



INVITATION

53rd SWALE MATCH on Saturday 25th July 2026

Racing commences at the Sand End buoy from 1200hrs onwards

Dear Owners and Skippers,

The Kentish Sail Association invites you to take part in the **53rd SWALE MATCH**, on **Saturday 25th July 2026** and this is addressed to the owner(s) of vessels as currently recorded by the KSA.

(If you have sold your vessel, we would be grateful if you would forward this Invitation to the new owner and ask them to provide the KSA with their contact details.)

The **Match Information, Regulations & Criteria, Entry Form, and the Sailing Barge Match Rules** are also attached.

It is entrants' individual responsibility to participate or otherwise in the event

Please conduct all correspondence by email with the KSA Match Secretary at SwaleMatchSec@outlook.com.

If you wish to take part in the Match, please complete and sign the **Entry Form** and return it, by email, to the KSA Match Secretary at SwaleMatchSec@outlook.com. The Entry Form is in Word format which will allow completion and return electronically. Email entries would be appreciated by **19th July 2026**

As usual, there will be an **entrance fee of £20 (£10 for Class 2b, Open Gaffers)**.

You can pay by bank transfer to **Lloyds Bank, Sort Code: 30-91-60, Account No: 02293603**.

Or you can pay by sending a cheque payable to 'Kentish Sail Association' to the KSA Treasurer, **Geoff Turner at 59 Abbey Street, Faversham ME13 7BN**.

Please mark your payment, by either method, with the Name and Class of your vessel.

There will be the usual shore-based activities and facilities at Hollowshore for the weekend of the Match.

The Match Committee looks forward to receiving your Entry and to welcoming you to an enjoyable day afloat and wishes you safe passages from wherever you come.

Alan Gimes

Swale Match Secretary; e-mail: SwaleMatchSec@outlook.com; Mobile: 07801 133822

MATCH CLASSES

The Match will be run in the usual Classes, as below, if there is a sufficient number of entries in each. However, Starting Times may be grouped together – see **Match Information & Criteria**.

Class 1	East Coast	SMACKS & BAWLEYS
Class 2	GAFFERS – LOA 25ft (7.62m) and over	including replica class
Class 2a	GAFFERS – LOA under 25ft (7.62m)	including replica class
Class 2b	OPEN GAFFERS – 16ft (4.88m) and under:	<i>see note below</i>
Class 3	BOWSPRIT BARGES	
Class 4	STAYSAIL BARGES	
Class 5	SLOW STAYSAIL/COASTING BARGES	
Class 6	DUTCH BARGES & HUMBER KEELS	
Class 7	PARADE OF TRADITIONAL STEAM or MOTOR VESSELS	
Class 8	CLASSIC BERMUDANS (designed pre-1963)	

The Swale Match will be run without a handicap system, except for Class 1 (East Coast Smacks & Bawleys) and Class 2b (Open Gaffers), based on previous years' results.

NOTE: Class 2b; Open Gaffers under 16ft, are invited to race on 18th July, when the timing of tides will be more favourable for that Class, with a course possibly extending up Faversham Creek.

Prizes for Class 2b will be awarded with the other Classes at the Prizegiving on 25th July 2026.

Those interested in entering the Class 2b race on 18th July should contact **Peter (Pedro) Lewis** by email at pedrolewis05@googlemail.com or by phone on **07831 800470**

REGISTRATION and BRIEFING

There will be a pre-match **REGISTRATION and BRIEFING** at Hollowshore for skippers, at approximately **1900 on Friday 24th July 2026**. If this proves to be impracticable, all necessary information will be provided by email, phone or VHF radio.

At the Registration, vessels in all Classes (except Barges) will be issued with a pair of identification number boards, to be clearly displayed on both sides of the main rigging, during the Match. **A DEPOSIT of £10** will be charged. This deposit will be refunded after the Match, on return of the number boards.

We request each entrant to bring a £10 note to the Registration, for this purpose.

Meanwhile, as an aide to visual identification during the race, please describe your vessel as accurately as possible on the Entry Form.