



Questions & Answers

Updated 18 07 2024

in association with



Will the 24 Hour Race go ahead this year?

Yes, sailing clubs tell us they are eager to take part this year, so the plan to go ahead was confirmed in at the RYA Dinghy Show in February. 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 53rd time. More than 30 clubs have competed more than 30 times.

It's a very special, iconic event which no one wants to miss. As of the 1st July, 43 teams have entered, from 37 clubs. We anticipate a maximum of 75 for the 2024 event. We want to make it a fun event which creates lifelong memories.

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.

Will the races within the race and trophies be the same as in the past?

Yes, we expect to run all the traditional races.

What does collaboration mean in practice?

We're asking all clubs which enter a team to provide some trained resources to help us make the event safe and enjoyable. Participants will be able to volunteer for a variety of roles, including safety boat/powerboat, first aid, observing/timekeeping, 'scrutineering' and marshalling the parking. 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.

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 also supported the publicity. 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 scoring and results reporting as well as the site organisation.

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

We're immensely proud of having been the hosts of the sailing's premier endurance event for 52 events over the 57 years since the first race in 1967. Now we want to start writing the new history of the revived 24 Hour Race, in association with **Marine**



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Supplies Direct and in collaboration with the RYA, Associations, 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 in 2025. 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 welcomed club teams to Pennington Flash in Greater Manchester for the Sunrise to Sunset Race on 8th June – it was a great chance to practise ahead of the WLYC 24 Hour Race in September, and for junior sailors Southport Sailing Club hosted their National Junior 12 Hour Race on 29th June, also on the safe waters of the town's Marine Lake.

Is the event open to all?

The entry requirements are set out in the Provisional Notice of Race available on the WLYC website.

How many teams can each club enter?

As it's a nationwide event, we want to involve as many clubs as possible. We accepted entry from one boat per club during the first month and clubs can now enter additional boats. 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.

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.

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 fundraising boats have sailed with the same helm and crew throughout the 24 hours.



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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 have limited entry 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?

Standard entry is £380, with reduced rates for universities and for additional boats until 31st July, after which entries will be accepted at the late entry rate of £430 until the end of August. The full set of entry fees are published on the GP14 Association online shop.

What facilities will be provided?

Our main sponsors *Marine Supplies Direct* are providing the chandlery service.

Clayton Park will provide the catering service from Friday 20th at 2 p.m. until at least 10 pm and from Saturday 21st at 8 am continuously until 2 pm on Sunday 22nd September:

Main Meals: pies, burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, soup, pasties, sausage rolls and a vegetarian option;

Breakfast: bacon and sausage baps, porridge and pastries;

Snacks: multigrain bars, chocolate bars, sweets, and crisps

Drinks: Tea and fresh ground coffee and cold drinks, Lucozade, energy drinks and water

The *Clayton Park* catering service will adjoin the WLYC clubhouse. Competitors and volunteers in dry clothing will be welcome to use the WLYC club lounge for dining. There will be a marquee adjoining the clubhouse for those in wet clothing.

The WLYC bars will serve cold drinks, including alcoholic and non-alcoholic beers, wines and spirits.

What about camping accommodation?

We expect there to be some accommodation for camping under canvas at Southport Sailing Club, which is just next door to WLYC. Parking in the designated area of the pay and display Marine Drive car park highlighted in red below will be charged at a reduced rate. The council have confirmed that camper vans and caravans may be parked up overnight in the designated area on the nights of Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September 2024 and further details will be provided in due course.



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NB The Waterside Lodge camping areas are unavailable this year due to a conflicting event.

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 including 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.

How will you communicate further arrangements?

We'll update you on further arrangements as soon as we can. Please check the website wlyc.org.uk/wlyc-24-hour-race and join the WhatsApp group (QR code below) for broadcast updates, including the latest version of this Q&A document. A guide to the overall event and the race in particular will be published later in July.

What if we have further questions now?

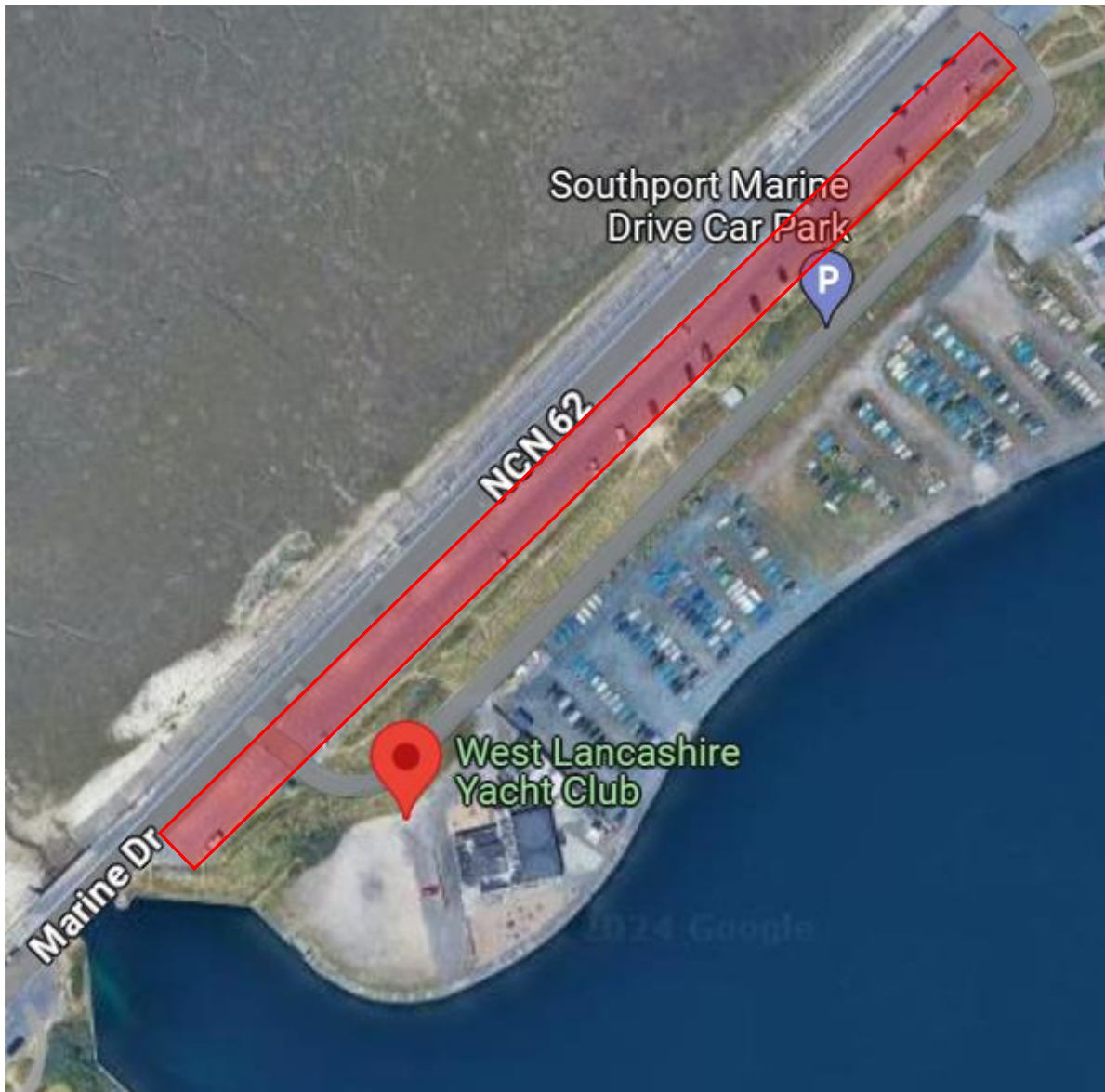
If you have questions which have not been covered, please email us: wlyc24hourrace@gmail.com . We'll provide a response as soon as we can and update this Q&A so that the responses are available to all.



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Designated area for overnight parking



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WLYC 24 Hour Race information

WhatsApp group



Scan this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group

WhatsApp group for broadcast information from July