



53rd SWALE MATCH 25th July 2026

MATCH INFORMATION, REGULATIONS & CRITERIA for ENTRY

High Water at Harty Ferry on **Friday 24th July** will be at approx. **2145hrs (4.8m)**

High Water at Harty Ferry on **Saturday 25th July** will be at approx. **1021hrs (4.8m) & 2301hrs (4.8m)**

High Water at Harty Ferry on **Sunday 26th July** will be at approx. **1127hrs (5.0m) and at midnight appr. (5.1m)**

Hollowshore accessible by water approx. 3hrs +/- HW

VHF Radio Channels: Match Working Channel is **CH. 8;**

Local Navigation Channel (Peel Ports Medway) is **CH 74;**

Emergency Channel/Listening Watch (Dover Coastguard) is **CH 16**

Briefing. There will be a briefing for skippers at **1900** on **Friday 24th July** at Hollowshore.

Any updated Information and Regulations will be **advised** to each entered vessel at the Briefing (and/or by email) on the evening before the Match.

RISK ASSESSMENT: The KSA has carried out a **Risk Assessment** for the Match, which is reflected in these Instructions. The Risk Assessment for the Match will be posted on the KSA website closer to the time and can be made available by email on request.

ALL CRAFT will be subject to these Match Regulations and all participants must also take personal responsibility for their vessels and crew to comply with any national guidelines which may be current at the time, in respect of your own vessel and crew.

IT SHALL BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SKIPPER OF EACH COMPETING VESSEL WHETHER OR NOT TO START OR TO CONTINUE THE RACE.

BARGE MATCH RULES:

All competing vessels will compete under current SBA/AoB Match Rules (as updated 2023), IRPCS and these Match Regulations.

The Master of a barge must hold a Sailing Barge Masters Certificate; all barges must have a nominated mainsheet crew member. Barge owners should hold a valid MCA Sailing Barge Exemption for the vessel or be compliant with equivalent standards of manning, safety and equipment under current Marine Regulations.

MATCH CLASSES



The Match will be run in the usual Classes, as below, if there are enough 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: see note below
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)

START TIMES:

Start 1 at 1200 – Class 4, Staysail Barges; and Class 5, Slow Staysail/Coasting Barges

Start 2 at 1215 – Class 3, Bowsprit Barges

Start 3 at 1230 – Class 6, Dutch Barges (under sail only); and Class 7, Baltic Traders (under sail only)

Start 4 at 1245 – Class 2, Gaffers 25ft and over; and Class 2A, Gaffers under 25ft including replicas.

Start 5 at 1300 – Class 1; Smacks and Bawleys Class 1.

Start 6 at 1315 – Class 9, Classic Bermudans

NOTE: Class 2b; Open Gaffers under 16ft, are invited to race on 18th July 2026 subject to weather conditions, with a course possibly extending up Faversham Creek. This will allow their crews not only to take part in their own Class race but also give them the opportunity to take part on other vessels in the race on 25th July 2026.

Prizes for Class 2b, if raced, will be awarded at the prize giving at Hollowshore.

Those interested in entering the Class 2b race on 18th July should contact **Peter (Pedro) Lewis** by email at pedrolewis05@googlemail.com or on **07831800470**

PARADE for Class 6: Dutch Barges (if under power only) and Class 8: Traditional Steam and Motor Vessels (including Baltic Traders under power only) will follow a course to be announced and will also be inspected externally by the Committee to decide on an award for the best turned out vessel.

COURSE(S) TO BE SAILED

Possible courses will be set out in the Match Programme.

The Course(s) to be sailed will be decided on the day of the Match and will be displayed from the Committee Boat.

Meanwhile, the Course is likely to be from the Start Line at the Sand End Buoy in the East Swale, outwards to the Columbine Buoy (leave to P); to a KSA mark (leave to S) in the position of the former Spaniard Buoy, near the windfarm; inwards towards a KSA marker buoy (leave to S) near Herne Bay Pier and a KSA marker buoy (leave to S) near the Sewer Buoy off Tankerton Slopes; around the Whitstable Street Buoy (leave to P); and back into the East Swale to the Finish near the entrance to Faversham & Oare Creeks.

Any change of courses for the different Classes will be displayed from the Committee Boat and announced by VHF radio at the Start on the Saturday morning.

START LINE: The Start Line will be a transit line between the Committee Boat, anchored on the South side of the Swale and the Sand End Buoy. Competitors may pass on either side of the Sand End Buoy but are advised that there is very shallow water on the North side. Competitors may not pass to the South of the Committee Boat.

RECALLS: There will be NO Recalls.

A vessel crossing the Start Line early must not attempt to return and recross the line and will be penalised by 15 Minutes or by One Place in its Class finish position, at the Match Committee's discretion. The Committee Boat will attempt to notify any vessel so affected, but competitors are advised to contact the Committee Boat via VHF radio or mobile phone if they think they may have crossed the line early. The affected vessel(s) may continue to race, subject to the 15 Minutes or One Finish Place Penalty.

A vessel striking a mark or passing a mark on the incorrect side must inform the Committee and will be penalised by One Place in its Class finish position, or by a Time Penalty of at least 15 minutes, at the Match Committee's discretion.

FINISH LINE: The Finish Line will be a transit between the Committee Boat, anchored on the South side of the Swale near the entrance to Faversham & Oare Creeks and the 'Receptive' (formerly 'Wreck') Buoy. Competitors must pass between the Committee Boat and the 'Receptive' Buoy. Competitors may not pass to the South of the Committee Boat. If the Committee Boat is not in position, the Finish Line will be between the 'Receptive' Buoy and the Port hand (Red) Beacon on the South Shore and competitors must self-time their finish. Please note, where possible, the craft ahead and astern.

FINISHING TIMES: To be timed by the Committee Boat, if possible, but competitors should also self-time their finish and send this by VHF radio, text or phone to the OOD, if necessary, together with their Declaration, as soon as possible after the race. Please note, where possible, the craft ahead and astern

DECLARATION FORM: A Declaration on the form provided will be required, and a note of any incident should be reported to the OOD or Support Vessel.

PROTESTS/ PENALTIES/ DISQUALIFICATION: Protests are to be avoided wherever possible – all vessels should be sailed safely, ‘without collisions, cheating or complaining’. Competitors are particularly reminded to observe the provisions of Rule 17 of the IRPCS.

Protest procedures to be followed, if unavoidable, will be issued at the Briefing (or by email). Competitors should note that Protests are not likely to be determined on the day, so that any finishing positions will also be affected.

In any event of collision, **both** vessels must retire and advise the Committee Boat by VHF radio, text or phone. In all cases, the Committee may decide to apply a time penalty or to disqualify some or all the affected vessels.

INSURANCE: ALL VESSELS MUST BE ADEQUATELY INSURED TO ENTER THE MATCH AND TO PARTICIPATE.

The Kentish Sail Association Match Committee reserves the right to refuse entry or to disqualify any vessel which in the opinion of the Committee fails to measure up to acceptable standards of seaworthiness and general condition of hull and gear, safety equipment and/ or the competence of the master and/ or crew.

PRIZEGIVING: There will be a **PRIZEGIVING** at Hollowshore after the Match, at approximately **2100hrs**.

There will also be **DRINKS** and **live MUSIC**, as well as delicious **FOOD** available from around 1700hrs.

Full Match results will also be advised by email in due course, after the Match.

CRITERIA FOR MATCH CLASSES

CLASS 1 – East Coast SMACKS & BAWLEYS: Craft entering this class must have been built in the area between Spurn Head and the North Foreland as a smack or bawley and have been either a registered smack or have been built for the trade.

CLASS 2 - GAFFERS over 25ft including the **REPLICA CLASS** or Smacks or bawleys that have been built and fitted-out as yachts.

CLASS 2a - GAFFERS under 25ft the **REPLICA CLASS**

CLASS 2b - OPEN GAFFERS under 16ft overall

CLASS 3 - BOWSPRIT BARGES

CLASS 4 - STAYSAIL BARGES

CLASS 5 - SLOW STAYSAIL/ COASTING BARGES may sail a shortened course.

CLASS 6 - DUTCH BARGES and **HUMBER KEEL**

CLASS 7 - TRADITIONAL POWERED VESSELS: These will be allocated a separate course for a Parade. Members of the Match Committee will judge their appearance and maintenance.

CLASS 8 - CLASSIC BERMUDAN RIGGED BOATS: Entries may be wood or GRP hulled craft, designed on traditional lines and configuration and designed before 1963