



**Chichester Yacht Club**  
**Merlin Rocket Open Meeting**  
**Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**  
***A Silver Tiller Event***

**Organising Authority: Chichester Yacht Club.**

**Event Location: Chichester Yacht Club, West Sussex**

## **Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions**

### **1 Rules**

- 1.1 The Merlin Rocket Open meeting will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2017 – 2020
- 1.2 All boats participating in this event shall comply with the National Merlin Rocket Class Rules as maintained and published by the RYA technical department.
- 1.3 Competitors should note that Chichester YC implements the RYA Racing Charter and by entering the series competitors agree to sail in compliance with the charter. This can be found at the front of the RYA book- Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020.
- 1.4 Chichester YC follows the Chichester Harbour Code of Conduct for Racing and by entering the series competitors agree to sail in compliance with this code. Further information on [www.chifed.org](http://www.chifed.org)
- 1.5 The Exoneration Penalty, Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available during this event.

### **2 Advertising**

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.

### **3 Eligibility and Entry**

#### **3.1 Boat Eligibility**

- 3.1.1 The event is open to all boats of the National Merlin Rocket class. The Silver Tiller is open only to helms that are members of the MROA. Non-members may sail in the Open Meeting at the discretion of the organising authority.
- 3.1.2 Boats needing to sail with sail numbers differing from those under which they have entered must seek approval from the CYC race committee via the entry desk prior to the first race in which they sail with the changed numbers.

#### **3.2 Young competitors**

- 3.2.1 Young competitors are those under the age of 18 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- 3.2.2 During the event the parents or guardians of young competitors shall either be in or around Chichester YC or afloat participating in the event, or will inform the event organisers in writing who is acting in loco parentis on their behalf. Those acting in loco parentis shall either be in or around Chichester YC or afloat participating in the event. Parents, guardians or persons acting in loco parentis of young competitors shall sign the paper entry (or by 'submitting' the online entry form) form accepting the "Parents or guardians declaration".

3.2.3 A young competitor who is a Chichester YC member whose parent or guardian has had a Young Person Consent form accepted by Chichester Yacht Club, may participate in this event without a parent, guardian or person acting in loco parentis being present at Chichester YC during the event.

### **3.3 Entry**

Eligible competitors may enter before the event at the office at Chichester YC, on-line or on the day at the entry desk in the Sloop at Chichester YC.

### **3.4 Entry Fees**

3.4.1 Entry Fee per boat: £20

#### **3.4.2 Harbour dues: (if not already paid)**

All boats must pay harbour dues. The cost of visitor harbour dues is £2.00.

## **4 Racing Schedule**

4.1 The Chichester YC Merlin Rocket Open Meeting 2018 will be held on Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 at 11.00

Registration will take place at CYC in the Sloop from 09.00.

A briefing will be held at CYC in the Sloop at 10.00

High water 12.25, Ht 4.9m.

4.2 The total number of races planned is three.

4.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race of the event will be 10.55. Subsequent races will be timed at the Race Officer's discretion and the timing will be confirmed at the briefing. Competitors are advised that the Chichester YC Hadron H2 Open is being held on the same day.

## **5 Risk Statement**

5.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

5.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event; and for boats sailed by young and junior competitors the competitor's parents or guardians or those acting in loco parentis for the parents or guardians also accept this.
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue and event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

## **6 Insurance**

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 that is valid for this event and those sailing the boat.

## **7 Notices to Competitors**

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

## **8 Changes to Sailing Instructions**

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board in the Sloop at least one hour before the warning signal of the race it affects.

## **9 Signals Made Ashore**

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

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

9.3 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.

## **10 Class flags:**

The Merlin Rocket class flag will be Naval numeral 0,

## **11 Courses**

11.1 Courses will be set and races will be held on the waters known as Chichester Lake.

11.2 To sail to the starting area once launched should take no more than 20 minutes

11.3 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.

## **12 Marks**

Racing marks shall be either large orange cylindrical buoys, bearing the initials CYC and an identification number, or small spherical buoys coloured green, orange, yellow, pink or red, 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.

## **13 The Start**

13.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Chichester YC committee boat Cyclone at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark which will be a large orange cylindrical buoy marked CYC 0

13.2. 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.

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

## **14 The Finish and Finishing**

14.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on CYC committee boat Cyclone at the starboard end and the course side of the port – end finishing mark which will be an orange cylindrical buoy marked CYC 0.

14.2 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.

## **15 Scoring.**

15.1 The Low point System will be used.

15.2 Race Series - One race is to be completed to constitute a series. When 1 or 2 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When 3 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

## **16 Protests, Rule Disputes and Requests for Redress**

16.1 The Exoneration Penalty, Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available during this event. (Full information on [www.rya.org.uk/go/rulesdisputes](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/rulesdisputes) ). Decisions from RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee but cannot be reopened or appealed.

16.2 The exoneration penalty will be 30% of the score for DNF and calculated as stated in Rule 44.3.(c). See the official notice board for details.

16.3 A competitor intending to request an advisory hearing or lodge a protest must advise the race committee, preferably the race officer, of their proposed action as soon as possible after finishing the race concerned.

16.4 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.

16.5 For each fleet, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.  
This changes RRS 62.2

16.6 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.

16.7 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).

16.8 Breaches of instructions 1.3, 9.3, 13.3, 17, 18.1, 19.1, 19.2 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

## **17 Radio Communication**

Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

## **18 Safety Regulations**

18.1 Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices adequate for the conditions at all times while racing. International code flag Y will not be displayed. Wet suits and dry suits shall not be considered as adequate personal flotation devices. Also young competitors shall wear adequate personal flotation devices when on the pontoons. This instruction changes RRS 40.

18.1.2 Parents, guardians and those acting in loco parentis are solely responsible for ensuring that young competitors in their care comply with this instruction.

18.2 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 boats crew have returned safely to the shore. A helm shall indicate that he has retired from a race by signing off with the code DNS, or DNF. Helms shall sign off within 60 minutes of finishing the last race of the day.

## **19 Local Variations**

19.1 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.

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

19.3 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.

## **20. Supporting Information**

20.1. This event is being held in conjunction with a Hadron H2 Open Meeting. The Hadron H2 start will follow the Merlin start.

20.2 Results will be posted on CYC's web site - [www.cyc.co.uk](http://www.cyc.co.uk)

20.3 Support boats attending this event shall register at the entry desk during any registration period.

20.4 Competitors shall accept that photographs and motion pictures of their boat and its crew could be taken whilst attending this event.

20.4.1 In entering this event, competitors automatically grant the organising authority {& class association} the right, in perpetuity, to make, use and show from time to time, at their discretion, any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television and any other reproduction of them taken during the event, without compensation.

20.5 Competitors are asked not to leave road trailers in the car park at CYC, but to move them to the dinghy park or other area designated for the purpose.

20.6 Trash disposal. Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

## **21 Prizes**

21.1 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.

21.2 Further prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organising committee.

21.3 The prize giving will be as soon as possible following the final race.

## **22 Contact details:**

Chichester Yacht Club  
Chichester Marina,  
Chichester, West Sussex.  
PO20 7EJ.  
Tel: 01243 512918  
Web site: [www.cyc.co.uk](http://www.cyc.co.uk)  
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