



# Merlin Rocket Open Meeting 2016

A Merlin Rocket Silver Tiller Event

Saturday March 26th 2016

Organising Authority: Chichester Yacht Club.

Event Location: Chichester Yacht Club, West Sussex

## Sailing Instructions

### 1 Rules

The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2013 - 2016. Boats participating in this Open event shall conform to the ISAF Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) 2013-16, the National Merlin Rocket class rules as maintained by the RYA Technical Department, the CYC Notice of Race, and these Sailing Instructions. Competitors should note that Chichester Yacht Club:

- Implements the RYA Racing Charter and expects competitors to sail in compliance with the charter.
- Expects competitors to sail in accordance with the Chichester Harbour Code of Conduct for Racing.

### 2 Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Sloop at Chichester Yacht Club.

### 3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least one hour before the warning signal of the race it affects.

### 4 Signals Made Ashore

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the mast situated between the two slipways.

4.2 Postponement Signals Ashore: When the AP is displayed ashore "1 minute" shall be replaced with "not less than 20 minutes". This changes the RRS Race Signals.

4.3 Launch Control: When, before a race, the class flag is displayed ashore no boat shall launch until their class flag is removed. The boat may rig and approach the beach while their class flag is displayed ashore.

### 5 Fleet Designation and Class Flags

Fleet designation: Merlin Rocket fleet.

Fleet class flag: Naval numeral 0.

### 6 Racing Schedule

The CYC Merlin Rocket Open Meeting 2016 will be held on Saturday 26th March 2016.

Registration will take place at CYC in the Sloop from 10:00hrs.

A briefing will be held at CYC in the Sloop at 10:45hrs.

The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race of the event will be 11:40hrs

Subsequent races will be timed at the Race Officer's discretion and the timing will be confirmed at the briefing.

The total number of races planned is 3.

High water details: 13:16hrs, height 4.6m

## 7 Racing Area

Courses will be set and races will be held on the waters of Chichester Harbour in the area known as Chichester Lake.

## 8 Courses

The course, including start and finish line details, will be displayed on the official notice board at least 30 minutes before the warning signal of the race.

## 9 Marks

9.1 Racing marks shall be either large orange cylindrical buoys, bearing the initials CYC and an identification number, or green, orange, yellow, pink or red small spherical buoys, or any of the fixed yellow Chichester Harbour racing marks. The approximate positions of the Chichester Harbour racing marks are shown on the charts in the Sloop at Chichester Yacht Club.

9.2 Starting and finishing marks are defined in instruction 10: The Start and instruction 11: The Finish.

## 10 The Start

10.1 The starting line marks shall be the CYC committee boat Cyclone and the large orange cylindrical buoy with the identification mark CYC 0. Cyclone shall be the starboard end starting mark and CYC 0 shall be the port end starting mark. The starting line shall be between a staff on the Committee Boat displaying an orange flag and CYC 0.

10.2 Limit marks may be laid adjacent to any starting mark and they shall be small spherical buoys. If used, limit marks are marks of the course and no boat shall pass between a limit mark and the starting mark it guards after her warning signal.

10.3 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

## 11 The Finish and Finishing

The finish line shall be defined on the official notice board at least 30 minutes before the warning signal of the race and will be the line defined in instruction 10: The Start.

## 12 Time Limits

The time limit for the leading boat shall be 75 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes of the leading boat shall be scored as Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35.

## 13 Scoring

13.1 One race is to be completed to constitute a series.

13.2 When 1 or 2 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

13.3 When 3 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

13.4 Scoring shall be in accordance with the low point scoring system as defined RRS A4.

#### 14 Protests, Rule Disputes and Requests for Redress

14.1 The Exoneration Penalty, Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available during this event. See the official notice board for details.

14.2 A competitor intending to request an advisory hearing or lodge a protest must advise the race committee, but preferably the race officer, of their proposed action as soon as possible after finishing the race concerned and before leaving the race area and coming ashore.

14.3 Protest forms are available in the Sloop at Chichester Yacht Club. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.

14.4 For each fleet, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

14.5 Notices will be posted on the official notice board no later than 20 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

14.6 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted on the official notice board to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).

14.7 Breaches of instructions 4.3, 10.3, 15.1, 16.1, 17.1 and 17.2 and Notice of Race paragraph 2 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides. The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed under this instruction shall be DPI.

14.8 A request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

#### 15 Radio Communication

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make nor receive radio transmissions while racing. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

#### 16 Safety Regulations

16.1 Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices adequate for the conditions at all times while afloat at CYC. International code flag Y will not be displayed. Wet suits and dry suits shall not be considered as adequate personal flotation devices. Also junior competitors shall wear adequate personal flotation devices when on the CYC pontoons. This instructions changes RRS 40. Parents, guardians and those acting in loco parentis are solely responsible for ensuring that young competitors in their care comply with this instruction.

16.2 The helm of every boat intending to race must sign on before going afloat and sign off after returning to the shore. By signing off the helm is indicating that the correct courses have been sailed and the rules obeyed for all races sailed and that all of the boat's crew have returned safely to the shore. A helm shall indicate that he has retired from a race by signing off with the code RET, DNF. Helms shall sign off within 60 minutes of finishing the last race of the day.

## 17 Local Variations

17.1 Competitors are warned that cruisers in the approach channels to the Chichester Marina and Birdham Pool cannot necessarily manoeuvre freely or navigate outside the confines of the channels and hence can not be expected to give right of way to boats racing. Competitors are requested to keep clear of all boats in these channels and are reminded that the International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea apply between vessels that are racing and those that are not racing.

17.2 Competitors are asked to keep well clear of fishermen's lines whether cast from the foreshore or from moored boats.

17.3 Competitors are warned that the mud bank known as 'Monkey Island', situated between the Club Line and the Monkey racing mark, has shallow patches and dries out well before low water.

## 18 Prizes

The boat finishing in first place shall be presented with "Nick's Boat" trophy. This trophy shall remain the property of Chichester Yacht Club. The trophy must be returned prior to the same event the following year. Other prizes may be awarded at the event organiser's discretion and depending on the number of entries. The prize giving will be as soon as possible following the final race.