**Merlin Rocket 75th National Championships**

**North Berwick**

**15 - 19 August 2021**

Organising Authority: East Lothian Yacht Club Ltd (ELYC)

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

# **NOTICE OF RACE**

## **1. RULES**

 1.1 The event is 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 class website no later than

1st July 2021.

 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.As allowed by the Merlin Rocket Owners Association and RRS 87, Class Rule C.5.1 (a) (1) is deleted and replaced with the following: C.5.1 FOR USE AT 2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

 (i) Any device which correlates and/or stores any of the following; heading, time or vmg is prohibited, except for this event a SailRacer GPS tracker is permitted to be carried for the purposes of running the SailRacer app.

 1.5 Sail numbers are not required on spinnakers

## **2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

 2.1 Sailing Instructions (SI) will be available from the MROA class website no later than 1st August 2021.

 2.2 At the discretion of the Organising Authority, Draft Sailing Instructions may be released earlier on
 the MROA Class website.
 **3. COMMUNICATION** 3.1 The official noticeboard location will be published with the Sailing Instructions and may be online if
 COVID restrictions are in force.
 3.2 [DP] 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.

## **4. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY**

 4.1 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.

 4.2 The maximum entry is limited to 80 boats.

 4.3 Eligible boats may enter by submitting a completed entry form and paying the appropriate entry fee via the
 SailRacer website or links from the MROA website.

 4.4 Entry will close on 1 August 2021. Later entries may be accepted subject to payment of an additional fee.

 4.5Helms and crews less than 18 years of age during the event shall submit signed Parent/Guardian
 Declarations at the time of entry.

##  **5. ENTRY FEES**

 5.1 Entry Fee per boat:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Loyalty Bonus (2019 Champs Entrants) (Form received and deposit paid by 21st June 2021)  | £225  |
| Standard Entry – Form received and deposit paid by 21st June 2021  | £250  |
| Late Entry – Form received and/or paid from 1 August 2019  | £300  |

Entry Discounts (deduct from fees above): - only one category/entry:

 Helm 25 years or under (on 1st day of racing) £50 Older boats (Sail Number 3603 and below) £50

 First time helms (not competed at a Merlin Nationals as helm or crew before) £50

 5.2 Any fee paid for pre-registration shall be deducted from the above.

 **6 CREW LIMITATIONS**

 6.1 Class rules apply

##  **7. ADVERTISING**

## 7.1 Advertising shall comply with WS Regulation 20 and the Merlin Rocket Class Rules.  7.2 Boats may be required to display event-supplied competitor advertising as per the Class Rule C.4.1.  7.3 The area of mainsail below the bottom batten shall be reserved for advertising by the event sponsor.

 **8 QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES**

 Does not apply

## **9. EVENT SCHEDULE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Date | Warning signal (Not before) | Event |
| 1 | Saturday 14th August | 09:00-17:0010:00-17:1518:30 | Equipment inspectionRegistrationBriefing(Details of how these will work will be published before the event. Registration may be completed online and the briefing streamed online if COVID restrictions are in force) |
| 2 | Sunday 15th August | 09:00-11:3012:55ASAP after race 1 | Late registrationRace 1 – Founders TrophyRace 2 – Beechers Cup |
| 3 | Monday 16th August | 12:55ASAP after race 3 | Race 3 – Clyde QuaichRace 4 – West Country Trophy |
| 4 | Tuesday 17th August | 12:55ASAP after race 5 | Race 5 – Silent World Trophy Crews Race |
| 5 | Wednesday 18th August | 12:55ASAP after race 6 | Race 6 – Top Hat TrophyRace 7 – Ranelagh Trophy |
| 6 | Thursday 19th August | 10:55ASAP after race 717:00 | Race 8 – Winter TrophyRace 9 – Howard TrophyPrizegiving (This may be streamed online with only prize winners in physical attendance if COVID restrictions are in force) |

No warning signal will be made after 14:00 on Thursday 18 August 2021 unless fewer than three races have been completed in the series.

## **10. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**

 10.1 Boats may be subject to pre-event measurement checks at the times prescribed in NoR 9 ‘Event
 Schedule’.
 10.2 Additional measurement checks may be carried out at any time during the event.
 10.3 The measuring authority is the Royal Yachting Association.
 10.4 Entrants will be required to produce a valid RYA Measurement Certificate at Inspection and
 Registration.

 **11 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT**
 11.1 RRS 50.1 applies

**12. VENUE**

 12.1 Racing will take place off North Berwick in the Firth of Forth.

## **13. COURSES**

 13.1 Example courses are at Appendix 1.
 13.2 The expected target time for race duration will be;

 (a) 70 minutes for the leaders (1-race days or the Ranelagh race if ran on a two race day)

 (b) 60 minutes for the leaders (2-race days)

 (c) 50 minutes for the leaders (if 3-race day required).

 **14 PENALTY SYSTEM**  14.1 Appendix P shall apply as modified by the Sailing Instructions .

## **15. SCORING**

 15.1 The Scoring System is as follows:

1. Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
2. When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores.
3. 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.
4. When nine races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

 15.2 The Crews’ Race, if sailed, will not form part of the scoring series.

**16 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS**.
 16.1 [DP] 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.
 16.2 [DP] Support boats shall be conspicuously identified and shall remain clear of racing, as specified in
 the Sailing Instructions, unless specifically directed by the RO.
 16.3 [DP] All support boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of receiving radio communications from the
 Race Committee on channel 37 (M1).
 16.4 The Jury boat will display white flag carrying the word ‘Jury’

**17 CHARTERED OR LOAN BOATS**  Does not apply

## **18. BERTHING/LAUNCHING**

 18.1[DP] Boats shall be berthed on their launching trollies in their assigned places in the boat park.

 18.2 It is intended that launching and recovery will be the beach in West Bay. Boats must maintain
 20m distance from the harbour entrance as the fairway is used by commercial boats.

## **19.** **HAUL\_OUT RESTRICTIONS** Does not apply

## **20 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS** Does not apply

 **21 PRIVACY STATEMENT**

 21.1 The personal information you provide to the organising authority will be used to facilitate your
 participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other
 rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is
 contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is
 legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organising
 authority’s privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the
 RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any
 hearing or appeal may be published.

## **22. RISK STATEMENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  22.1 | RRS 3 states: ‘The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.’ By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury.  **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes** |

**. 23 INSURANCE** 23.1Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third –party liability insurance with a minimum
 cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent

 **24 . PRIZES** 24.1Prizes will be awarded as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yachting World Trophy | The helm of overall winning boat |
| City of Plymouth Trophy | The winning crew sailing the same boat throughout the event.  |
| Daily trophies | See section 9 |
| Abererch Trophy | First helm aged 45 or over  |
| Draycote Water Spring Series Trophy | First helm aged 55 or over  |
| Anniversary Trophy | First Helm aged 20 or under  |
| King Cup | First boat with an aggregate age between helm and crew of 49 or under. |
| Centennial trophy | First boat with a combined age between helm and crew of 100 or over. |
| Grafham Goblet | First crew aged 18 or under |
| Minima Trophy | First female competitor sailing in the same boat throughout the championship. |
| Amazons cup | First female helm. |
| Neil Henderson Cup | First helm and crew related by birth or marriage sailing in the same boat throughout the championship |
| Ball and Chain Trophy  | First boat sailed by a couple not married or related by birth. |
| Heavyweights prize | First helm and crew with a c ombined weight of 26 stone (165kg) or more sailing in the same boat throughout the championships. |
| Triangle Team Trophy | Club scoring the lowest total points with their best three boats sailed by the same three helms throughout the championships |
| Buttercup Trophy | Lowest placed boat having completed all qualifying races in the series (ie all races sailed) |
| Old boats prize | First boat with sail number 3603 or below. |
| Looe Board | Most cheerful competitors as judged by the host club. |

 Where qualification for a trophy is age dependant, ages are to be taken as on the 15th August 2021.

 Should the entry exceed 30 boats, the fleet will be split into Gold, Silver and Bronze fleets and the following
 trophies awarded:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jack Holt Plate | Winning boat in Silver fleet |
| Maurice Cockerill Trophy | Winning boat in Bronze fleet. |

 Sparkling wine will be awarded to the first 21 boats to finish the Ranelagh Race.

 Glassware will be awarded at the discretion of the organising authority, details to be published with the sailing
 instructions.

**25 FURTHER INFORMATION** 25.1 COVID 19
 25.1a [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event
 official. Failure to comply may be misconduct. - Reasonable actions by event officials to implement
 COVID-19 guidance, protocols or legislation, even if they later prove to have been unnecessary, are
 not improper actions or omissions.
 25.1b In the event of a cancellation due to circumstances beyond the control of the Organising Authority
 any financial liability is limited to the entry fee paid.
 25.2 WEBSITES
 SailRacer website: www.sailracer.co.uk

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

Appendix 1

Course Diagram

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  |
| ST5  | Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a - 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2p - finish  |

Appendix 2

Additional Information

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

COVID 19 Information.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and could change at any time. Competitors are advised to check the booking terms and conditions for their accommodation regarding cancellation before booking. We hope to provide a full championship week both on and off the water. To enable us to make decisions regarding some items normally published in the NOR we have decided to delay publishing them until the SIs by which time things will hopefully be clearer.