth Sailing Club have stepped up to organise the duty rota together with the competing clubs. We're working closely with Southport Sailing Club on results reporting. It's going to be teamwork and all the more fun because of it. Being able to count on this generous support and the enthusiasm of the clubs who want to take part has given us the confidence to go ahead.

**What does the revived event mean to West Lancashire Yacht Club?**

We're immensely proud of having been the hosts of the UK's premier dinghy sailing endurance event for 52 years. Now we want to start writing the new history of the revived 24 Hour Race, together with our event partners and the participating clubs.

**How will the revived event fit in with the rest of the sailing calendar?**

We are bringing back the event at short notice so there may be one or two conflicts which we hope to avoid next year. This team race provides club sailors a different level of challenge, fun and experience. It complements the other two great dinghy sailing endurance events hosted by the hardy sailors of the northwest of England. Leigh and Lowton Sailing Club are welcoming club teams to Pennington Flash in Greater Manchester for the Sunrise to Sunset Race on 8th June – it will be a chance to practice ahead of the WLYC 24 Hour Race in September, and for junior sailors Southport Sailing Club are hosting their National Junior 12 Hour Race on 29th June, also on the safe waters of the town's Marine Lake.



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### **Additional questions**

#### **Is the event open to all?**

Yes. We're hoping to welcome teams from throughout the UK and beyond, as we have in the past, including race veterans and the next generation. Teams may represent their own club or simply be affiliated to the relevant association.

In principle, the race is for boats entered by clubs or organisations affiliated to the RYA, or another World Sailing member national authority, and sailed by a team representing that club or organisation.

Entry is also open to teams from unaffiliated clubs or organisations such as groups of university alumni or sailors from a mix of clubs coming together in a new or informal club formed for the purposes of participation, whose Team Captain is known to West Lancashire Yacht Club as a past participant or is a current outport member of the Club on the date of entry.

#### **How many teams can each club enter?**

As it's a nationwide event, we want to involve as many clubs as possible. We will accept entry from one boat per club during the first month and clubs can enter additional boats from 24<sup>th</sup> March. We don't anticipate putting a limit on the number of teams per club. The total number of boats will be limited to 75, in this first year of the revived event.

#### **How many people do you think is a good number for a team and how long does each person in a team typically sail for?**

It's up to each team and its Captain to decide how many members to include and decisions on the team make-up is an important part of race strategy. There is no restriction or recommendation on numbers.

Typically, a helm and crew might sail for ~2 hours before having a changeover, but this might vary depending on weather conditions and team strategy. The average number of sailors in a team is ~10, although we often welcome much smaller teams and indeed larger – every member of one club sailed at some point during the 24 hours in one year, while some charity raising boats have sailed with the same helm and crew throughout the 24 hours.

It's sometimes the case that clubs enter two boats, one of which is 'competitive' and the other 'participative'. A competitive team might have 6-8 members, with a range of skills, experience and weights to cope with a wide variety of weather conditions, and to maintain tactical flexibility. The participative team might have one or two more, including some club members whose racing experience is less competitive but sufficient for their participation to be safe and enjoyable.



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Teams sometimes have a shore-based Captain plus other shore-based technical and domestic supporters. Teams will need to nominate trained volunteers for the duty rotas, who may also be competitors.

### **Which classes of boat can compete?**

We expect to limit entries to Enterprises and GP14s in the first year of the revived race, so that race management is simpler as we re-establish the event in the racing calendar. Larks and Fireflies have been included in the past and may be in the future.

### **Can you tell us the entry fee?**

Early bird entry is now open at £330. The full set of entry fees are published online.

### **What facilities will be provided?**

We will streamline some onshore facilities compared with previous years and put the focus on the racing, with safety on the water and onshore our top priority. Food, drink and sanitation facilities will be provided onshore and we'll do our best to make it a fun event which creates lifelong memories. We'll let teams know when the plans are in place.

### **What about camping accommodation?**

We expect there to be some limited accommodation for camping under canvas in the dinghy park of WLYC and land adjacent to SSC. The Waterside Lodge camping areas are unavailable this year due to a conflicting event. Sefton Council have agreed to provide adjacent parking facilities for our exclusive use on Marine Drive, where there is ample public parking as well, so camper vans may be a very good option.

### **What alternative accommodation is there?**

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. 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.

### **How can we help?**

We are collaborating with the RYA, the class associations, and competing clubs as necessary to ensure this popular event can take place enjoyably and safely. For

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example, we will ask competing clubs to provide some suitably trained people to help as a race official, timekeeper, safety boat driver or first aider. We'll let the clubs and team captains know nearer the time.

