

Shanklin Sailing Club

Covid-19 Return to Racing Plan

Following our individual return to sailing and the enjoyment of being back out on the water again, we have been looking at ways to create a competitive edge in the absence of our traditional racing season. The RYA are encouraging us to be creative in our thinking, inclusive and above all comply with the guidance set by the government. The current challenges we face are the bottle-necks that inevitably occur when large numbers of us are trying to get out on the water at the same time: rigging in the boat park, leaving the beach, at the start line/first course buoy and returning to the beach. Social-distancing must not only be maintained, but be seen to be maintained by those who share our beach.

Fortunately, we were able to get the race buoys out before the lockdown, and these are now being used by several of us for mini-races when we find ourselves out on the water at similar times.

As our mainstay racing is some way off yet, we are proposing a competitive alternative that can go some way to fulfilling our competitive drive, whilst keeping us all at a safe distance.... **the individual time-trial series...aka the Covid Challenge!**

On Monday, we will set a course around the buoys and post this on the WhatsApp group and on the website. From Tuesday to Sunday, everyone is invited to sail this course, as fast as possible. The individual will time themselves for each lap they complete, and then send their best lap time to the Vice-Commodore who will tally all the results. Sailors can go out in small groups to compete together if they wish, and compete in any mode (sport, unarig etc). We will use the PY to correct times. Sailors are to start their time (from either a stop-watch or strava-style app) from the moment they cross our usual start-line (or if they prefer they can do a 5-4-1-Go start). The finish line is the usual finish between the outer-marker and the start hut. There will be a cap on the maximum wind speed of 14.9knots. Above this wind speed, times will not be counted.

We are hoping as many sailors as possible take their boats out to compete. You can go at any time between Tuesday and Sunday, high or low tide, morning or evening, direction of wind? – decide for yourself when is the best time to go, and as many times as you like.

We will be using our SSC handicap system (bronze, silver, gold) in the same way as our Baker Challenge Series, in order to compile the results. This ensures everyone is competing against those of similar experience. Results will be tallied on Sunday evening, and will be posted on the SSC website. We aim to do three weeks for the series, beginning June 15th.

- Send your best lap time, date and time of day to **Yvonne's mobile on 07787-155800**.

GOOD LUCK!

Please note: this is strictly a recreational event and there is **no patrol boat cover**. Sailors are advised to follow the guidelines we issued last week. Before you go out on the water, ask yourself:

1. Am I fit enough to do this?
2. Is my boat fit and ready to do this?
3. Are the conditions right for me to do this?

We recommend sailors use the clubs **What'sApp group** to advise when they are planning to go out on the water. This will allow some forward-planning and prevent any more than a handful of boats being on the course at any one time.

As the government advice evolves, we will be reviewing all the time, and any suggestions for future events are most welcome.

See you in the boat park 😊