



Medway Dragon Fleet Est. 1949  
Medway Yacht Club Est. 1880



**Celebrating 75 years of Dragons at MYC**

**British Dragon Association**

**East Coast Dragon Championships**

**21-23 September 2024**

**Event Brochure**

## Overview

Medway Yacht Club is the host of the BDA 2024 East Coast Dragon Championships (ECDC). The event also celebrates 75 years of racing Dragons on the Medway, an anniversary which will be made all the more special by the presence of the recently restored and very competitive Bluebottle, the Dragon owned and sailed in events by the late Duke of Edinburgh – including on the Medway in 1955.



We look forward to welcoming you for 3 days of exciting and challenging racing on the tidal River Medway. A substantial fleet of Dragons are expected to be racing, with supporters and former Dragon sailors adding to the numbers enjoying the social events each evening from the terrace and in the clubhouse.

## Sponsors

We are most grateful to our sponsors – their logos appear later in the brochure – who have provided the funds needed to run the event, or gifts and prizes. We also thank the BDA for their support, including making entry to our event count towards eligibility for the BDA prizes for travelling Corinthian Dragons.

## Event Entry

The Notice of Race and online entry form are now available through the ECDC section of the Medway Yacht Club website, with the Sailing Instructions to be posted there soon. Meals can be ordered there too, and all entry fees and meal charges can be made by online bank transfer. Early entries (before the end of July) receive a substantial discount.





## Programme at a glance

<b>Thursday</b> 19/09/2024	Launching Day	Launching until 1600, by appointment	
<b>Friday</b> 20/09/2024	Preparation Day	Registration till 1800, Evening Practice Race	Welcoming afternoon tea
<b>Saturday</b> 21/09/2024	First Day of Racing	Windward-leewards	After race reception with daily prizes Informal food and drink with live music
<b>Sunday</b> 22/09/2024	Second Day of Racing	Windward-leewards	After race reception with daily prizes Formal Dinner and live music
<b>Monday</b> 23/09/2024	Final Day of Racing	Windward-leewards, boat recovery by appointment	Championship Prize-giving

## Racing Overview

Racing will begin on Saturday 21st September following the competitors' briefing at 0900 in the MYC clubhouse. (Registration is from 1200 to 1800 the day before.) The racing will consist of Olympic Style windward-leewards on each of the three days; 6 races in total for the Championship; each race intended to be about an hour; no more than 4 races in any one day.



The racing will take place in and around the Long Reach and Pinup Reach stretches of the River Medway, a 30–45-minute sail downstream from the clubhouse, to provide for setting courses in any wind direction.

## Racing Documents

All race documents will be available online and can viewed through the Medway Yacht Club website. This currently includes a basic chart, Notice of Race, and Entry Form, with the Sailing Instructions to join them soon.



## Registration and Scrutineering

Registration will take place in the Race Office (located in the MYC library on the top floor of the club office) from 1200-1800 on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

September. All boats must complete the registration process and be able to produce a valid measurement certificate. Note that depth gauges are allowed.

## Tides

The ECDC racing will be taking place on a tidal stretch of the Medway River; gauging the tide can be crucial to a boat's success. The tide times for the event (as at Chatham Lock gates, near the MYC clubhouse) are below.

	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept		21 <sup>st</sup> Sept		22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept		23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept		24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	
	<i>Time</i>		<i>Time</i>		<i>Time</i>		<i>Time</i>		<i>Time</i>	
<b>High</b>	02.54		03.35		04.16		04.57		05.38	
<b>Low</b>	09:01		09.39		10.12		10.45		11.23	
<b>High</b>	15.02		15.43		16.24		17.06		17.51	
<b>Low</b>	21.41		22.12		22.34		<i>Note: times are BST</i>			







## Trophies and Prizes

Prize-giving will take place on the terrace at Medway Yacht Club - after racing each day for the daily prizes and on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September for the Championship Trophies.

Race	Trophy Name
Race 1	<b>The Aldeburgh Dragon Fleet Trophy</b>
Race 2	<b>The Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Trophy</b>
Race 3	<b>The Walderling Sailing Club Trophy</b>
Race 4	<b>The Mackay-Lewis Challenge Trophy</b>
Race 5	<b>The Haven Ports Yacht Club Decanter</b>
Race 6	<b>The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club Trophy</b>
<b>Winner Overall</b>	<b>The East Coast Dragon Championship Salver</b>

## Launch and Recovery

Launch and recovery and use of a mooring will be free for all visiting boats entering the event.

We have a 14-ton travel Wise operated by yard staff, allowing swift and easy launch / recovery. Launching will be on or before Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September and recovery after racing on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.



Travel Wise

Please let us know in advance of the event (email to the club Bosun Toby Atack at [tobyatack@btinternet.com](mailto:tobyatack@btinternet.com) or 07815 849553) if you need your boat launched or recovered.

A trot boat service will run from our pontoon to move racers to and from their moorings. Trailer and vehicle storage will be available on site within our secure compound.



## Social Events

We will be hosting a series of social events, with live music at our Saturday night informal gathering and our more formal ECDC Dinner on the Sunday.

As well, the clubhouse bar (long known as the Dragon Bar) will be fully stocked and open from when boats come off the water for those who wish to catch-up after racing and until late in the evening for those who like to party. Our clubhouse has a great view of the river which is ideal for winding down and dining after a day's racing or supporting.

## Food and Drink

The ECDC Saturday and Sunday evening events are catered and can be booked online on the boat entry form on the MYC website. A separate online form can be used to book breakfast at the club – anything up to a full English - and to order packed lunches. The club's Galley restaurant will also serve casual meals throughout the event.



## Accommodation

Several accommodation types are available within the local area.

### Hotels

An online search brings up several options across the river from the club and within a 15-minute drive, including a Travelodge, a Premier Inn, and the Ship and Trades hotel and restaurant.

### Club Campsite

Medway Yacht Club has a campsite within the grounds, suitable for tents of all sizes, and we can even accommodate camper/ caravans with electric hook-up. Camping on club grounds will be free to all competitors for the event however please let us know beforehand if you require a pitch.

### Staying on your cruising boat

Medway Yacht Club has an all-tide pontoon. We will attempt to accommodate any Dragon racers bringing cruising boats - if you wish to stay aboard your boat (not your Dragon!), please let the organising committee know and we will make sure you have a space reserved.



*Medway Yacht Club Pontoon*

## Attractions for the Non-sailor

Medway has a wealth of historical local attractions that we hope will be open to the public:

- Rochester Castle and Cathedral are not to be missed with many interesting shops along the Rochester High Street.

- Chatham Naval Historic Dockyard is a fantastic place to visit for an insight into our naval history with many original dockyard features remaining as well as newer exhibits.
- Upnor Castle is a 15-minute walk away from the club. This compact and nicely restored defensive fort has a very interesting series of display boards about the fort and notably about the last “invasion” of England – no, not in 1066 - when a new English flagship was taken from the Medway by an enterprising Dutch fleet, and Upnor Castle was involved in the action.
- For those who are in need of retail therapy the large Blue Water shopping mall is about 20 minutes by car, while the Dockside Outlet centre is only 10 minutes away.



## About the Medway Yacht Club

Medway Yacht Club was founded in 1880 and registered with the Yacht Racing Association. Members included the Earl of Cavendish, Lord Beresford, marine artist W.L. Wylie, and author of adventure books for children A. Henty. By 1894 it is reported that the club had 86 members. In 1898 the club saw the start of one-design racing which continues today when MYC successfully answered a challenge laid down by the Sydney Flying Squadron which resulted in MYC winning the Anglo-Australian Shield. The challenge was revived and re-run at Lower Upnor in 1998 and in Sydney in 2001 using replica 1880's skiffs.



In 1920 a clubhouse was opened on the Esplanade near Rochester Castle. During WWII at least six MYC boats were involved in rescuing troops from Dunkirk. In 1948 the club moved down river and the current site at Lower Upnor was acquired. In 1953 MYC received its warrant from the Admiralty allowing members the privilege of wearing a defaced Blue Ensign.

Two years later saw the 1948 Dragon K192 Bluebottle, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh's International Dragon, competing in a special series of races arranged by MYC.



Bluebottle's racing flag was presented to the club and can be found in the clubhouse today. The boat itself – now beautifully restored and being sailed extremely competitively internationally - will be at the club for the ECDC events.



Currently the MYC with some 500 members is thriving. The club sits on the banks of the river Medway in a magnificent location with fabulous views. It is unique in that it has its own yard and yard services as well as a large pontoon, cruiser scrubbing trolley, travel hoist for hauling out yachts and three mast

cranes. The club house provides a warm family atmosphere, and our fulltime bar and galley staff provide fantastic meals often catering for in excess of 75 people with functions and dinners every weekend.

On the club sailing front the cruiser class are extremely active in their racing and for those that don't race many cruises are organised throughout the year. We have four very active one design classes - the Dragons, Sonatas, Squibs and Wayfarers. We have just opened a new training centre for all our members and in particular our youth members. This fantastic building also contains new changing rooms and will be in use for the ECDC events. The MYC is respected for organising open meetings on our fantastic river and in 2024 we will be hosting several events including the Sonata Nationals, the Dragon ECDC and 75<sup>th</sup> MYC Dragon celebrations, and the Medway regatta.



## Getting Here

### By Land

Medway Yacht Club is located at Lower Upnor Road, Upnor, ME2 4XB.

10 minutes from the A2/M2 junction and is easily accessible for those towing boats.

If you are travelling by train, the nearest station is a short taxi ride away in Strood or Rochester which boast fast services to London St. Pancras.

When you arrive at the club's gate press the intercom button and either the office or clubhouse staff will answer and raise the barrier. Once you have a club card, it will operate the barrier.

If you have any queries about getting to the club, please feel free to contact the organising committee.

### By Sea



For completeness we must mention that it will be possible to access the event from the Thames Estuary if you are coming by cruiser!

From the Thames Estuary, the River

Medway is easy to find - although the Grain Power Station chimney is no longer there. As you approach the Medway entrance give the infamous wreck of the Richard Montgomery ammunition ship a wide berth and once you are in the river keep well to the south as you pass the LNG terminal on the North shore.



The river is wide and easy to navigate there are very few obstructions so just follow the channel markers upriver for 12nm until you find Medway Yacht Club, from here please contact the organising committee to be assigned a berth.

Sponsors



**Grawley Forest Properties**  
Property Investment & Managing Agents



## Sponsor us

If you are the owner of / work for / know a local company who would like to provide sponsorship for the East Coast Dragon Championships, please contact the organising committee.

We can offer space for your logo in our event brochure, on the event T-Shirts and on social media.

We are also keen to receive gifts for our daily prizes.

## Peel Ports – Notice to Mariners

Peel ports provide essential notices and updates for our sailing area which can be viewed online. Tides can be downloaded from here too: the Chatham Lock Gates location is the most relevant for tides from the usual UK listing sites.



## Contacts

Please don't hesitate to contact the organising committee for any more information about the event including how to enter, for help with launch and recovery, or for advice on how to get here.

### Medway Yacht Club Office

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