

## **RHYC Catch Me If You Can 2026**

This document is an 'All You Need To Know' for the Catch Me If You Can Event.

### **Catch Me If You Can**

This is a really fun, relaxed event and an excellent excuse to go out for an afternoon sail. It is aimed at getting as many yachts out sailing together as possible and is a great opportunity to meet other sailors from the club when we all end up back at the bar. The sailing part lasts for about three hours. We are given a course to follow and each yacht gets a different start time with the slower boats going first. Everyone tries to catch up with the boat ahead whilst trying to stay ahead of the boat behind them until the finish time at which point the engines can go back on and we head back to the club and enjoy a drink on the lawn discussing the finer points of sailing with the odd moan about handicaps!

This year there are club BBQs planned to coincide with the first two CMIYCs. Definitely worth giving it a go regardless of sailing experience!

If you are interested, please read on for more details of what is involved and if you have any questions please email the Yacht Class Captain on [yachts@royalharwichyachtclub.org.uk](mailto:yachts@royalharwichyachtclub.org.uk)

### **Dates and times of CMIYC 2026**

1. **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** 11:00
2. **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** 14:00
3. **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July** 11:00
4. **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August** 10:30
5. **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September** 12:00

### **Where it takes place**

The course is usually on the Rivers Orwell and Stour. If the conditions are favourable, it may pop out to Dovercourt Bay.

The Start is usually at Clamp House which is between Pin Mill and Levington. Full details will be sent the day before.

### **How start times are worked out**

The Handicap team will base start times on the RYA YTC handicap. This information is available online so there is no need for entrants to get one for themselves but if you would like to then that is fine. You can choose whether to sail with spinnaker or non spinnaker and your start time will take that into account.

There are two aims for the event:

*All participating boats are expected to have fun.*

*All boats will finish as close to each other as possible and on the way back to the club to ensure maximum time for socialising afterwards.*

*No boat will win more than once in a season.*

With this in mind, please understand that start times may be adjusted during the season 😊 .

### **Who Can Enter and where to enter:**

1. The event is open to all mono hulls.
2. Entry is via the club website. You should receive a confirmation of your entry from the office. However, if you have any questions please email [yachts@royalharwichyachtclub.org.uk](mailto:yachts@royalharwichyachtclub.org.uk)
3. Please enter by the end of the Wednesday before the race. This allows time for a start list to be arranged. **You can delay making a decision on whether to sail with Spinnaker or Non-Spinnaker until Friday morning when you can email Gordon Sutton (see below) but please still put an entry in on the Wednesday.**

If you are unsure whether to enter or not then we would encourage you to go ahead and enter – it is not a problem if you change your mind.

If your plans change at the last minute and you suddenly discover you can join then please email Gordon Sutton (he sorts the starts times) on [1950sutton1950@gmail.com](mailto:1950sutton1950@gmail.com) and copy in [yachts@royalharwichyachtclub.org.uk](mailto:yachts@royalharwichyachtclub.org.uk) who will try to accommodate your entry but please don't leave it until Saturday morning.

### **The day before:**

Those entered should receive email the day before which tells you the following:

*Who will start the event and contact mobile; name of Committee boat; your starting time and other boats entered; where the start is; what the finish time is; Who is the official results person; any other relevant info for the event*

**If you do not get this email by 16.00pm please post on the Catch Me If You Can Whats App group (you will be added when you enter) or call Gordon Sutton 07535 877299 or Liz Neville on 07889 501920**

## **On the day**

The course should be posted on the noticeboard outside the race hut and a photo sent to the Whats App group. The course will also be announced by VHF 15mins before the first boat's start time.

The committee boat will use Channel 72. Please listen in from an hour before the first start in case a change needs to be made.

Please could you 'Hail' the Committee Boat before the starting sequences either via radio, by mobile or by shouting and let them know how many on board.

Please fly the club Burgee from your backstay during the event and NO ensign. This helps people recognise who else is doing the event.

The Committee Boat will endeavour to do two time checks before the start.

The first start may use a 5, 4, 1, 0 start sequence – most likely using sound signals. Subsequent starts will be a single sound signal.

If you are over the start before your start time you can circle back around the committee boat and start again otherwise your final finish position may be penalised at the discretion of the Results Officer!!!

In the event of a postponement, the Starter will announce on VHF 72 what time the first boat will start.

## **Finish**

The official finish time for a specific CMIYC will be announced in the email that is sent the day before. If the start was postponed, please adjust finish time accordingly. (It will probably get radioed out too)

At the finish time, if possible, make a note of the boat ahead and behind you. If you can't see them, please take a note of your position, either GPS or a buoy or something like that. Send this to the Catch Me If You Can WhatsApp group or find whoever is designated as Official Results person (it will be in the Friday email) when you get back to shore.

The aim is for boats to finish as close to the club as possible. Once you have finished, you can put your engine on !

If you retire during the event, please radio the Starter. (it also helps the results person if you post on the WhatsApp group)

## Protests

Please contact the Official Results person after the race. All protests will be listened to and amicably discussed over a drink on the lawn afterwards. If you still wish to protest, protest forms will be available.

## Important Things to remember:

1. Sailing will be according to the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2025-2028.
2. The Ipswich Port Authority and Harwich Haven Authority Bylaws also apply.  
Quote: 'A vessel which is not confined to the Harwich Deep Water Channel by reason of her draught shall keep clear of the Deep Water Channel when necessary to avoid impeding the movement of a vessel which is proceeding in, and by reason of her draught is confined to that channel.' Note: "Competitors should be aware that a yacht sailing on a converging course towards a large or unwieldy commercial vessel might be held to have impeded its safe passage by approaching within its restricted visibility zone, even without having encroached within the deep-water channel."
3. It is important that we maintain good relations with the Harwich Harbour Authorities. Please do **not** sail within the limits of the deep water channel, or pass on the channel side to seaward of Grisle buoy, as defined by straight lines joining consecutive channel marks including Landguard buoy, and out to sea as far as Cross buoy. (see chart at end of document).

## Risk Statement

A boat's decision to participate in an event is her's alone. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore 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 own actions or omissions;
- iv. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- v. The provision of a club event management team and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- vi. There will be no safety boat cover.
- vii. It is their responsibility to ensure that their boat is adequately insured to enter this club event.

## Safety Regulations

All yachts must carry a working VHF radio (fixed or handheld), capable of working on Channel 72. The Club Starter will monitor Channel 72 throughout the race. A contact telephone number for the day will be available to be used if VHF contact cannot be made.

Personal buoyancy must be carried for all crew members on board.

If a yacht has no Guard Rails fitted personal buoyancy must be worn by all crew members whilst on deck.

