

## Ajax Fleet

The Ajax fleet has enjoyed another exceptional year, with consistently strong turnouts and a full and varied racing calendar. Across the 2025 season, a remarkable **74 races** were completed, including **45 series races** and a further **23 special events** such as the Dovercourt Weekend, East Coast Championships, Prosser Plate, Club Regatta, and the ever-popular All-In and Pin Mill races.

Participation remains high, with **13 boats** regularly racing — one more than the 2024 average — and several boats expected to return from sabbatical next season. It was also encouraging to see **two new regular competitors**, *Apollo* (Jonathan Prosser) and *Guillemot* (Matthew Vincent), joining the fleet. Performance across the class was impressively balanced, with no single team dominating the results and a broad mix of winners and podium finishes throughout the season.

Congratulations go to the **series winners** — *Phil Mayhew*, *John Williams*, and *Derek Mayhew* — and to the **series podium placers**, *David Pearce*, *Alister Main*, and *Tim Archer*.

Outside the main series, the **Sir Thomas Spence Lyme Challenge Cup** for the best-performing boat across four major events was hotly contested, with victories spread widely across the fleet:

- **Dovercourt Weekend:** *Teal* – *Giles Wright*
- **East Coast Championships:** *Avocet* – *Ian & Doug Sharp / Richard Chenery*
- **Prosser Plate:** *Thunderer* – *John Williams*
- **Regatta:** *Mars* – *Thomas Davey*

With no single winner across multiple events, the overall **Challenge Cup** was awarded — by a suitably complex points calculation — to *John Williams (Thunderer)*.

Special mention also goes to *Gordon Sutton* and the *Telemon* team for their long-awaited **All-In Race** victory after 28 years of perseverance, and to *James Deaton* for an emphatic win in the **Icicle Crew Race**.

As ever, the fleet's success depends on the dedication of its volunteers, race officers, and the Club's Bosun and Waterfront teams. Particular thanks go to **Jackie** for her

tenure as Class Captain and for steering the fleet through another vibrant and well-supported year.

The Ajax class remains a cornerstone of the Club's racing programme — competitive on the water, welcoming ashore, and as sociable as ever. Looking ahead, the fleet will host the **National Championships in 2025**, and we hope to welcome visiting competitors, including some from St Mawes. With a Club-owned race-ready Ajax available for hire, new sailors and crew are warmly encouraged to get involved. The Ajax continues to offer exciting, accessible racing for all generations and embodies the spirit of friendly competition that defines RHYC sailing.

**Jackie McKellar**  
**Ajax Class Captain 2024-2025**