

Merlin Rocket National Championships Looe 17 - 23 August 2019

Organising Authority: Looe Sailing Club Ltd (LSC)

in conjunction with the Merlin Rocket Owners' Association (MROA)

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and the RYA Racing Charter.
- 1.2 Any amendment to this Notice of Race will be posted on the Merlin Rocket National Championships website; <http://merlinrocketchamps.com/> no later than 1 Jul 2019.
- 1.3 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes procedures shall apply (for information on the procedures, go to www.rya.org.uk/go/rulesdisputes). The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee, but an arbitration cannot be reopened or appealed.
- 1.4 Racing Rule 77 and Appendix G are changed to: Except for spinnakers, a boat shall comply with the requirements of Appendix G governing class insignia, national letters and numbers on sails. Appendix G1.3(d) is deleted and in accordance with Appendix G2, spinnaker identification is governed by the Class Rules which make no requirement for numbers. Spinnaker numbers are not required.

2. ADVERTISING

- 2.1 Advertising shall comply with WS Regulation 20 and the Merlin Rocket Class Rules.
- 2.2 Boats may be required to display event supplied competitor advertising as per the Class Rule C.4.1.
- 2.3 The area of mainsail below the bottom batten shall be reserved for advertising by the event sponsor.

3. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 3.1 The regatta is open to boats of the Merlin Rocket class with a valid measurement certificate, and whose helm is a current member of the MROA at the time of the regatta.
- 3.2 The maximum entry is limited to 80 boats.
- 3.3 Eligible boats may enter by submitting a completed entry form and paying the appropriate entry fee via the Championship website <http://merlinrocketchamps.com/> or links from the MROA website.
- 3.4 Entry will close on 1 May 2019. Later entries may be accepted subject to payment of an additional fee.
- 3.5 Helms and crews under 18 years of age during the event shall submit signed Parent/Guardian Declarations at the time of entry.

4. ENTRY FEES

Entry Fee per boat:

Loyalty Bonus (2018 Champs Entrants) (Form received and paid by 1 May 2019)	£215
Early Entry – Form received and paid by 1 May 2019	£240
Standard Entry – Form received and paid after 1 May 2018 but before 1 July 2019	£270

Late Entry – Form received and/or paid after 1 July 2019	£300
Entry Discounts (deduct from fees above): - only one category/entry:	
Helm 25 years or under (on 1 st day of racing)	£50
Older boats (3571 and below)	£50
First time helms (not competed at a Merlin Nationals as helm or crew before)	£50

5. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day:	Date:	Warning Signal	Event:
Not Before:			
1	Sat 17 Aug	09:00 – 17:00 19.30	Measurement checks and registration. Racing and safety briefing in LSC Clubhouse.
2	Sun 18 Aug	09:00 – 11.30 12.55	Registration Race 1 – Founders Trophy
3	Mon 19 Aug	12.55 back to back	Race 2 – Beechers Cup Race 3 – Clyde Quaich
4	Tues 20 Aug	12.55 back to back	Race 4 – West Country Trophy Crews' Race
5	Wed 21 Aug	12.55 back to back	Race 5 – Howard Trophy Race 6 – Winter Trophy
6	Thu 22 Aug	12.55	Race 7 - Ranelagh Trophy
7	Fri 23 Aug	10.55 back to back	Race 8 – Top Hat Trophy Race 9 – Silent World Trophy

No warning signal will be made after 14:00 on Friday 23 August 2019 unless fewer than three races have been completed in the series.

6. REGISTRATION

Registration will take place at the Registration Desk in Looe SC Clubhouse at the times prescribed in NoR 5 'Schedule of Events'.

7. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 7.1 Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be available at registration.
- 7.2 At the discretion of the Organising Authority, Sailing Instructions may be released earlier on the MROA Championships website.

8. MEASUREMENTS

- 8.1 All boats will be subject to pre-event measurement checks at the times prescribed in NoR 5 'Schedule of Events'.
- 8.2 Additional measurement checks may be carried out at any time during the event.
- 8.3 The measuring authority referred to in rule 64.3(b) will be the Royal Yachting Association.

9. VENUE

Racing will take place in Looe Bay, off Looe.

10. COURSES

- 10.1 The courses to be sailed will be Sausage - Triangle. Example course are at Appendix 1.
- 10.2 The target time for race duration will be;
 - (a) 100 – 120 minutes for the leaders of the Ranelagh Trophy race (if run on a 1-race day)
 - (b) 90 minutes for the leaders (1-race days)
 - (c) 60 minutes for the leaders (2-race days)

- (d) 50 minutes for the leaders (if 3-race day required).
- 10.3 Starts will be made using a line start.
- 10.4 The finish line will normally be at the leeward end of the course, but at the end of the last race of the day, the course is likely to be shortened to finish at the windward mark in offshore wind directions.

11. SCORING

11.1 The Scoring System is as follows:

- (a) Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- (b) When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- (c) When five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- (d) When nine races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

11.2 The Crews' Race, if sailed, will not form part of the scoring series.

12. COACH & SUPPORT BOATS

12.1 Support boats shall register at the race office at the time prescribed in NoR 5 and shall be responsible for payment of their launching fees direct to the Harbourmaster.

12.2 Support boats shall be conspicuously identified and shall remain clear of racing, as specified in the Sailing Instructions, unless specifically directed by the RO.

12.3 All support boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of receiving radio communications from the Race Committee on channel 37 (M1).

13. BERTHING/LAUNCHING

13.1 Boats shall be berthed on their launching trollies in their assigned places in the boat park.

13.2 It is intended that launching and recovery may use the beach or the slipway within the harbour. The harbour is a confined space with moored and moving craft. At certain states of the tide it may not be possible to ship fixed rudders within the harbour confines.

14. SUBSTITUTION OF CREW AND EQUIPMENT

14.1 Substitution of the person named as helm on the entry form will not be allowed

14.2 Permission to substitute the person named as crew on the entry form will only be granted for reasons of injury, illness, serious unforeseen personal circumstances or pre-arranged crew substitutions approved by the Organising Authority at or before registration.

14.3 Requests for substitutions shall be made at the first reasonable opportunity and shall be confirmed in writing before the end of the protest time limit on the first day the substitution comes into effect.

14.4 Substituted equipment may be required to pass an equipment check.

14.5 'Request for Substitution of Crew' and 'Request for Substitution of Equipment' forms will be available at the Race Office and shall be delivered there.

15. 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 communications not available to all boats.

16. PRIZES

Prizes will be given as follows:

Overall trophies:

Yachting World Trophy	The helm of the overall winning boat
City of Plymouth Trophy	The winning crew sailing the same boat throughout the Championship
Daily Trophies	
As detailed in Section 5.	Champagne will be awarded to the first 21 boats in the Ranelagh Trophy race
Special Trophies	
Jack Holt Plate	Winner of the Silver fleet
Maurice Cockerill Trophy	Winner of the Bronze fleet
Old Boats Prize	First Boat registered before 1 st Jan 2000 (3571 and below)
Abererch Trophy	First helm over the age of 45 and under the age of 55 on the first day of the Championship
Draycote Water Spring Series Trophy	First helm over the age of 55 on the first day of the Championship
Anniversary Trophy	First helm under the age of 21 on the first day of the event.
Minima Trophy	First lady sailing in the same boat throughout the Championship
Neil Henderson Cup	First helm and crew related by birth or marriage sailing in the same boat throughout the Championship
Triangle Team Trophy	Club scoring the lowest total points with their best three boats sailed by the same three helms throughout the Championship
Buttercup Trophy	Lowest placed boat overall having completed all qualifying races in the series (i.e. all races sailed)
Heavyweight Prize	First helm and crew with a combined weight of over 26 stones (165 kg) sailing in the same boat throughout the Championship
Ball and Chain Trophy	First boat sailed by a couple not married or related by birth
Centennial Trophy	First boat with aggregate age of helm and crew over 100
King Cup	First boat with aggregate age of helm and crew under 50
Amazons Cup	First lady helming the same boat throughout the championship
Grafham Goblet	First crew under the age of 18 on the first day of the event
Glassware	
	First 15 boats in the overall classification
	First 3 boats in the Silver Fleet
	First 3 boats in the Bronze Fleet

17. RISK STATEMENT

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".

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:

- i) 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;
- ii) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- iii) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their
- iv) own actions or omissions;
- v) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- vi) 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;

- vii) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- viii) It is their responsibility to familiarize themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.
- ix) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £5 million or the equivalent per event against third party claims.

18. INSPECTIONS

The fact that the race committee and/or Class Association conducts inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this Notice of Race.

19. RIGHT TO USE NAMES AND LIKENESS

By participating in these championships, a competitor automatically grants to the organising authority and its sponsors the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time at their discretion, any motion pictures and live, taped or filmed television and other reproductions of him or her during the period of the competition, without compensation.

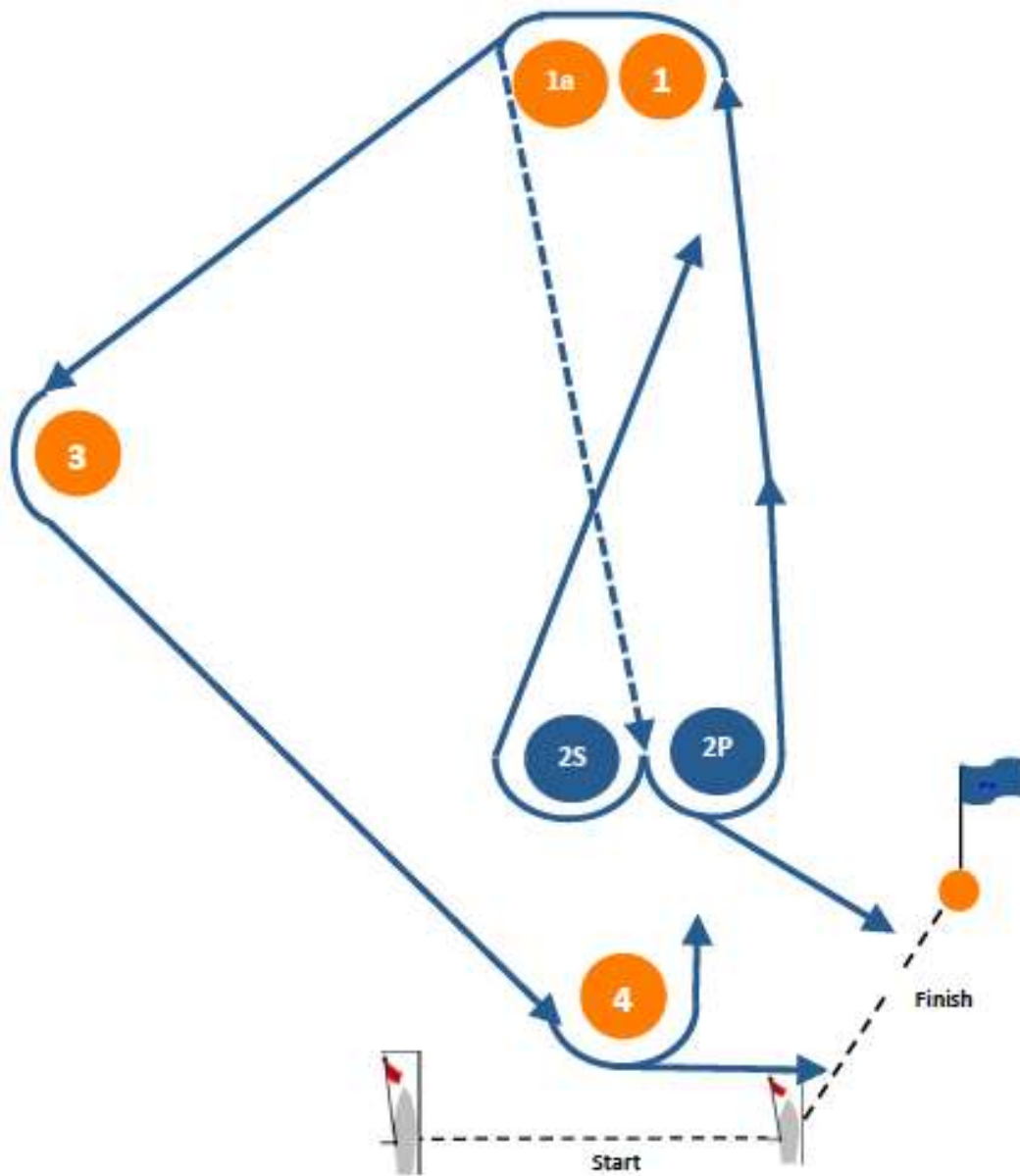
20. FURTHER INFORMATION

Championship website: <http://merlinrocketchamps.com/>

Merlin Rocket class website: <http://www.merlinrocket.co.uk>

COURSES

Sausage/Triangle (ST)



COURSE	
ST2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a - 3 – 4 – finish
ST3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a - 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2P – finish
ST4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a - 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – finish

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

The following is intended as information and advice for competitors. The items in this section do not form part of the Notice of Race. Additional information, further links and any amendments to the items below will be posted on the Merlin Championship website.

Temporary Honorary Membership

Looe Sailing Club extends temporary honorary membership to all competitors, officials and their families for the duration of the regattas.

Dinghy parking, trolleys

Trolleys must be clearly marked and parked as directed by the Beach Master.

Identification tags for launching trolleys will be provided on arrival at the boat park. Please ensure that your launching trolley is in good order.

Looe Tourist Information

Visit this link <http://www.looeguide.co.uk/>

Accommodation

A wide range of accommodation is available nearby. Check the local accommodation website:

<http://www.looeguide.co.uk/accommodation.php>

Social, bar and meals

Information on Looe Sailing Club may be found on their website:

<http://www.looesailingclub.co.uk/>

A full social programme and bar facilities will be available throughout the regatta. The club does not have any catering facilities. For more details - see the event web site:

www.merlinrocketchamps.com/

Some social events will be bookable on entering.

Deliveries

Clearly identified parcels may be shipped to:

MR competitor - name & sail no, c/o Looe SC, Buller St., East Looe, Cornwall, PL13 1AS

Chandlery, sailmakers, boat repairs

See event web site: <http://merlinrocketchamps.com/>