



Marconi Sailing Club

Sailing Information

2024

MSCP06 Issue 15

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Purpose of this Guide:

Marconi SC is an east coast gem! We benefit from a large site, excellent facilities and most importantly of all – a beautiful expanse of water to sail on at any state of the tide.

We have an active membership across all types of sailing: cruisers, dinghies, cats, windsurfers, cruisers, racing, cadet events and a rowing gig. We also host visiting fleets and have camping and social events.

We want all members to be able to make the most of everything the club has to offer.

This guide provides general information about various sailing activities – with contact details if you would like to find out more.

So whatever type of sailing interests you – we would encourage you to get involved and we hope you find this guide useful.

Please do not hesitate to contact us – our details are in the Year Book or on the website.

Happy sailing!

The Sailing Sub Committee

Sailing Sub Committee:

Rear Commodore Sailing:	Nigel James
Sailing Secretary:	Dan Bard
Support Boat Co-ordinator:	Dave Russell & Karen Corley
Race Officer Co-ordinator:	Beth Spencer
Results Secretary:	Dave Clarke
Trophy Secretary:	Sally Wilson
Monohull Fleet Captain:	Jeremy Featherstone
Cat Fleet Captain:	Daniel Sturm
Cruiser Fleet Captain:	Trevor Holder
Cruiser Racing:	Mick Jones & Lana Clarke
Cadet Captain:	Ethan Walker
Windsurf Rep:	Vacancy

Other Useful Contacts:

Rowing Captain:	Kevin Stubbs
Dinghy Cruises:	Colin Wardell
Saturday Sail Training:	John Nickalls
Cadet Week Co-ordinator:	Jen Castle
Dart 15 Co-ordinator:	Jenny Ball
Dinghy Park Co-ordinator:	Bryan Spencer
Cat Park Co-ordinator:	Daniel Sturm
Cruiser Park Co-ordinator:	Peter Booth

Contact details are in the Year Book.



<i>Club Communications Explained!!</i>	
Yearbook	Issued with your membership pack. Contains full 2024 schedule, contact details for committee members and club rules and articles. If in doubt, check here first!
Weekly Newsletter	The Weekly Newsletter is issued mainly by e-mail. Contains latest news, forthcoming events, officer/fleet captain reports and duty rotas. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ IT!
Website	www.marconi-sc.org.uk . Contains all the above info plus racing results, social events etc.
Members' website area	The members' area of the website also contains the latest duty rotas, contact details and all club procedures and codes of practice. The password is issued with the Yearbook.
Operating Procedures	The club has a comprehensive set of guidelines and codes of practice for all aspects of club life and sailing. These are very useful guides and are available from the member's area on the website (see above – under "Document Library") or from the Club Secretary.
E-mail	The club will e-mail members on forthcoming events or pertinent club matters. Please ensure we have your current e-mail address when you renew your membership.
Facebook Instagram	If you wish, you can also follow Marconi SC on Facebook and Instagram for general reminders and to see pictures of events during the year!

Important Information for all Boat Owning Members:

All members are requested to read the following documents, depending on what type of boat you own:

- Dinghy, Catamaran and Sailboard Code of Practice (MSCP02) and/or
- Essential Information for Cruiser Owners (MSCP03).

They contain important information about how your boat should be stored safely in summer/winter, key safety considerations and other actions required of all members to ensure the club can be enjoyed by all. Copies are issued with membership renewal packs and are also available on the Members area of the website.

Galley and Bar Opening:

The Galley is planned to be open on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays during the season when racing is scheduled – serving breakfast, lunch, teas/coffees, snacks and afternoon cake. The Galley may also be open for a meal after Wednesday night racing sessions (see Yearbook for dates).

The Bar is generally open on Sunday afternoons (also in the winter on occasions – see Newsletter), Friday evenings in the high summer and for social events and camping days.

The Bar is entirely dependent on volunteers being available to run it – otherwise it cannot open. If you are willing to volunteer and be shown the ropes– please contact John Castle (Bar Manager).

Social Events:

The club has a lively social calendar with a number of events taking place throughout the year – from summer theme nights and fancy-dress evenings at the club to the annual Winter Dinner Dance in a slightly more formal setting. All members are very welcome to attend!

Social Events are listed in the Sailing Schedule, on the website, in club emails and on the clubhouse notice boards.

Individual fleets also arrange their own social events – keep an eye on Weekly Newsletters.

Camping at the Sailing Club:

Under council regulations, the club has a set number of Camping days it is allowed to allocate each year – the dates are specified in the Year Book (see Camping column of the Sailing Schedule).

Camping is NOT PERMITTED other than on the dates shown in the Year Book.

Camping Fortnight: 27th July to 11th August – **MUST be pre-booked**. Booking forms will be available on the MSC website. See Weekly Newsletter. Return your application form straightaway if you want to secure a place. Bank Holidays: Late May and August – pre-booking required to determine number of people likely to be on site. Open / Other Events: e.g. East Coast Piers Race – booking may be required in 2024.



Fleets:

The club is divided into fleets – each with its own Fleet Captain elected by their fellow fleet members. The Fleet Captain co-ordinates matters relating to their fleet (e.g. racing and sailing, boat storage etc) and also represents their fleet on the Sailing Sub Committee. Each Fleet holds an AGM (see Yearbook for dates). These are informal and sociable meetings and all are encouraged to attend to review the prior sailing season and make recommendations for the following year.

The Fleets are as follows and further information for each fleet is included on the following pages:

- Cruiser Fleet
- SB20 Fleet
- Monohull Fleet – representing all monohull dinghies
- Cat Fleet – representing Dart 15s, Medium and Fast Cats
- Windsurfing Fleet
- Cadet Fleet – representing club members aged 18 or under.
- Rowing Gig Fleet – representing all rowers of the gig *Elettra*.

Cruiser Fleet - Sailing:

The Cruiser Fleet organises a number of events throughout the year normally starting with a Fitting Out Supper followed by a number of “cruises in company” over the course of the season. The season finishes with a Fleet AGM and fish and chip supper.

We normally have several weekend/long weekend cruises which are an easy day sail away and often include venues from Heybridge to the Orwell, plus longer cruises which could be farther afield and/or to continental destinations. The cruiser fleet also supports the ECPR by supplying the mother boats and crews for the course.

Before each cruise, the bar should be open on the Friday night for a get together and to sort out any last-minute queries. All skill levels are catered for and friendly advice and guidance is freely given by the more experienced members.

There may also be occasional joint cruises with other clubs on the river – please see the Yearbook or clubhouse Notices.

The fleet has, with the correct instruction, access to travel hoists, tractors, jacks, pressure washers, mast derrick, scrubbing posts and scrubbing-off trailer (some of these require pre-booking – see MSCP03 *Essential Information for Cruiser Owners*).

Dates: Please see year book. (see “Cruiser Events” column in the schedule)

Contact: Trevor Holder – Cruiser Fleet Captain – trevorholder54@gmail.com

Monohull Fleet:

The Monohull Fleet comprises a wide variety of dinghy monohulls from Skiffs, 505, Wayfarers, Wanderers, Solos, Laser Stratos, Vagos, Larks, 420s, Picos, Lasers, Toppers, Bytes and foiling International Moth! The Monohull fleet race actively and have one of the largest fleet racing turnouts. The fleet is also active in organising cruising events (see following pages for more information).

Fleet Captain: Jeremy Featherstone – jirfeatherstone@hotmail.com

Cat Fleet:

The Cat Fleet comprises a full range of cats from Dart 15s, Dart 16s, Dart 18s, Vipers, Spitfires, F18s, Hurricanes and Tornados. For racing, these are divided into three fleets – Dart 15s, Medium Cats and Fast Cats to ensure closely matched racing and that suitable courses are set for those cats with or without kites. For over 30 years, the club has hosted the famous East Coast Piers Race – a long distance race attracting Cat Sailors from around the UK and abroad – whilst raising money for charity - see www.eastcoastpiersrace.com

Fleet Captain: Daniel Sturm D.M.Sturm@lse.ac.uk
Dart 15 co-ordinator: Jenny Ball jennyb2025@outlook.com



SB20s:

MSC is fortunate to have a fleet of five 20 foot racing keelboats (the SB20 class), for use by all members. A great way to improve your sailing and learn from others as we sail in teams of 3-5. Every month we hold a weekend of training open to all as well as regattas throughout the season.

There are also opportunities to represent the club at events including the British Keelboat League and other events both local and more national. We've even had a team compete in the European Sailing Champion's League for the past 2 years!

Times: See yearbook and website for date details or request access to the WhatsApp group for the ad-hoc sessions.

Contact: Peter Ward – peter@awardls.com
Mia Morgan – miavmorgan1@gmail.com

Windsurfing:

As soon as the winds start to blow, the windsurfers generally gather at low tide with a prevailing south westerly to make the most of the incoming tide. The perfect wind against tide conditions makes it easy to sail upwind and provides a small swell for some bump and jump fun. Sailing between Osea Island and the shore provides mirror flat shallows for smooth gybing and epic freestyle manoeuvres.

Times: Forecast 16mph+, Wind against tide conditions.

Contact: *Vacancy- volunteer needed*

Cadet Fleet:

The Cadet Fleet represent the club members who are aged 18 or under at 1st January 2024. An extremely popular annual Cadet Week provides a fun week of sailing activities for all levels of ability together with Sail Training days held throughout the season (see below for further information). Cadets have their own fleet racing each Sunday to ensure they have the right courses and support. But it's not just about racing – Cadets do a lot of social sailing / capsizing and also arrange social events during the year – get yourself added to the Cadet e-mail distribution list to find out more!

Cadet Captain:	Ethan Walker	
Cadet Vice Captain:	Jess Parry	
Saturday Sail Training:	John Nickalls	home.nickalls@gmail.com
Cadet Week:	Jen Castle	jengabyte@aol.com
	Dan Bard	barddan@gmail.com
	Anna Nickalls	anna.nickalls@gmail.com
	Sam Featherstone	s.j.featherstone@hotmail.co.uk

Rowing Gig:

The club has the rowing gig, *Elettra*, built at Harkers Yard in Brightlingsea. Anyone is welcome to register their interest to have a go. *Elettra* participates in local rowing gig races against fellow crews on the Blackwater, Colne and Crouch. There are male, female and mixed crews. Sign yourself up to our emailing list for more info.

Contact: Kevin Stubbs - kevinstubbs@btinternet.com



RYA Training:

The club is a recognised RYA Training Centre. RIB courses, dinghy sailing courses and first aid courses are currently available; see yearbook for dates. The range of courses offered is increasing. For more information look in the Weekly Newsletter or contact the club's Training Centre Principal.

Contact: Gary Jackson – training@marconi-sc.org.uk

Dinghy Cruises:

Dinghy cruises take place on the first or occasional second Saturday of each month from January to December. These are listed in the MSC programme in the yearbook and on the website. Weekday cruises may also be introduced this year together with some weekend cruises – communicated through the dinghy cruising group email network.

Club members with Wayfarers, Wanderers, GPs and similar boats meet up around 10:30am and head off for the day to explore the Blackwater estuary or further afield. Crewing opportunities are usually available for those who do not own a suitable boat. The cruises do not have support boat cover and are self-sufficient so ensure you have all the appropriate clothing and equipment with you for the day. Destinations are determined by the tide and the weather – but definitely bring a picnic with you! Final plans for each cruise are made a few days beforehand, once we have a reasonable weather forecast, and are communicated through the MSCDinghy email group, run by groups.io.

Dates: Please see yearbook. (see "Dinghy Cruises" column in the schedule)

Contact: Colin Wardell - Wardells5@btinternet.com

Saturday Sail Training Days and 'Little Floaters':

As well as the RYA courses, Sail Training Days are scheduled throughout the season to provide training to members of all ages who are looking to learn to sail or improve their sailing. Sail Training days are provided for Marconi SC members free of charge, it has developed into a thriving community and it's all part of the fun of belonging to the club. It's definitely a self-help team effort!

'Little Floaters' helps real youngsters take their first steps onto the water, and several other groups address a range of ages and interests. Each session starts at 10:00am in wet gear, ready to sail – unless otherwise advised via email – and parents of youngsters are asked to be on hand throughout the sessions.

Volunteers for support boats or to assist on shore (e.g. launching and recovery) are always very welcome.

Dates: Sessions throughout the season. Please see yearbook and Newsletter for dates.

Or go to <https://marconi-sc.org.uk/training> for the most up to date information.

Contact: Saturday Sail Training: John Nickalls home.nickalls@gmail.com

Little Floaters Club: Beth Spencer bethspencer66@yahoo.com

Anna Nickalls anna.nickalls@gmail.com

Cadet Week:

Our annual Cadet Week provides fun sail training for young club members up to the age of 18. We also provide sail training for adults who are new to sailing too! The week includes sailing tuition, a long-distance race with a picnic, water games, social events, a Cadet Regatta and a grand prizegiving on the final Saturday. The week is wholly run by volunteers – and everyone is very welcome to join in.

- If you did not manage to book a camping place when the forms were issued in March – you could consider staying at *The Star* in Steeple which is very close by. (You are advised to contact *The Star* in advance.)
- A separate registration for Cadet Week is issued around April/May. Early registration is appreciated.

Dates: Monday 29th July to Saturday 3rd August 2024 (including Cadet Regatta & Prizegiving).

Contact: Cadet Week Committee:

Jen Castle jengabyte@aol.com

Dan Bard barddan@gmail.com

Anna Nickalls anna.nickalls@gmail.com

Sam Featherstone s.j.featherstone@hotmail.co.uk



Give racing a try!

Racing is a great way to improve your sailing and is also very sociable! If you have not done much racing but would like to have a go – come along on any scheduled race day and a member of your fleet will be happy to help you with how it all works.

We have series racing (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Bank Holidays) plus a host of “one-off” races and summer Wednesday evening racing which start from the hard. You don’t need to do all the races in a series in order to take part – you can do one or all of them!

Dinghy, Cat and Cadet Racing:

Spring, Summer AM, Summer PM and Autumn Points Races:

Take place on Sundays – morning races start at 11am. Afternoon start times can vary.
Five fleets each with their own start: 1. Dart 15s, 2. Medium Cats, 3. Monohulls, 4. Fast Cats, 5. Short Course (the last two starts only being sailed when applicable). Start from the Race Box line using a 3,2,1,GO sequence. Each race lasts around 60 minutes.

Bank Holiday Series:

Take place on Bank Holiday Sundays and Mondays. Two races back-to-back in the morning (1st race start at 11am) followed by one race in the afternoon.
Three fleets with separate starts: Slow, Medium and Fast Handicap (Cats and Monohulls combined). Start from the Race Box line using the 3,2,1,GO sequence. Morning races will be around 45 mins, afternoon around 60 mins.

Pursuit Races:

Take place on Wednesday evenings in the summer and on specified weekend dates – (see Yearbook).
All in races with Cats and Monohulls combined.
Start from the hard – starts are staggered with slowest boats going first in line with a scheduled set of start times.
Race finishes at a set time – whoever is in front, wins!
Wednesday evening – first start is 7pm. Race finishes at 8.10pm.

Individual “One Off” Races:

Jackpot – Helms aged 40 or over. Race to Heybridge. Stop for lunch. Race back! (under-40s welcome to sail)
Pilot Cup – Race to the Nass (near West Mersea) and back.
Marconi Challenge Cup – A one day event comprising 2 pursuit races.
Figure of Eight – a figure of eight course, ideally round Osea and Northey Islands.
Mona’s Cup – a race to Heybridge/Maldon and back again.
Last Fling – the last race of the season! An all-in handicap race with a Race Box start.
Ladies Series – a one day event for female helms, comprising 3 handicap races.
Helm of the Year – a one day event where a representative from each fleet competes in a series of races in one design dinghies for the Helm of the Year title.

Other Racing Events:

Marconi will also be hosting open events such as the East Coast Piers Race.

General Comments:

All races are listed in the Yearbook in the Sailing Schedule.
Support boat cover is provided for all scheduled racing – although competitors enter solely at their own risk.
Competitors are required to sign on/off for each race for safety purposes.

Cruiser Fleet - Racing:

Marconi cruiser members participate in races organised by the BJRC throughout the year – a great way to meet up with and race alongside other sailors from around the River Blackwater.
The racing is both very inclusive and competitive and all are welcome to participate. Crewing opportunities on board club cruisers are sometimes available.
Cruiser members also race in events further afield ranging from Burnham Week to the Fastnet race!

Dates: Please see year book. (see “Cruiser Events” column in the schedule)

Contact: Mick Jones - mjones4320@aol.com

Lana Clarke - lanamegan@hotmail.com



Your Club Needs You!!

Our active racing schedule is only possible thanks to those who volunteer to be Race Officers and Support Boat Crews. There is an online rota system on the club website. If you are allocated a duty, please ensure you attend. If you are unable to do that date, please arrange a swap and advise the Co-ordinator.

We are always looking for new volunteers to be trained up as support boat crews or race officers/assistants. Don't worry if you do not have experience of either role – we will allocate you with an experienced support boat driver or race officer for a number of duties to show you the ropes!! If you can help – please contact:

Support Boat Co-ordinator:	Dave Russell	drussel7@live.com
	Karen Corley	corleyk89@gmail.com
Race Officer Co-ordinator:	Beth Spencer	bethspencer66@yahoo.com