



2025 Cornerstone Cup

NOTICE OF RACE

Royal Thames Yacht Club at Queen Mary Reservoir

24th to 27th September 2025

The Organizing Authority (OA) is the Royal Thames Yacht Club Limited

The Cornerstone Cup is a biennial team racing competition between The New York Yacht Club, The St Francis Yacht Club, The Royal Thames Yacht Club, and The Royal Yacht Squadron governed by the Declaration of Trust of the Cornerstone Cup and its Addendum 1.

This is the Eighth Cornerstone Cup Regatta.

Entry is by invitation only.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), including Appendix D.
- 1.2. RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times while afloat or on a pontoon.
- 1.3. RRS D2, Umpired Races, will apply.
- 1.4. The right of appeal will be denied in accordance with RRS 70.3(b)
- 1.5. The RYA Racing Charter is in effect and competitors are expected to sail in compliance with it. The Charter can be found at the front of the RYA edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing (the yellow pages after the definitions), or on the RYA website at www.rya.org.uk/racingrules.
- 1.6. The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) is the national authority of the venue. The RYA Prescriptions can be found <https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/26011730/RYA-Prescriptions-2025-2028.pdf>
- 1.7. All competitors are considered 'Users' of Queen Mary Sailing Club (QMSC) and therefore are subject to their byelaws. The QMSC byelaws can be located at <https://www.queenmary.org.uk/club/club-documents/>.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions will be available no later than the 17th September on the [Official Notice board](#)
- 2.2. Questions regarding the notice of race or sailing instructions, may be submitted in writing to the RTYC Sailing Office via email: jack.fenwick@royalthames.com by 23.59 24th September. Questions and responses from the race committee will be posted to the online official notice board.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online official notice board is located at <https://events.ksail.co.uk/RTYC/2025/CornerstoneCup/>
- 3.2. On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors via UHF radio. This channel will be announced at the briefing. *Note: RTYC will provide UHF radios as part of the supplied equipment.*
- 3.3. [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.4. [DP] Attendance at the initial competitors' briefing scheduled for 1900 on 24th September at RTYC Clubhouse, 60 Knightsbridge, London is mandatory for the skippers from each team. All team members are encouraged to attend.
- 3.5. The Race Committee will use a [WhatsApp group](#) to facilitate communications during the event.

4. ELIGIBLY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. Only teams invited by the OA will be eligible to enter the event.
- 4.2. Each team shall consist of a helmsperson and three crew for two boats
 - a. The helmsperson and at least two crew members of each boat shall be members in good standing of the yacht club which the boat represents. Additional crew members must be members in good standing,

spouses of members in good standing, or offspring of members in good standing of the yacht club which the boat represents

- b. The helmsperson of each boat shall be 35 or older on the first day of the competition
- c. The average age of the team shall be 40 or older on the first day of the competition
- d. Each boat shall include at least one female and one male
- e. All sailors must have a current [World Sailing Sailor ID](#) and be Category 1
- f. Requests to substitute crew after the deadline in NoR4.4(c) shall be submitted to the Race Committee in writing

4.3. To remain eligible for the event, teams shall:

- a. Complete the [online entry form](#), includes booking options for rooms at the London clubhouse, which will be available from 1700 BST, 8th July, and pay the entry fee in 5.1 in full by 1st August
- b. Submit a [crew list](#) which will include age, gender, and World Sailor ID for each team member no later than 3rd September

4.4. Completion of the requirements in NoR 4.3 after the deadlines will be accepted at the sole discretion of the OA

5. FEES

5.1. The entry fee is £4,000 per team

- a. The entry fee includes:
 - i. Breakfast and packed lunch on all race days
 - ii. transport to/from 60 Knightsbridge on all race days
 - iii. eight tickets per team for all socials

5.2. Should a team need to withdraw after the deadline in 4.3(a) they are eligible to a refund less a £1,000 administration fee.

5.3. Acceptance of the invitation shall be made by [completing the online entry form](#)

5.4. Fees should be made by bank transfer to:

Royal Thames Yacht Club
Natwest Bank,
PO Box 6037,
186 Brompton Road,
London,
SW3 1XJ

Account Name: Royal Thames Yacht Club
Account No: 84504676
Sort Code: 60-04-04
BIC: NWBK GB 2L
IBAN: GB28 NWBK 6004 0484 5046 76
Reference: "*your club name*"/Cornerstone

5.5. **DAMAGE DEPOSIT:** A damage deposit is not required before racing however each boat is liable for up to £1000 of associated costs due to damage as a result of any one incident (this includes boats, sails, equipment, and property). A failure to comply with this instruction or an invoice issued may result in disqualification from the event without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.5(b). The OA may also file a RRS 69 report to the jury.

6. ADVERTISING

A boat and her crew shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 20, Advertising Code.

7. FORMAT

7.1. The OA intends to provide up to 8 Sonar type boats for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, Jib, Spinnaker.

7.2. While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats, variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)

- 7.3. The sailing instructions will describe the racing format and include the race pairings. The racing format may include a round robin(s), and a knockout series.

8. SCHEDULE

	Wednesday 24th September	Thursday 25th September	Friday 26th September	Saturday 27th September
Optional Practice	13-1500	---	---	---
Welcome reception	1900*	---	---	---
Transport departs Knightsbridge	---	0830	0830	0830
Briefing/Check-In, QMSC	---	0945	0945	0930
First warning signal	---	1057	1027	0957
No warning signal after	---	---	---	1630
Awards presentation	---	---	---	19-1930*

* This event takes place at the Royal Thames Yacht Club clubhouse, 60 Knightsbridge, London.

9. RACE VENUE

Racing will take place on Queen Mary Reservoir.

10. COURSES

- 10.1. The course will be a port square.
10.2. Course diagrams will be provided in the sailing instructions.

11. DATA PROTECTION & RIGHT TO USE LIKENESS

- 11.1. The personal information you provide to the organizing 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 organizing 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.
- 11.2. By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the OA unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, photographs, video footage, and audio recordings taken of them prior to, during, and after the event without compensation.

12. PRIZES

- 12.1. The Winning Team will receive the Cornerstone Cup trophy to be held in accordance with the Declaration of Trust
- 12.2. Keeper prizes for the top three placed teams will be presented at the regatta dinner and awards ceremony on Saturday 27th September

13. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 13.1. Competitors shall comply with any reasonable request from any official, including attendance at official functions and shall not behave so as to bring the event or the sport into disrepute.
- 13.2. Participation in this event is by invitation. Any team who, in the opinion of the OA, has demonstrated poor seamanship, poor sportsmanship, or misconduct may have their invitation revoked and be excused from the event. In addition, and separate from the decision of the OA, the protest committee may initiate proceedings under RRS 69.

14. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accepts responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their crew to such inherent risk while taking part in the event.
- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew and any property they may bring, whether afloat or ashore.
- c. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- d. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities
- e. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances
- f. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for this event.
- g. It is their responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the type of boat used, and the supplied equipment and are suitably experienced with its operation.
- h. It is their responsibility for ensuring all supplied equipment is carried on board.
- i. That they are fit to sail and that they believe the crew and the boat and crew is capable of competing in the anticipated conditions.

15. INFORMATION

For more information contact

Jack Fenwick

Sailing Development Manager | Royal Thames Yacht Club

Jack.fenwick@royalthames.com

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