



Medway Yacht Club
Pirates Cave
CHANDLERY



Sonata National Championships

10th-14th August 2024

Event Brochure



Overview

Medway Yacht Club is the hosts of the Pirates Cave Sonata Nationals 2024 and look forward to welcoming you for 4 days of exciting and challenging racing on the tidal River Medway. [At least](#) 25 boats are expected (that's over 100 people) racing and enjoying the social events each evening from the club house and terrace.



Brightlingsea Nationals 2022

Sponsors

We are very grateful to all our sponsors [who](#) are listed at the back of the brochure.

Our sponsors have either provided monetary funds to help run the event or donated gifts and prizes.

Special mention goes to our title sponsors Pirates Cave Chandlery & Craftinsure and our Championship Dinner sponsor Hamilton Home and Living Ltd.



Event Entry

The online entry form is available through the Medway Yacht Club website and payment is to be made by bank transfer. Alternatively, the form can be downloaded, completed, and sent back to Medway Yacht Club Office.



Medway Sonatas Club Racing

Social Events

We will be hosting social events every, the 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 also has a great view of the river which is ideal for winding down and dining after a day's racing.

Social event highlights include the Hamilton Living Championship Dinner with live music from Contraband. As well as the Quiz night and RC Laser Racing

Shoreside Programme

Saturday 10/08/2024	Registration day	Registration from 11am	Competitors briefing and meet the race committee.
Sunday 11/08/2024	First Day of Racing	Daily Prizes @ 6:30 pm	Quiz Night
Monday 12/08/2024	Second Day of Racing	Daily Prizes @ 6:30 pm	RC Laser Racing
Tuesday 13/08/2024	Third Day of Racing	Daily Prizes @ 6:30 pm	Hamilton Home and Living Ltd. Championship Dinner & Band
Wednesday 14/08/2024	Final Day of Racing	Overall Prizes @ 6pm	Overall Prizes and Barbecue

Food and Drink

A Meal Voucher can be purchased providing a Welcome Dinner, Breakfast, Packed Lunch, and dinner after every day's racing as well as the Championship Dinner on Tuesday 13th August. This offers a great discount on buying individual meals. The meal tickets will be available to purchase in advance online.



Racing Overview

Racing will begin on Sunday 11th August following the competitor's briefing and welcome at 19:30 on Saturday 10th.

Racing will be within the vicinity of Long reach / Pinup Reach which is a 30–45-minute motor downriver from the clubhouse.



2018 Sonata Nationals - Medway

The Racing will mostly consist of Olympic Style Windward / Leewards with Gates.

The River Medway has many bends and reaches making it ideal for setting courses in any wind direction. The tide adds additional tactical challenges.



2018 Sonata Nationals - Medway

An 'around the cans' race will be sailed, making use of the many creeks, wrecks, and navigational marks. This will give visiting boats the chance to sail further and see the history of the River Medway, while also giving a chance to test navigational skills.



2018 Sonata Nationals - Medway



Medway Sonatas Club Racing

There will be one fleet comprising of the lift and fin keel entries, all battling to become National Champion.

In recent years the event has seen 30 entries making for competitive racing, we expect to see a similar number racing in the 2024 event.

Racing Documents

All race documents will be available online and can viewed through the Medway Yacht Club website, this includes a basic chart, Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and Entry Forms.

Race Schedule

Racing will start no earlier than 10:30am on each day of racing and 4 races are intended per day. With the start of the final race no later than 4:00pm

Race information will be shared through a WhatsApp group and also by VHF more details on this can be found in the N.O.R

Registration and Scrutineering

Registration will take place in the event office (MYC library above the office) from 12pm – 7pm on Saturday 10th. All boats must complete the registration process making sure they bring along a valid measurement certificate to qualify for racing.

Each boat will be assigned a competitor to scrutineer against the class rules using the scrutineering checklist.

All boats must pass scrutineering to qualify for entry.

Tides

The racing will take place on a tidal stretch of the river, knowing the direction of the tide will be crucial to a boat's success in the racing. The tide times for the event are below.

	10th August		11th August		12th August		13th August		14th August	
	<i>Time</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>M</i>
High	03:57	5.66	04:28	5.48	05:03	5.26	05:45	5.02	06:42	4.81
Low	09:46	1.06	10:12	1.21	10:40	1.36	11:21	1.53	12:24	1.69
High	16:03	5.60	16:36	5.40	17:13	5.15	18:02	4.88	19:11	4.67
Low	22:19	0.80	22:47	1.00	23:18	1.23	<i>Note: G.M.T used</i>			

Trophies and Prizes

Trophies will be awarded daily on the terrace at Medway Yacht Club. The list below outlines trophies that may be won and the previous winners from the Nationals in 2023 hosted by Parkstone Yacht Club.

In addition, the top 3 boats for each race will receive a prize which will be awarded daily.

Race	Trophy Name	Previous Winner (2023)
Race 1	Island Sailing Club Bowl	Duette - Joe Cross
Race 2	Sonata Designers Cup	Duette - Joe Cross
Race 3	Clyde Yacht Club Trophy	Duette - Joe Cross
Race 4	SCYC Dragon Trophy	Frankie The Rhino - Tony Woods
Race 5	Hunter Boats Sonata Trophy	Frankie The Rhino - Tony Woods
Race 6	Crouch Yacht Club Trophy	Joey - Will Smyth/Andy Pinkham
Race 7	Hayling Island Sailing Club Trophy	Frankie The Rhino - Tony Woods
Race 8	Seajet Cup	Duette - Joe Cross
Race 9	Haven Ports Decanter	Frankie The Rhino - Tony Woods
Race 10	Unnamed Trophy (First presented Medway 2012)	Saraband - Mark Taylor
Race 11	Hunter Trophy	Frankie The Rhino - Tony Woods
Race 12	The Medway Library Vase	Not awarded
National Champion	Pimm's Trophy	Frankie The Rhino - Tony Woods

2 nd Overall	Leyland DAF Trophy	Duette - Joe Cross
3 rd Overall	Satimar Cup	Joey - Will Smyth/Andy Pinkham
Best Family Crew	David Thomas Family Trophy	Old School - Ian Mcmillan
Furthest Travelled	NSA Travellers Trophy	Not Awarded
Best visiting helm, not in first three	Royal Burnham YC Trophy	MINIM - Mark Angell
Best helm from host club, not in first three	Colne Yacht Club Shield	White Magic - David Pipe
Best Helm under 25 (Or, If no one under 25 the youngest combined team)	The Medway Trophy	Not Awarded
Best grounding or mistake	Rock Bottom Trophy	B.O.B - Michael Riley
Best Up & Coming Team	Chris Bentley Trophy	Nick Holt - Aquila
1 st Overall Lift Keel Sonata	Lift Keel Nationals Trophy	Phoebe - Owen Kerr



2022 Sonata Nationals Brightlingsea – Medway Fleet

Accommodation

A range of accommodation types are available within the local area for this event.

Travelodge – Chatham Dockyard

Over the river from the Club, this is a short 10 minute drive. Or alternatively we will run a trot boat service twice a day to help get all crews from their accommodation to their boats. Please inform the organising committee if you [require the trot boat service.](#)

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.

Bell Tent Hire

We have teamed up with 'Bell Tent Dreams' who will provide a fully set-up bell tent for the event. Please take a look at the company website or get in touch with the event organising committee to find out more.



Staying on your boat

Medway Yacht Club has an all-tide pontoon. We will attempt to accommodate all visiting boats on the pontoon, if you wish to stay aboard your boat, please let the organising committee know and we will make sure you have a space reserved.

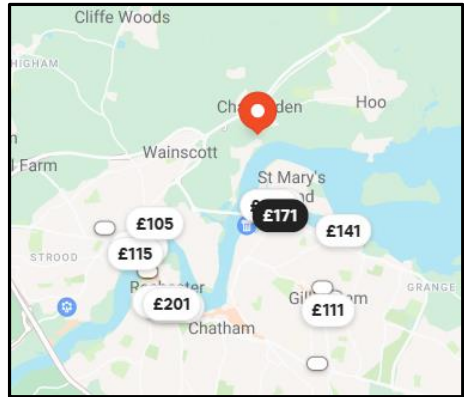


Medway Yacht Club Pontoon

Airbnb's

There are several Airbnb's within the area however most are not within walking distance and instead between 5-20 minutes drive. Please keep an eye on the following link to see if any pop-up.

[Airbnb's near Medway Yacht Club](#)



About the 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.



Sonata Eastern Championship 2022 - Medway



Medway Regatta 2021

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 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.

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 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, two of which boast the biggest fleets in the country. We have a new training centre for all our members and in particular our youth members. This fantastic building also contains new changing rooms and is due to open for the start of the 2024 season. 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 International Dragon Championships and the Medway regatta.

Launch and Recovery

Launch, recovery and mast stepping 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 between 14:00-18:00 on Saturday 10th August and recovery between 17:00-19:00 on Wednesday 14th August.

Please let us know in advance of the event if you need your boat launched / recovered and we will provide you with a timeslot.

Trailer / vehicle storage will be on site within our secure compound.7



Travel Wise

Getting Here

By Land

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

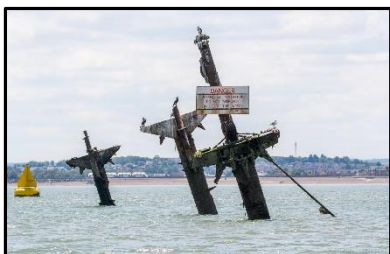
10 minutes from the A2/M2 junction and is easily accessible for those towing boats.

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.

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

By Sea



Montgomery Wreck

Once across 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.

Fleets from Mersea and Brightlingsea may wish to sail to the event across the Thames Estuary. The trip is approximately 7-8 hours and can be done with the tide behind you the whole way.



River Medway

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

Pirates Cave Chandlery



Established in 1991, Pirates Cave Chandlery has grown to become one of the largest, well-known and well-stocked Chandlers in the South East of England.

Their main shop is based in Rochester, Kent and is ideally located near Medway Yacht Club. Pirates Cave Chandlery stock a wide variety of products to cater for their customers, whether they be dinghy sailors, yachtsmen, motor boaters, or canoeists, they've got it covered, and all at highly competitive prices. What's more – they're open 7 days a week.

Pirates Cave Chandlery website has become their 'second shop' and they thrive on being able to serve many more customers, with chandlery products, wider afield. They even have a dedicated centralised stock warehouse to cater for online sales.

Hamilton Home and Living Ltd.



HAMILTON LIVING
PERFECT TAILORED HOMES

Hamilton Home and Living Ltd is the home of the perfect tailored home, furnished at affordable and realistic prices. At Hamilton Home and Living Ltd we supply and design across the all the UK, kitchens, furniture, and flooring for affordable budgets whilst adding

that bespoke attention to detail most often only found with high end and expensive retailers. We provide elegance without cost, quality without compromise. Simply click www.hamiltonliving.co.uk or www.woodandstonefloors.co.uk and enter the world of affordable and credible home furnishings.

Craft Insure



Craftinsure is owned by boat owners and it is their passion to insure boats. Craftinsure is a 'Quote and Buy' online business - they pass

on the cost savings of being online which allows them to offer competitive premiums. Craftinsure are direct to you only – they do not deal with brokers, passing on the savings to you.

Sponsor us

If you are the owner of / work for / know a local company who would like to provide sponsorship for the Sonata National 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.

Event Photography

Medway Yacht Club is lucky to have Paul Babington who provides lots of professional photos of activities on the river, including close up action shots, fleet starts and aerial photos taken from a drone. Paul will be the official photographer for the event.

Keeping up to Date with Event Information

The latest event information will be shared through various formats please like share and follow to keep up to date with the latest event information.

Event Website

www.medwayyachtclub.com is the official website for the event and where all event information can be found including entry forms, sailing instructions notice of race and catering packages.

Facebook

There are various official Facebook pages which will provide FAQ's and details in the lead up to the event while also providing the most recent videos, photos, reports and results while the championships are ongoing.

This is also a great place to find out which teams have entered the event. Please follow ***Sonata Sailing, Sonata Sailing forum*** (if a sonata owner) and ***Medway Yacht Club***.



Instagram

There are various official Instagram pages which will provide pre-event photos and videos as well as content from the championships themselves. Competitor photos will also be re-shared.



Follow Sonata Sailing, Medway Sonatas and Medway Yacht Club for behind-the-scenes footage as well as footage from starts, windward marks, drops, hoists and finishes.

Press Articles

We will be publishing updates on the event including the runners and risers and post event race reports through Yachts and Yachting to reach a wider audience and boost engagement in the National Sonata class.



Peel Ports – Notice to Mariners

Peel ports provide essential notices and updates which can be viewed online. Tides can be downloaded from [here](#).



Contacts

Please don't hesitate to contact the organising committee for any more information about the event including how to enter, help with launch and recovery and advise on how to get here. 2 contacts are shared below.

Medway Yacht Club Office

01634 718399

office@medwayyachtclub.com

Medway Yacht Club,

Lower Upnor Road,

Upnor,

Kent,

ME2 4XB

Alistair Bolton – Organising Chair

07388 642850

sonatas@medwayyachtclub.com