



# ROYAL SOLENT

## YACHT CLUB

*Established 1878*  
*Yarmouth, Isle of Wight*

OFFICIAL BROCHURE







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*Photos courtesy of Keith Allso, Paul Brown, Jake Sugden, Sam White & Wight Weddings*









# Welcome

The Royal Solent Yacht Club is so much more than just a yacht club. Naturally we provide a variety of popular on-the-water activities such as local racing, cruising, events for younger sailors and renowned class regattas. But onshore we also cater to our members' many tastes and interests through a range of diverse events and activities, from the formal to the more relaxed; you are bound to find a number of these to your liking.

The Royal Solent benefits from one of the best views on the Solent and taking it in while enjoying a drink at the bar or watching the fabulous sunsets from the balconies or lawn, is hard to beat! Our team is renowned for great service and a warm welcome - why not enjoy the excellent catering facilities on offer at the Club? Relax at informal Friday and Saturday night suppers and Sunday roast lunches or enjoy formal black-tie events, such as the Fitting Out and Laying Up Dinners and the Summer Ball. Arrangements can also be made for private or corporate functions.

We are very proud that the Royal Solent continues to grow its membership, with over 120 new members joining in the past 12 months. This is the result of our dynamic events programme, a fine clubhouse, a relaxed friendly atmosphere and welcoming members and staff. Come and see for yourself! (View Becoming a Member on page 16).



## *A Brief History*

Formed in 1878, the Solent Yacht Club did not initially have a clubhouse, the George Hotel being used. The current building was constructed in 1897 and occupied the following year; it was symmetrical in shape and included a library, dining and billiards rooms. Ladies were admitted to membership in 1912. In 1932 the freehold was purchased and by 1936 a complete room reorganisation had taken place with accommodation found as the membership wanted the Secretary to be “in residence”.

In 1946 the Solent Yacht Club merged with the West Wight Yacht Club and in the following year the Royal prefix was granted, the Club becoming the Royal Solent Yacht Club. This fusion between the two clubs raised the membership numbers to more than twice the capacity originally envisaged.

As membership numbers continued to increase it became necessary to expand the building





further and four separate schemes, spread over four decades, altered all the clubhouse elevations. While these ad hoc solutions temporarily improved the problem caused by growing numbers, they were neither aesthetically pleasing, nor did they add to its operational efficiency.

In the last forty years a number of additional schemes have been proposed. Most envisaged the installation of a lift to cater for older members, but all were piecemeal and none progressed further than the drawing board due to cost.

In 2011, member James Hudleston produced an imaginative plan for the large-scale enlargement of the Club, coupled with generous financial backing. This paved the way for the current clubhouse, cleverly combining up-to-date facilities while ensuring that the original appearance of the clubhouse is still recognisable.

More recently, in Spring 2019, the main bar on the first floor of the clubhouse was rebuilt to provide a light, contemporary space from which to enjoy panoramic views of the Solent.



## *Club Racing*

The Club is in an exceptional location for racing and offers a very full programme of sailing activities. The first regatta at the Solent Yacht Club was held in 1881 and the Solent Seabirds were formed in 1900 as the Club's first one design class. The Yarmouth One Design (YOD) Class was formed in 1913. In 1948 the Yarmouth Division of the XOD Class was formed, subsequently going from strength to strength. The Yarmouth One Design Class disbanded in 1970, but happily reformed twenty-five years later, with other popular classes being the Folkboats and Lasers. These four classes, plus an increasing number of Class 1 and 2 boats, form the majority of those who race regularly off Yarmouth during the summer and autumn. Club racing takes place on Wednesday evenings and at weekends from late April until the end of September, with autumn and winter racing taking over on Sundays from October until Christmas. Plus, there's now a new initiative - a Spring Series - on Sunday mornings for Class 1 and 2 and Folkboats, which starts in mid March. We also organise regattas, host other open events and run training sessions for young sailors.





## *Junior Sailing*

Opportunities for young sailors include training sessions and regattas, mainly in Lasers.

A week of Laser Training takes place in early August, followed by Dinghy Week which sees four days of competitive racing in Picos and Lasers combined with great fun ashore; the Delphie Lakeman Trust and Harwoods (the local Yarmouth chandlery) provide sterling support for this event.

Many young sailors also join in the weekend and Wednesday evening Laser races.

In early October, the Royal Solent co-hosts with Yarmouth Sailing Club, the Isle of Wight Youth & Junior Championship, which attracts around 40 Island junior sailors to Yarmouth.



## *The Taittinger RSYC Regatta*

The Taittinger RSYC Regatta is the Club's flagship event averaging 200 entries a year. More than 800 sailors mingle at the Friday evening Champagne Reception, and 14 classes race from two start lines on Saturday and Sunday. The fleets include four IRC divisions, classics, gaffers, keelboat and open boats, ranging from 20 to 80 feet.

Saturday evening sees participants dancing at the YOD-organised Towers Party, hosted by the Club's next-door neighbour, John Caulcutt, in his waterfront garden, with proceeds going to charity.

The weekend concludes on Sunday with a hog roast and prize giving where, in addition to the usual silverware, the winner of each class is rewarded with a bottle of Taittinger Champagne, plus a Jeroboam for the overall winner.





The success of the event is in large measure due to the generous support from Taittinger and co-sponsors River Yar Boatyard and Wight Marine, and Edelweiss & Gurgl Hotel, plus the discounted mooring rates and other support for competitors from Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners.

*“Another great weekend and it really is the highlight of our social calendar coming here. It's just the best weekend; we love Yarmouth anyway and cruise here a lot, so to come here and race is really very nice .”*

**Harry Brewer, Space 8**

*“One of the nicest things I've heard is that people find it's a friendly regatta with a family feel. On Sunday morning, one of the competitors commented that the regatta is a great event in Yarmouth, interspersed with a bit of sailing! ”*

**Commodore of the Royal Solent**



## *Other Regattas*

Our race officer teams are very experienced in hosting rallies and regattas for a wide range of yachts and the Club has run championship series for associations and classes over many years. The Royal Solent is ideally situated in the Western Solent for access to several key sailing areas, providing windward/leeward racing, team and match racing. Yarmouth Harbour offers fine facilities and nearby boatyards provide all the usual services.

**Folkboat Week.** In late August the RSYC hosts Folkboat Week. This is an annual regatta with about fifty entrants and lots of competitive and varied racing. Apart from being a fantastic week on the water there is plenty of social activity at the Club for all the competitors.

**Royal Artillery Regatta.** The Club also holds the annual Royal Artillery Regatta in early September. This event has been running for over 70 years and it is fabulous to welcome the regiment every year for some great racing and socialising ashore.





## *Open Sailing Events*

The Club hosts a number of open sailing events throughout the year. The Prince Consort Charity Race is a long race east up to the Prince Consort buoy just off Cowes and is followed by a dinner in the evening. Both the race entry fee and proceeds from the dinner are donated to a nominated charity. In early June, the Old Gaffers Association visits Yarmouth for two to three days of racing. The gaff-rigged boats are always a fantastic sight both moored in the harbour and out on the Solent. The Fandango Charity Race in August is open to any craft that floats and involves dressing up and race officer bribery! The Centenary Chase is a pursuit race for keel and day boats. In addition to members' boats, the Old Gaffers' Association always joins in so there is the splendid sight of many gaff-rigged craft amongst the fleet. The hotly-contested Turkey Cup Race in early October has a major prize for the winner and a silver claret jug trophy for the first in the IRC class. However, tactics often come into play as the second overall wins a fine turkey for Christmas.



## *Race Management Opportunities*

The Royal Solent has a fine reputation for race management with members encouraged to become involved. The Chief Race Officer sets the courses, so even for those who have never raced it is easy to learn the procedures and enjoy the race as it unfolds around you from the vantage point of the committee boat or Grant's starting box.

During the winter months we run training courses for all from absolute beginners up to the standard of RYA Club Race Officer. Many of our race officers have gone on to take further qualifications and involve themselves in racing for other clubs in the Solent and all over the world. A good race officer qualification is an international passport.





## *Cruising*

There are some members who prefer cruising to racing and their needs are covered by the Cruising Group which encompasses both sailing and motor vessels. Our Cruising Division is thriving, with an annual programme of visits to locations throughout the Solent and beyond. These “Out to Lunch” and “Overnight” events are hugely popular with visits to pubs, yacht clubs and restaurants. Many of these are day trips but there have also been overnight trips to Bembridge, Chichester, Poole, Weymouth and the Channel Isles. Those without a boat are invited to crew and join in the fun. We are aiming to extend the overnight venues not just to marinas but to anchorages in areas such as Studland Bay, the western side of Poole harbour and perhaps some areas further West. A number of talks and lunches at the Club are also on the agenda. While there are many prizes for racing, it may be of interest to know that there are also trophies for cruising. For example, the Morva Cup is awarded for the best cruising log while the John Leonard Trophy is awarded to the vessel which travels furthest from its home port in any one cruise.



## *Becoming a Member*

We welcome all membership applications! If you don't know any existing members to support your application, we will arrange for you to meet with a Flag Officer for an informal chat at the Club. You don't have to be a sailor or own a boat to join - our extensive social programme offers activities and events, both on and off the water, throughout the year.

During the summer there is an active programme of events afloat, such as Wednesday evening and weekend sailing, in addition to regattas and other traditional races. While Wednesday racing finishes at the end of September, racing continues on Sundays through to Boxing Day. There is also a popular Cruising Group that organises outings from spring until autumn; there is always space for members who don't own a boat or don't sail or simply wish to experience a pleasant day out on the water. Members may also sign up to volunteer as crew, take an RYA Powerboat Course or become involved in race management.

Onshore activities are particularly prevalent in autumn & winter months; why not stimulate your grey matter at scrabble or backgammon? There is also Wine Society, Scottish country dancing,





film nights, talks, Gentlemen's Lunches and Commodore's Suppers. While, outside the Club, clay pigeon shoots and golf days are a great way to meet new and old friends.

Our clubhouse offers excellent facilities with stunning sea views, two bars and dining rooms, plus a dinghy park and mooring facilities. Additional membership perks include 10% off food and 17.5% off drinks, discounted ferry travel, plus reciprocal membership with over 50 clubs in the UK and abroad. We are keen to encourage families to the Club and our family subscription offers membership to any number of children under 18 for just £1 when parents join as a couple.

Our Open Day (usually in late Spring) is a great opportunity for potential members to find out more about all that the Club has to offer. Representatives from all the groups and activities are on hand to answer questions, plus visitors are welcome to stay for lunch afterwards. To find out more, please drop into the office, give us a call or send us a line. You can pick up an application pack from either the office or bar, or download an application form from our website. We look forward to hearing from you!



## *Onshore Social Programme*

As well as extensive sailing & cruising programmes, there is a wide variety of popular onshore activities, as well as informal and formal social functions, organised for RSYC members throughout the year.

- Film Nights
- Talks
- Gentlemen's Lunches
- Ladies' Nights
- Wine Society
- Backgammon
- Scrabble
- Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Golf
- Scottish Country Dancing
- Pilates
- Quizzes
- Jazz Nights
- Junior Events
- New Year's Eve Party
- Fitting Out Dinner
- Laying Up Dinner
- Summer BBQ
- Summer Ball or Dinner Dance
- Themed Parties
- Book Club
- Gourmet Nights



# Reciprocal Clubs

The Royal Solent Yacht Club is proud to share reciprocal membership with over fifty clubs, both in the UK and overseas.

## South Coast

- Chichester Yacht Club
- Christchurch Sailing Club
- Lymington Town Sailing Club
- Parkstone Yacht Club (Poole)
- Poole Yacht Club
- RAF Yacht Club (Hamble)
- Royal Artillery Yacht Club
- Royal Cornwall Yacht Club (Falmouth)
- Royal Dart Yacht Club
- Royal Dorset Yacht Club (Weymouth)
- Royal Fowey Yacht Club
- Royal Lymington Yacht Club
- Royal Motor Yacht Club (Poole)
- Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club (Portsmouth)
- Royal Southampton Yacht Club
- Royal Southern Yacht Club (Hamble)
- Royal Western Yacht Club of England (Plymouth)

## Other UK

- Guernsey Yacht Club (St Peter Port)
- Royal Anglesey Yacht Club (Beaumaris)
- Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club (Guernsey)
- Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club (Jersey)
- Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club (Dover)
- Royal Cruising Club (London)
- Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club (Lowestoft)
- Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club (Helensburgh)
- Royal Temple Yacht Club (Ramsgate)
- Sussex Motor Yacht Club (Brighton)
- The Naval Club (London)

## Island (Winter only)

- Bembridge Sailing Club
- Brading Haven Yacht Club
- Island Sailing Club, Cowes
- Royal Ocean Racing Club, Cowes, incorporating Royal Corinthian Yacht Club
- Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne
- Sea View Yacht Club

## Overseas

- Barbados Yacht Club
- Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia
- Howth Yacht Club (Eire)
- Penang Yacht Club (Malaysia)
- Republic of Singapore Yacht Club
- Royal Bombay Yacht Club (India)
- Royal Cape Yacht Club (South Africa)
- Royal Cork Yacht Club (Eire)
- Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club (Western Australia)
- Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
- Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron
- Royal Natal Yacht Club (Durban)
- Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron (Auckland)
- Royal Perth Yacht Club (Western Australia)
- Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club (NSW)
- Royal St George Yacht Club (Eire)
- Seattle Yacht Club (USA)
- St Lucia Yacht Club
- West Indies Yacht Club (Jamaica)
- Yacht Club Austria (Linz)



## *Private Functions*

The Royal Solent is a popular and versatile venue for private functions for members, non-members, clubs, associations and organisations - anyone may enquire about booking a room at the Club for nominal room hire charge.

Whatever the reason; be it an anniversary lunch, a christening buffet or a club dinner, the unique coastal setting of the Club will make your event a stand-out occasion. Our professional, friendly and attentive staff at the Royal Solent will ensure that your special “do” is memorable and stress-free.

We have the perfect combination of private rooms, beautifully prepared food, fine wines and a well-stocked bar. You are also free to use our outside space with its wonderful views overlooking the Solent. We can source a marquee, DJ or band for you and will help you select the room that best suits the requirements of your event (please see page 26 for Room Layout/Capacity).





Our delicious menus are freshly prepared and cooked on the premises. We offer a variety of appetising two and three course lunch and dinner menus from which to choose. Alternatively, you may prefer to select our enticing barbecue, buffet and hog roast options or a traditional afternoon tea.

The Royal Solent is also experienced at hosting wakes and private lunches to celebrate the memory of a loved one. We understand that this occasion requires great sensitivity and the dedicated team at the Club will provide a personal, efficient and caring service throughout.

*“May I send my sincere thanks to all concerned with our extremely successful annual Dinner & Dance. Everyone thought the food was of the highest quality and the service was both friendly and attentive from all the staff.”*

**Steve Orchard, Freshwater Bay Golf Club**



## *Meetings & Conferencing*

Whether you are wining and dining clients, holding a business meeting or running a team building event, the Royal Solent with its outstanding seafront location and professional service, offers the ideal venue for any corporate function.

The Club layout provides the flexibility to accommodate a range of delegate numbers from small board meetings to large conferences or seminars. Our rooms can accommodate theatre-style, boardroom style and classroom style seating (see page 26), plus we can provide equipment such as projector, PA system and white board - we will aim to fulfil the specific requirements of your event.

We can also meet all your catering needs from coffee, tea and biscuits through to breakfasts, buffet lunches, barbecues and three course meals to suit any event and budget. Our efficient team can work to any timescales to provide a lunch that fits in with your schedule.





You may be Island-based, arriving via ferry or spending a day on the water with your clients or team, in all cases the Royal Solent is an ideal place to stop for a waterside lunch or dinner. We are perfectly situated a short walk from the picturesque Yarmouth Harbour and the Wightlink ferry terminal.

The Island offers a wide variety of activities perfect for team building exercises, such as archery, kayaking, coasteering, paint balling, go-karting, mountain boarding, RIB trips, sea fishing and sailing to name but a few! Our Events Manager will be happy to advise you on the best places to go, how to get there and where to stay to ensure your event is beneficial and rewarding.

Our facilities include:

- Fixed screen and projector
- Whiteboard, flip chart and markers
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- PA system
- Webcam
- Television & DVD player
- Air-conditioning
- Lift and disabled facilities
- Showers & hair dryers



## *Weddings*

In its idyllic seaside location a short walk from St James' Church, with stunning views of the Solent and glorious sunsets, the Royal Solent Yacht Club provides a unique and romantic setting for this most important day in any couple's life.

Our experienced Events Manager will work closely with you to ensure that your wedding reception is memorable and perfect in every way. Your special celebration can be tailored to suit your personal requirements from beginning to end – from arrival canapés & welcome drinks to the wedding breakfast & accompanying wines, along with your choice of buffet menus for the evening.

You can be sure of first class service in stylish and relaxed surroundings. Our elegant first floor rooms and balconies offer panoramic sea views, alternatively a marquee can be erected on the lawn or in the dinghy park overlooking the sea.





*“Thank you all so much for helping ensure the smooth running of our wedding day. It was absolutely perfect, so many people have written to thank us and mentioned the amazing service given by the team.”*

**Philippa & Lee Morrell**



The versatility of the Club’s layout will allow your day to flow seamlessly from one element to the next. Newlyweds can arrive by boat to be greeted by wedding guests sipping Champagne on the lawn or on the first floor balconies overlooking the water. While the adjacent pebble beach and vintage Yarmouth Pier offer a stunning backdrop for photographs and an ideal opportunity for the wedding party to take a stroll in the sea air.

Venue hire can include:

- Arrival by boat
- Exclusive use of chosen area
- Access from 9am until midnight
- Bar & music licence until midnight
- Club’s tables (round or long), chairs, table linen (white or ivory)
- Up to 100 guests for a seated dinner inside (long tables)
- Up to 150 guests for a seated dinner in a marquee (plus cost for marquee hire)



## *Room Layout/Capacity*

The Royal Solent has a downstairs bar area - 'The Hudleston Bar' - in addition to the main bar and dining room (The Solent Room) plus Members' Lounge and Members' Dining Room, on the first floor.

### *The Members' Lounge*

- First floor
- Size: 7.5m x 5m
- Seated meals for up to 10
- Conference seating for up to 15
- Theatre style seating for up to 20
- Classroom style seating for up to 8
- Balcony with sea views
- Gas fire
- Air conditioning

### *The Members' Dining Room (pictured above)*

- First floor
- Size: 7.5m x 5m
- Seated meals for up to 20
- Conference seating for up to 15
- Theatre style seating for up to 40
- Classroom style seating for up to 16
- Air conditioning
- Balcony with sea views





### *The Solent Room (pictured above)*

- First floor
- Size: 15.25m x 7.75m
- Seated meals for up to 80
- Conference seating for up to 20
- Theatre style seating for up to 70
- Classroom style seating for up to 30
- Balcony with panoramic sea views
- Air conditioning

### *The Hudleston Bar*

- Ground floor
- Size: 10.5m x 7.5m
- Seated meals for up to 30
- Conference seating for up to 20
- Theatre style seating for up to 35
- Classroom style seating for up to 16
- Private bar
- Opens onto lawn & colonnade
- Sea views
- Wood burning stove
- Air conditioning

All our rooms are available for hire and can be customised to suit your specific requirements in terms of furniture and layout. We can provide round or long tables, complete with ivory table linen, and matching chairs.



## *Royal Solent Racing Marks*

Sponsoring a Royal Solent Racing Mark is beneficial to both the sponsor and the Club. The sponsor's company name will be seen every time a yacht rounds their mark, as well as being seen by the many other boaters on the Solent.

Before each race, the Race officer team radios the course setting to competitors, which includes the names of the marks, thus providing further publicity. The Royal Solent lays a number of racing marks off the Club along the Island shore from April to the end of the year and there are a number of opportunities for sponsorship.

If you are interested please contact the Sailing Secretary on 01983 760256.





## *RSYC & Yarmouth Harbour*

Yarmouth Harbour is a popular destination for visiting yachts, motorboats and RIBs providing both overnight and short stay moorings with its excellent facilities and easy access for vessels of all sizes. The Royal Solent has a close affinity with the harbour as the Club's sailing regattas and rallies, such as the Taittinger RSYC Regatta and Folkboat Week, attract many visiting boats to the harbour.

In conjunction with the harbour, the RSYC is running a special offer for overnight mooring holders of 10% off their food & drink bill mid-week from October to March.

Visit [www.yarmouth-harbour.co.uk](http://www.yarmouth-harbour.co.uk) for more information.

# Testimonials

*"Your club just gets better every day. Lovely people, lovely food and marvellous vista!"*

**Phillip & Birgitta Hancock**

*"We never cease to be amazed by the willingness and good nature of all your staff. The parties and catering were all fantastic."*

**Sally & Dick Kalis, Folkboat Week**

*"...a huge thank you to you all for your help and support with our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch celebration. It was a very special event for us and wouldn't have been possible without all your hard work."*

**Mr & Mrs D Couzens**

*"The Royal Solent is a great favourite of ours and as always we had an excellent evening. The dinner menu and seating arrangements proved to be perfect for us and we enjoyed the atmosphere of your active and thriving club."*

**Gill Evatt, Shrimper Owners' Association**

*"I am writing on behalf of the unit to thank you for accommodating us on our Regimental Dinner. My liaison with you was very smooth...the dinner was exceptional and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The setting was just right and the view enjoyed, so everybody was happy."*

**Lt Col Andrea Goodman, Operational Headquarters Support Group**

*"...thank you for all the hard work that went into organising such a fabulous week during Cowes Week for our company and many of the marine insurance brokers in London. The setting, food and service were outstanding and many brokers decided this was by far the best year we have done!"*

**Chris Lowe, Shipowners Claims Bureau**





## *Visit Us or Get in Touch*

It is always a pleasure to welcome new or prospective members, visitors and guests to the Royal Solent. The Club is open to visiting sail and motor boaters, members of the RYA and members of reciprocal clubs (please see page 19 for a full list).

Our website contains lots of helpful and up-to-date information about the Club and if you can't visit as soon as you'd like, you can enjoy the view remotely via our webcam at [www.royalsolent.org/royal-solent-webcam](http://www.royalsolent.org/royal-solent-webcam). If you have any enquiries, or would like to request a Membership Application Pack, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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[www.twitter.com/RoyalSolent](https://www.twitter.com/RoyalSolent)



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