Name of event: Wilsonian Sailing Club 2024
Inclusive dates: 2 January 2024– 1 January 2025
Organising authority: The Sailing Committee of the Wilsonian Sailing Club (WSC) Hoo, Kent

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules

1.1 WSC events will be governed by the rules as defined in the "The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021-2024".

1.2 The prescriptions of the RYA will apply.

1.3 Racing Rules 29.1, 29.2, 40 and 44.1 will be changed as follows:

29.1 Insert new second sentence: The sound signal accompanying the display of flag X will only be made for boats sailing from behind the line to the on-course side. Boats not yet sailing, but on the course side of the line will not be warned that they are over the line at the start signal.

29.2 General Recall and Race Signals First Substitute are amended as follows. When a fleet has a General Recall the First Substitute will be displayed, with two sound signals, for up to four minutes, but not later than one minute before any later starting signal, whichever is earlier, when it will be removed without a sound signal. The start of the recalled fleet will be postponed until five minutes after the last valid fleet start in the sequence (end of queue). If more than one fleet in the sequence has a General Recall, then the recalled fleets will start in their original sequence.

40 will be changed as follows: Whilst afloat competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.

44.1 will be changed as follows: The requirement to take a Two-Turn Penalty shall be replaced by a requirement to take a One-Turn Penalty.

1.4 Boats shall be sailed using their own class sail number, unless prior consent has been obtained from the organising authority.

1.5 Yardsticks will be as allocated by the WSC Sailing Committee "WSC Number". Where no number is allocated, a boat will be allocated a trial number, which will be posted on the official notice board.

1.6 These events are held on a navigable river and ships or other large vessels have right of way. If a ship/vessel is being escorted, no competitor shall sail between the guard boat displaying a naval numeral "zero" and the ship/vessel it is escorting. Any competitor passing between the guard boat and escorted ship/vessel shall be disqualified without a hearing. Boats shall not obstruct the fairway.

1.7 Other than the Committee boat, all other craft engaged in race management will display international code flag numeral "nine". Failure to display will not constitute grounds for redress.

2. Eligibility and Entry

2.1 These events are open to WSC members and their guests (as defined in Rule 25 of "Rules of the Club"). Eligible boats shall be monohull dinghies, whose overall length does not exceed 5.5m, with a Portsmouth Yardstick equal to or less than a Mirror (currently 1387), unless by special dispensation of the Sailing Committee. Boats with Portsmouth Yardsticks higher than a Mirror are eligible for the Juniors' Cup and Handicap Short/Junior "S/J" only.

2.2 Ladies' Cup - female helms are eligible.

2.3 Juniors' Cup - helms under 18 years of age on 1st November of this year are eligible.

2.4 Masters' Cup - helms over the age of 60 years on 1 January of this year are eligible.

2.5 Scratch Series - open to all eligible WSC Members as defined in 2.1 above.

2.6 Boats will be eligible to race in one of the following handicap fleet series events:

Handicap "L" (Long), recommended for boats with a WSC Number of 1033 or less.

Handicap "SJ" (Short/Junior), recommended for boats with a WSC Number of 1387 to 1034 or Junior Members as eligible in 2.3

Handicap fleet series sailors have the option of sailing in the handicap fleet of their choice and are encouraged to join the fleet they feel is most appropriate, but if sailing in a fleet where their boat falls outside of the recommended handicap boundaries they shall have no influence on the course set and will have no recourse if they finish outside the time limit.

3. Notices to Competitors

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board, which is located on the landward side of the WSC race box.

4. Changes to Sailing Instructions

4.1 Any changes to these instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board, at least 15 minutes prior to the warning signal for any race that it affects and at least 45 minutes if the race has a committee boat start.

5. Signals made Ashore

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the race box.

5.2 Flag boards or lights, corresponding to the equivalent flag, may be displayed at the race box in lieu of flags.

5.3 Flag A with two sound signals (and one when lowered) means "No boat shall go afloat until this signal is lowered. The first warning signal will be made not less than 15 minutes after flag A is lowered".

5.4 Flag H with two sound signals (one when lowered) means "the warning signal will be made not less than 15 minutes after flag H is lowered".

6. Schedule of Races

6.1 Races are scheduled on the dates as shown in the "WSC Sailing Programme". The Medway Regatta is not covered by these Sailing Instructions.

6.2 The scheduled time(s) of the Warning Signal(s) and fleet flag(s) is/are:

Fleet Series (when time is BST)		am	pm	Flag
Handicap "L"	Start 1	10:55	13:25	"K"
Handicap "S/Junior	Start 2	11:00	13:30	"T"

Fleet Series (when time is GMT)		am	pm	Flag
Handicap "L"	Start 1	10:25	ASAP after lunch	"K"
Handicap "S/Junior"	Start 2	10:30	ASAP after lunch	"T"

Warm-Up Series		am	pm	Flag
One course	Start 1	10:25	ASAP after lunch	"K"

Winter Series		am	pm	Flag
Long course	Start 1	10:25	ASAP after lunch	"K"
Lapping course	Start 2	10:30	ASAP after lunch	"T"

Club Series Events	am	pm	Flag
Scratch Race	10:55	N/A	"K"

Club Series Events	am	pm	Flag
Juniors' Cup, Ladies' Cup, Masters' Cup & Novices/Improvers	11:00	N/A	"T"

Club Series Events	am	pm	Flag
Commodore's Trophy	N/A	13:25	"K"
Bosun's Trophy	N/A	13:40	"T"

One-Off Races - all use Flag "K"

Ice Breaker see Sailing Programme for start times.

South Kent see Sailing Programme for start times.

The South Kent race is one race using 6 starts at 15-minute intervals, competitors choose which start to use and competitors' elapsed time is used to calculate their position.

The West Bulwark Buoy Race see Sailing Programme for start times.

The West Bulwark Buoy race is one race using 6 starts at 15-minute intervals, competitors choose which start to use and competitors' elapsed time is used to calculate their position.

Pursuit Races see Sailing Programme for start times.

Each competitor is given a start time, additional instructions will be available on the day.

John Yeo Evening Race see Sailing Programme for start times.

Creeks Race see Sailing Programme for start times.

This race uses a staggered start sequence, intended to equalise the course for all boats. Slowest boats start first and the stagger interval shall be 30 minutes.

3-Race Regatta see Sailing Programme for start times.

Additional instructions will be available on the day.

Leigh Trophy Race see Sailing Programme for start times.

This race uses a staggered start sequence, intended to equalise the course for all boats. Slowest boats start first and the stagger interval shall be 30 minutes.

Laying-Up Cup see Sailing Programme for start times.

Chilly Willies see Sailing Programme for start times.

6.3 The afternoon race shall start no sooner than 45 minutes after the last finish of the morning race. This may mean that the afternoon race start for ALL fleets MUST be postponed.

7. Courses

7.1 The racing area will be as shown on the Official Notice Course Board.

7.2 The order in which marks are to be passed for each scheduled race and the side on which each mark is to be left will be displayed on the Official Notice Board no less than 30 minutes prior to the warning signal of each race.

8. Marks

8.1 The marks of the course will be made up from some or all of the following: -

A) Fixed position navigation buoys, green coloured odd numbered, red coloured even numbered. The South Yantlet Creek buoys, red & white in colour and numbered one to four. The Otterham Fairway buoy, red & white in colour with a red spherical top-mark. The Hoo Ness West Cardinal buoy, yellow & black in colour.

B) Fixed position racing marks identified as MYA1, MYC4, and Autumn Buoy, which are orange-coloured drums, MYC 2 Yellow coloured drum, Police boat mooring buoy Princess Alice III (PAIII), Beacons No 1 and No 3.

C) WSC inflatable club buoys, orange in colour numbered 1, 2, 3 & 4

D) Additional marks as identified on the course board may be used.

9. Areas that are Obstructions

9.1 Folly Point and Darnett Fort beacons are obstructions, when passing Folly Point beacon, it shall be passed to the south and Darnett Fort beacon shall be passed to the north.

10. The Start

There is an automatic starting system with lights and automatic timing, but some Race Officers continue to use the boards which simulate the flags that are used in championship events. The boards may also be used if the starting system fails.

Minutes before start	Visual Signal	Meaning	Sound Signal
5	Red Light - on Fleet Flag	Warning signal	one

4	Blue Light - on Blue Peter Flag	Preparatory signal	one
1	Blue Light - off Blue Peter Flag removed	One minute	one
0	Green Light – on Fleet Flag removed	Start	one

10.1 The red light will flash in the last 10 seconds before the start.

10.2 Races will be started by using the signals above and the sequence is repeated for each fleet, as necessary. In the event of a General Recall an extra start sequence will be used AFTER ALL OTHER FLEETS HAVE STARTED. In the event of more than one fleet suffering a General Recall restart will follow the original order but with no gaps for successfully started fleets. This replaces rule 26.

10.3 In fleet and club series events - The warning signal for each succeeding fleet shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding fleet.

10.4 Other than when a committee boat is to be used, the starting line will be the Wilsonian Sailing Club line, which is an extension of an imaginary line through the two white posts with triangular top marks, one of which is behind and one in front of the Race Box. The White Mark on the south shore does not form part of the line.

10.5 The starting line may be used in either an upstream or downstream direction depending on the course set for each race.

10.6 In Fleet Series and the Frostbite Series, if the Long Fleet will be starting in the upstream direction, they will start last. Thus, their start will be delayed by 10 minutes.

10.7 When a committee boat start or start/finish is to be used, an orange flag will be displayed at the race box. The start/finish line will be between the mast of the committee boat displaying an orange flag and the nearby pin-end mark. The location and description of the committee boat start/finish lines, along with a description of the pin-end mark, will be described along with the rest of the course on the Official Notice Board.

10.8 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

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

11. The Finish

11.1. The finishing line description and use is as starting line, see 10.4, 10.5 and 10.7 above.

12. Shortened Courses

12.1 When courses are being shortened at the starting/finishing line and to indicate the fleet(s) is/are being finished in a downstream direction, a red flag board will be displayed with flag S. This is only applicable to courses with an upstream mark.

12.2 For the purposes of RRS 32.2(a) only, all marks shall be considered to be rounding marks.

12.3.1 When flag C and S are displayed at a rounding mark, the shortened course shall be from the rounding mark directly back via the main river channel to the finish line at the Wilsonian Sailing Club line. Sailing Instruction 9.1 shall continue to apply.

12.3.2 Boats shall pass close to the mark at which the course is shortened. (This should usually be within 3 boat lengths unless other boats or shipping prevent this.)

13. Time Limits

13.1 The time limit in each fleet in handicap events, and in each race in club series events, except the Frostbite Series, will be 14:00 for a.m. races and 18:00 for p.m. races for the first boat; if this time limit is not met in a given fleet or race then all boats "Checked-Out in accordance with Sailing Instruction 16.1" in that fleet or race, respectively, shall score as DNF without a hearing. If the first boat meets the- time limit in a given fleet or race, "Checked-Out" boats not finishing by 14:00 or 18:00 respectively in that fleet or race, respectively shall be scored DNF. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

13.2 The time limit for the Winter Series will be 13:00 for a.m. races and 16:30 for p.m. races for the first boat in each fleet; if this time limit is not met in a given fleet, then all boats "Checked-Out in accordance with Sailing Instruction 16.1" in that fleet shall score as DNF without a hearing. If the first-time limit is met in a given fleet, "Checked-Out" boats not finishing by 13:00 or 16:30 respectively in that fleet shall be scored DNF. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

13.3 The time limits for the Winter and Warm Up Series races may be brought forward at the discretion of the Race Officer in cases of anticipated low light levels.

14. Protests and requests for Redress

14.1 Protests forms will be available from the WSC Chief Duty Officer CDO. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be returned to the CDO within 45 minutes of the last boat's finish time in that race, unless the Protest Committee sees good reason to extend the protest time limits.

14.2 Protests will be heard in an order decided by the Protest Committee and as soon as practicable.

15. Results and Scoring

15.1 Race results will be calculated using each boat's corrected finish time;

Corrected time = (Time on the course / WSC Number) * 1000

15.2 Average lap race results will be calculated;

Average lap time (A.L.T.) = Time on the course / number of rounds completed

Corrected average lap time = (A.L.T. /WSC Number) *1000

However, no boat will be penalised for completing additional laps to others in the same fleet or to a boat with a lower WSC Number.

15.3 The number of races to count for series events shall be half the number of races held, half numbers being rounded down, plus one. Each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, with her worst scores discarded if more races than the required number to count have been completed. This does not apply to the junior helm Fallout Trophy, which uses its own scoring system. For the Three Race Regatta all races held shall count.

15.4 DNC shall be scored the maximum number of entrants in any one race of the series plus two points. This changes Racing Rule A4

15.5 If a helm changes boats within the same fleet, including use of different rigs e.g., Laser/Laser 4.7/Laser Radial or RS Vareo with or without spinnaker, points will be carried forward, but the handicap used will be for the lowest WSC number. If a helm changes boats to a different class each boat will be regarded as a separate entry, unless approval is obtained from the Sailing Committee.

15.6 For a boat to be counted in any Series final result, she must have started or been scored OCS in more than 30% of the number of races held for that event.

15.7 Races will retain their identifying number as published in the "WSC Sailing Programme and Duty List for that year".

16. Safety Regulations

16.1 All boats must Check-Out before each race, on the "Race Safety Sheets" provided at the Official Notice Board. Boats not Checking-Out shall be scored "DNS".

16.2 All boats must Check-In after each race on the Race Safety Sheets provided at the Official Notice Board.

16.3 Boats not starting, not finishing or retiring after finishing shall enter "DNF" or "RET" as applicable against their name on the Race Safety Sheet.

16.4 Checking-in must be made within half an hour of finishing on the club line or at the earliest opportunity when finishing at a Committee Boat, and before submitting any protest. Boats not checking-in within this time limit shall be scored "DNF".

17. Collisions with moored boats

17.1 Any collision with a moored boat must be reported to the Race Officer, CDO or their deputies within 30 minutes of coming ashore.

17.2 Failure to report such a collision will result in the boat being scored "DSQ" without redress.

18. Equipment and measurement checks

18.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.

19. Rubbish disposal

19.1 Boats shall not put rubbish in the water. Rubbish may be placed in the bins in the dinghy compound.

20. Radio Communication

20.1 Except in an emergency a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction includes cellular telephones.

21. Prizes

21.1 Perpetual and Keepsake prizes will be awarded for fleet and club series events and one-off races, excluding scratch races. The number of places receiving Keepsake prizes will be based on the 'square root' of the series/one-off race entry, rounded up to the nearest whole number. The Sailing Committee may allocate additional prizes during the season.

21.2 Perpetual prizes other than Frostbite Series will be presented at the Annual Prize Giving Dinner, keepsake prizes will be presented at fleet evenings.

21.3 The South Kent Trophy will only be awarded if the South Kent buoy is rounded and the race is neither abandoned nor shortened.

21.4 Crundwell Trophy - presented to the first helm over 65 years of age on 1st March of the year in question in either Commodore's or Bosun’s Series. In the event of a tie the Commodore's series takes precedence.

21.5 Gun Wharf Trophy - presented to the person who has helmed the greatest number of Fleet Points Series races.

21.6 Championship Series - each boat's scores from "Ice Breaker, South Kent, West Bulwark, Evening Race, Creeks Race, Three Race Regatta, Leigh Trophy and Laying up Cup", with three discards used to calculate the Champion.

21.7 Merlin Trophy: Awarded to the club Member who, in the opinion of the Sailing Secretary & Commodore, has displayed outstanding achievement, endeavour or perseverance, or a combination of all three.

21.8 The following junior trophies apply to juniors as defined in 2.3 Eligibility & Entry above:

Junior Cup WSC002 – presented to first junior helm in the Junior Cup Series.

Alan Dutton Trophy WSC052 - presented for best junior endeavour as decided by Junior Coordinators.

Bob Dutton Trophy WSC053 - presented to the first junior helm in the Commodore's or Bosun's Series. In the event of a tie the Bosun's series takes precedence.

Junior Regatta Trophy WSC060 – presented to the first junior(s) in the Junior Regatta Race.

Skimmers Pursuit Race WSC061 – presented to the first junior(s) in the Skimmers Pursuit Race.

22. Risk Statement

22.1 Rule 3 of the RRS states "The Responsibility for a boat's (crew's) decision to participate in a race or continue racing is his/hers alone."

22.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in events, 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 while taking part in the events;

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 omissions;

d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the events and they are fit to participate;

e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser 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 practically be provided in the circumstances.

23. Insurance

23.1 Each participating boat shall have adequate third-party liability insurance.

N**OTES TO THE WSC SAILING/RACE PROGRAMME 2024** This is supplementary information and may not be used as a basis for any protest or request for redress.

1 DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS & RELATED INFORMATION

1.1 Class series races - courses are set for each race by or on behalf of the class captains to suit each fleet's requirement. Handicap fleets - there is a provision for opting for a fleet other than that in which a particular dinghy will fall within the stated parameters. The reason for allowing an option is to enable members to enjoy their sailing in an environment and at a standard which best suits their ability, stamina or preference. However, courses will be set with suitability for the boats falling within the stated parameters of a fleet and this should be taken into account when making your choice.

1.2 Ice Breaker and Laying-Up Cup races - the courses are set depending on the day's conditions and the entry.

1.3 Novices / Improvers races - held on the morning of Commodore's race days. A short lapping course is set close to the club to enable less experienced helms the opportunity to try racing in a no-pressure environment. Those who would like to receive coaching should ask the Assistant Sailing Secretary suitably in advance so that a coach can be arranged who will crew or helm as required.

1.4 Ladies', juniors', Masters' Cup and Scratch events are relatively short races set in sight of the club.

1.5 The Commodore's Series offers a longer and more challenging course than normally sailed. For those members wishing to sail a shorter course, the Bosun's Series is available as an alternative. Results of the Commodore's series races score towards the Commodore's Trophy and those of the Bosun's series towards the Bosun's Trophy.

1.6 South Kent and West Bulwark races. The South Kent is an out and back race, of approximately 20 miles. It is preferable to use the ebb tide to get to the South Kent buoy near Queenborough Spit and the flood tide to return to the Club. The start shall be from the Club line and competitors may choose their start time from ¼ hour staggered intervals using the standard 5-minute start sequence, this system is designed to add an extra element of navigational skill for competitors as it requires good judgement of their arrival time at the South Kent Buoy for the weather conditions. It also adds a pursuit element to the race. Competitors shall sign on for their chosen start time. The West Bulwark race runs alongside the South Kent for those preferring a shorter course of around 15 miles to the West Bulwark buoy.

1.7 Creeks Race - this race takes place over the top of the tide. It is intended to be a long-distance race taking in one or more of the creeks of the river whenever practicable. A staggered start sequence is used to add a pursuit element to race and ensure slower boats don't finish too late.

1.8 Leigh Trophy race - this race takes place over the top of the tide. It is intended to be a long-distance race through the creeks using marks not normally passed/rounded in club racing. A staggered start sequence is used to add a pursuit element to race and ensure slower boats don't finish too late.

1.9 Saturday Evening Race - It is intended to follow the race with a meal.

1.10 Three Race Regatta - A one day event with three back-to-back races. It is intended to use a committee boat start/finish with relatively short lapping courses, the emphasis being on starting, mark rounding and boat handling practice.

1.11 Pursuit Races - are fun races for all-comers, arranged to give those who do not usually win a better chance by using personal handicaps. Starting will be from the beach under the instructions of the Race Officer,

departing in reverse handicap order, slower competitors first, faster later. The results are given by the order of finishing, with no subsequent calculation.

1.12 MYC participation in club races - the Wayfarers have an arrangement with the Wayfarer fleet at MYC for participation in each other's racing; hence some Sundays could see some visitors from MYC. Similar arrangements may be made regarding junior racing. The above descriptions are meant only as a guide. For further advice ask your Fleet/Class Captain/Vice or the Sailing Secretary.

1.13 The Chilly Willies is a single-start handicap race open to all-comers, including members of other clubs by invitation. The perpetual trophy will be awarded to the first WSC member.

2 OPEN EVENTS

2.1 Class opens may be run within the Medway Regatta. Class prizes will be awarded to classes mustering more than 6 entries prior to the start of the event, and a class start is possible if sufficient entries are received before the event.

3 EVENTS FOR JUNIORS

3.1 Saturday Skimmers for Juniors runs most Saturday mornings between April and October. Primarily this will be racing for those able to sail a triangular course (standard equivalent to RYA Stage 3), but additionally it is intended that a separate group for beginner or less experienced sailors will be run alongside. Saturday Skimmers starts at 09:30 am and normally finishes at 13:00. Sailors should be rigged and changed by 10:00. Club boats and equipment are available during these sessions.

3.2 Junior Week - A week's training course is arranged for Juniors in August culminating in a Regatta. Training follows the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme. Numbers for Junior Week are limited; an email with an attached application form will be sent to all families with Junior members.

3.3 For all of these events each Junior must have a parent or nominated guardian in attendance. It is expected that parents/guardians will help on the day with such duties as allocating and checking the return of club clothing, helping to get boats to and from the shore, safety boat crews (or drivers if qualified), serving refreshments and checking that boats have been packed away correctly at the end of the session.

4 ADULT TRAINING

4.1 "Rookies" runs from 1.30pm on Saturday afternoons after the Junior sessions. It is an opportunity for members to practice skills, try other boats, crew or helm in informal sessions supported with safety boat cover.

5 OTHER INFORMATION

5.1 Buoyancy tests - onus is now on self-certification, it is not possible to list all class buoyancy requirements.

5.2 It is strongly recommended that every boat has a towing line minimum dimension 8m length and 6mm diameter.

5.3 Training and advice - members requiring assistance and/or advice to enhance their sailing activities or advice and/or demonstrations when choosing a new dinghy should contact the Fleet Captains, the Sailing Secretary or the Chief Training Instructor. New members requiring such help are also advised to contact the Membership Secretary, who will assist in the co-ordination and liaison of requests.

5.4 Cruises - fleets or others may arrange informal cruises. The organisers of any group cruise, which is publicised in the club, must obtain prior approval from the Sailing Committee and should study the club's Cruising Guidelines. If available, a safety boat may accompany the cruise. The cruise organisers must consult the CDO before setting out giving names of all participants. Individuals cruising at weekends when a CDO is on duty should inform the CDO of the likely direction and duration of their sail and inform the CDO on their return.

5.5 Dinghy Park - members are reminded that the approval of the Sailing Committee is required before dinghy park spaces can be allocated to new classes of boats (Bye-law 8). The Sailing Secretary’s permission must be obtained before a member changes their class of dinghy to be kept in the Dinghy Park (Bye-law 14). Members are cautioned that the Committee will not permit boats to be kept in the Dinghy Park, even on a temporary basis, if these requirements have not been complied with.

IF YOU INTEND TO CHANGE CLASS OR BRING A NEW BOAT, DO DISCUSS WITH THE SAILING SECRETARY FIRST!

Club Racing Guidelines for Race Officers. The Sailing Instructions take precedence over these Guidelines.

Abandonment of Day's Racing: not before 15:00 in very light or strong winds.

Timing error: the RO may either postpone or signal a general recall. Postponing maintains the starting order, while in class and handicap series races only, a general recall requires the fleet recalled to go to the back of the queue (SI 1.3).

Course Setting: agreement between fleet captains can permit more adventurous courses without over-stretching the safety cover. The RO, with the CDO, has the final say.

Competitors sailing outside their allotted handicap fleet must have no input to setting the course they intend sailing, according to SI 2.6.

Upstream club buoy should only be used as a **first** mark if it will result in a true beat, i.e., including tacks, and not merely a fetch; exception: when also used in a lapping course. Rounding direction**:** take account of competitors' need to gybe or tack and moored boats; the mark should so far as possible be located on the windier side of the river.

Hoo, South Yantlet and other creeks: for safety, fleets should not be split between Hoo Creek and Gillingham Reach, likewise between Long Reach and South Yantlett or others. Select marks in the appropriate reach or alternatively specify such as 'Through Hoo Creek', for all fleets, to make the course unambiguous.

Redundant marks: courses should be checked to ensure that a 'passing' mark cannot simply be ignored, e.g., by specifying 'RP'/ 'RS' ('Round' to port/starboard respectively) for the mark in question; avoid 360-degree rounding.

Disused marks: Destroyer and Pinup mooring buoys are not to be used as racing marks.

Approved and often neglected marks: PA3 (PAIII) and Beacons 1 and 3.

Buoy 28 Take care when using 28 that competitors can round it without risking passing through the moorings which are very close to the buoy.

The Finish: progress of the race should be monitored by means of feedback from the rescue boats, and the course shortened if necessary. The courses set should consider the need for shortening and include common rounding marks in all courses for this purpose.

South Kent and West Bulwark Races only:

a) should be started from the Club Line.
b) competitors choose their start time from a series of starts at 15-minute intervals at times set out in the SIs and Sailing Programme. They should sign on and off on a sheet specific to that start.
c) Queenborough Spit should normally be included after South Kent buoy to reduce the effect of tidal changes on early and late arrivals at S. Kent.
d) The RO should monitor events downriver; some ROs find it advantageous to follow the race in a committee boat, returning in good time for the club line finish.

Please see specific guidelines for Commodore's Series racing (in the Race Book in the Race Box; also available from the Assistant Sailing Secretary on request).