



# DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA SAILING WEEK

## Rounding up a successful 179<sup>th</sup> Royal Regatta Sailing Week

8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Friends of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Sailing Week,

The 179<sup>th</sup> 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 2025.

Our entries, at 319, were the highest they have been for many years and there was a real buzz around the clubs with live music and good food. We have had an "interesting" summer weather-wise, and before the event we were very concerned that the winds looked very light. As it turned out we were able to race every day although the first yacht races in Start Bay were delayed by an hour or so. The week finished with a brisk North Easterly against the tide for the Bay Race which gave lively sailing and some great photo opportunities – not so good though if you were on a committee boat!

The Rockfish Junior Regatta retained its three-day format from last year with more races per day. This worked well and Gareth Thorpe and his team managed a full series. Just after racing had finished on the first day a tremendous squall came down the river and capsized any dinghy not back on the pontoon, but everyone was recovered safely.

The entries for the Moore Kingston Smith Dinghy Regatta at Dittisham Sailing Club were at last years' 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 60 yachts taking part with a nice breeze filling in to bring them home.



The four-day yacht series was again well supported with 123 yachts and dayboats racing over three courses. Last year's innovation of introducing MarkSetBot remotely controlled marks was continued this year with the addition of them for the middle course as well. They performed as expected and the conditions on Saturday really proved their capability in holding position in strong wind and tide conditions. 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. The “bots”, sponsored by Henri-Lloyd, Ancasta Boat Sales (2 bots this year), Raymarine, Twisted Marine, Salcombe Gin and Haven Knox Johnston, 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 sleek Twisted Marine RIB. The day races were sponsored by Goulden & Sons, Henri-Lloyd, Ancasta and Salcombe Gin. Ancasta presented branded jugs of Dark & Stormy cocktail to the fleet winners on their day which went down very easily! Tonto Marine and WesCom were new sponsors this year. WesCom donated a couple of Manoverboard Locator beacons, one of which was auctioned for the new RNLI Boathouse fund.



On Friday and Saturday, the Gaffers and White Sail yachts enjoyed their timed events along the coast with Saturday’s blustery conditions a complete contrast to Friday. With 14 gaffers and 25 White Sail Yachts, entries were considerably up on last year which shows how popular this type of event is becoming. We encourage non racers to take part in these informal events and enjoy the fun of regatta and prizegiving.



We had the drone back this year for the yacht racing, supplemented with a video camera on the support boat for water level action shots and go-pro cameras on some boats’ backstays to capture the action in the cockpit. The videos were shown back at the clubs which generated a lot of discussion over a beer or two. Check out our [photography](#) page for links to the great video footage from the drones, support boat and some great still shots of the action on the water and around the clubs by Ingrid Abery. Photos of the prizegivings can be found here as well. Continuing our environmental drive we kept to our wooden trophies manufactured locally using sustainable timber.

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 (23<sup>rd</sup>) and finish on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 (2025) dates are

- Dinghies at Dittisham SC – dates TBA
- Junior Dinghies Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 25<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> for the Passage Race
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August for the Yacht and Dayboat Series Races.
- The Gaffer and White Sail Events will run on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

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

*Photos Ingrid Abery, Jan Carter, Alison Banford.*

For more information visit [dartmouthsailingweek.com](http://dartmouthsailingweek.com).

Any queries, please email [info@dartmouthsailingweek.com](mailto:info@dartmouthsailingweek.com)

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