



CRUISER CAPTAIN NEWSLETTER

Welcome, to the first of, hopefully, many newsletters from the Cruiser Captain. I want to use this forum to encourage members to participate in more sailing activities and keep you informed of what's going on in the club regarding sailing.

Hardway Sailing Club Confirmed Rallies 2024

- 1st June – Lymington (Dan Bran Pontoon)
- 6th July – Bembridge
- 31st August – Cowes
- 14th September – Beaulieu

Invitations for each rally will be published approximately 6 weeks before the event. All of the venues have different booking arrangements; we will therefore confirm the arrangements to those participating before the event. There are generally 10 spaces available. We will operate on a first come first served basis. Should a rally be oversubscribed we will operate a reserve list to ensure we use all of the spaces available. This year I will try to arrange some group activities at the rallies such as BBQs, pontoon parties and maybe secure invites to local sailing clubs for a few drinks or more! I will also investigate suitable venues for a group rally dinner in the evening. If anyone has any ideas on other activities that people might want, please let me know.

As well as the traditional rallies I have been asked if we could arrange a few 'Day trips' that people could attend, just a day in the Solent, maybe across to the Folly for a meal or a trip to Priory Bay, if anyone has any other ideas on potential venues then please let me know and I will endeavour to organise.

The Hardway Club Regatta will take place on the 10th August. This is the Saturday after junior week; more details will be published nearer the date. A band has been booked for the evening entertainment. In addition to the traditional activities on the day, we want to encourage as many boats as possible to enter the racing this year so please keep an eye out for details.

Hardway Sailing Club Cruiser racing 2024

Your race officers Andy and Rob hope you are all looking forward to an exciting season of racing in the harbour and out in and around the Solent. In preparation we have organised a pre-season meeting in the club at 1900 on Tuesday 26th of March when we will provide copies of this year's courses and harbour chart. In addition, Chris Watts will be present to talk about rules and answer any rules related questions.

All skippers will need to complete the 2024 entry form copies of which are on the cruiser racing notice board and copies will also be available on 26th March. Last year we switched to the RYA YTC handicap system for Harbour races and the RYA rules advise that all racing skippers need to apply for a new YTC rating each year. These can be obtained free of charge by applying to the RYA through their web site.

This year's Inter-Club series of races are being organised by Portchester Sailing club and in addition to entries from Hardway, Fareham and Portchester we are anticipating entries from Portsmouth SC and the Civil Service Club (Portsmouth Offshore Group). The interclub series includes the following races:

- Half Wight 2nd June
- Nab Tower 8th June.
- Interclub Harbour 21st July
- Back from Cowes 8th September
- Penhallion 21st September

Portchester are also organising the combined harbour regatta on Saturday 6th July at their club though that does clash with our own Hardway rally to Bembridge that weekend.

If you require any further information or have ideas on how we can promote sailing activities, please contact me.

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