



DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA SAILING WEEK

Thanks to everyone for a wonderful Regatta!

28th August 2023

Dear Friends of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Sailing Week,

The 178th Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Sailing Week was a great success! Whether you entered as a competitor, helped as a volunteer or are one of our sponsors, we thank you. And if you didn't make it this year, we hope to see you in 2024.

Our entries, at 301, were the highest they have been for the last seven years and there was a real buzz around the clubs. The unpredictability of this year's weather caused us concerns before the event, but in the end we only lost Tuesday morning for the Juniors and Thursday for the Yachts before the wind then filled in and we had three days of cracking racing.

Several changes were introduced this year. We employed a professional drone company to cover all three regattas which brought a new dimension to the discussions back at the clubs – just look at the footage via the link on [our website](#). The **Rockfish Junior Regatta** was reduced from four to three days but with more races per day, which worked well even though we only managed one race on the final day. The entries for the **Pilot Financial Dinghy Regatta** at Dittisham Sailing Club were at last year's record level and this will soon become an event where you need to book early to ensure your entry is accepted. The traditional **Savills Passage Race** to bring yachts round from Torbay to Dartmouth on Wednesday afternoon was well supported with 57 yachts taking part and experiencing light conditions. 128 yachts and dayboats took part in the main regatta with racing held over three courses.

Our main innovation this year was to introduce **MarkSetBot** remotely controlled marks for the outer course where IRC 0,1,2,3 and J109 races were held. These marks are not anchored but hold their position using an electric motor and GPS a positioning system which allows quick changes to course layout and minimising delays in racing. With no anchoring they do not damage the seabed and help reduce our carbon footprint. They worked extremely well and will be a feature of next year's regatta, hopefully on two courses. The days racing and "bots", sponsored by **Paradigm Norton, Henri-Lloyd, Ancasta Boat Sales, Raymarine, Twisted Marine** and **Salcombe Gin**, were covered with sponsors' branding. Racing was close on all three courses with many compliments on the race management. Irrespective of how you fared on the water the traditional Salcombe Gin & Tonic deliveries on the way back in helped brighten things up especially when delivered by the bright yellow Twisted Marine Axopar.

Over the weekend the **Gaffers and White Sail** yachts enjoyed their timed events along the coast in some blustery conditions including an almost tropical squall. We encourage non racers to take part in these informal events and enjoy the fun of regatta and prizegiving. Continuing with our drive to become more environmentally friendly, we changed our prizes from glass to wooden trophies manufactured locally using sustainable timber. The theme for this year's regatta prizes was a

celebration of King Charles III Coronation with the mugs and trophies displaying the coronation crest – if you have one look after it as it is unique to this year.

Check out our [photography page](#) for links to the video footage from the drones, some great still shots of the action on the water and around the clubs by Ingrid Abery, and photos of the prizewinners (more of those and the Trophies Book coming soon) .

Work on next year's event is already starting and if you have any suggestions on how we might improve things please drop us a line.

Our regatta must include the last Friday in August, so next year it will start on the Bank Holiday Saturday and finish on Saturday 31st to allow Sunday for travelling home. This means that the Passage Race will be on Tuesday instead of Wednesday and the yacht series will run from Wednesday to Saturday.

Next year's (2024) dates are

- Saturday August 24th -Tuesday 27th for the Dinghies
- Junior Dinghies Sunday 25th – Tuesday 27th
- Tuesday 27th for the Passage Race
- Wednesday 28th to Saturday 31st August for the Yacht and Day Boat Series Races.
- The Gaffer and White Sail Events will run on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st August.
- Charity Race Sunday 1st September

Thank you once again and we hope you will come and join in the fun next year.

With kind regards,

Peter Boote (Chairman) and the Joint Regatta Sailing Committee

For more information visit dartmouthsailingweek.com.

Any queries, please email entries@dartmouthsailingweek.com

