

Enterprise Open  
Tideway Pursuit Race  
South Bank Sailing Club  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
Putney, London



## Sailing Instructions

The Organising Authority is South Bank Sailing Club, Putney Embankment, London, SW15 1LB.

### Introduction

*The Thames Tideway is dominated by the strong interacting tidal and river currents, providing an unusual sailing challenge. This event, modelled after the club's own Ruby Bell trophy race introduced in 1992, takes advantage of the uniquely challenging conditions to provide a race downriver to a single mark and back again, but with a twist: boats decide on their own time to start and the winner is the boat that completes the course in the shortest time.*

*The optimum strategy aims to leave on the outgoing tide and arrive at the mark just as the current changes and return on the incoming tide. Leave too early and you'll arrive at the turning point only to find yourself fighting the current on the way back and your lead evaporating. Leave too late and you risk the tidal gate closing on you before you round the mark. The river flow competing with the tidal flow means that the current changes some time after predicted low water. Local wisdom says around 30 to 45 minutes after but often more and often less and this same wisdom suggests Battersea Bridge is around 2.5 to 3 nautical miles downriver from the clubhouse. However you do your calculations you'll never factor in all the variables and, as soon as you see your rivals set sail, doubts about your own plan will start immediately and tactics will come into play. This is the challenge – a pursuit race but with tide as the variable.*

*The starting time range and the finishing time limit as well as the exact position of the mark may be altered on the day in view of the prevailing conditions and competitors are asked to be alert for any such changes as well as to attend the compulsory race briefing.*

### 1. Rules

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2. The provisions of: The Port of London Act 1986; Port of London Thames Byelaws 2012; PLA general directions for navigation 2011 and Notices to Mariners will apply, and may be found at [www.pla.co.uk](http://www.pla.co.uk).
- 1.3. If there is a conflict between these provisions and other rules that must be resolved before a protest committee, the protest committee will apply whichever it believes will provide the fairest result for all boats affected.

### 2. Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 2.1. Any changes to these instructions will be posted no later than the briefing, the timing of the briefing as set out in the Notice of Race.

### 3. Notices to Competitors

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on or near to the race noticeboard.

### 4. Signals

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpoles on the racebox.

### 5. Schedule of Races

- 5.1. The event will be a single race. The warning signal is scheduled for 12:40.
- 5.2. Low water predictions are 13:24 at Chelsea Bridge and 14:07 at Putney Bridge.

### 6. Class Flag

- 6.1. The class flag will be flag Z and RRS 30.2 will not apply.

## 7. Racing Area, Courses and Marks

- 7.1. The racing area will be the section of the river from the clubhouse extending downriver to Chelsea Reach.
- 7.2. The course will be from the start/finish line to a rounding mark expected to be placed at Battersea/Chelsea Reach and to be left to port, then returning to the finish line. The exact location of the mark, which will be a yellow dropped buoy, will be communicated to competitors at the briefing.

## 8. The Start

- 8.1. The race will be started using RRS 26.
- 8.2. The starting line will be the transit line formed by the racebox flagpole and a pole on the bank of the river on the same side as the clubhouse. This will be described to competitors at the briefing.
- 8.3. A boat that does not start within 60 minutes after the starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

## 9. The Finish

- 9.1. The finish line will be the same line as the starting line.

## 10. Time Limits

- 10.1. The Finishing Time Limit will be 15:45, subject to amendment by the race committee.
- 10.2. Boats failing to finish before the Finishing Time Limit and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress, will be deemed to have retired and scored accordingly without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2.

## 11. Scoring

- 11.1. As stated in NoR 6.1: a boat's finishing place will be determined using her time from the moment she crosses the line to start to the moment she finishes. This changes RRS A3.

## 12. Going Afloat

- 12.1. A boat shall be afloat and off moorings at least 2 minutes before crossing the start line to start. This changes RRS 45.
- 12.2. Prior to 2 minutes before she crosses the start line to start, a boat may be manoeuvred on her trolley as needed in order to launch and be walked along the bank to an appropriate place, not in the way of other boats, for launching. While doing so, she must, as far as is reasonably possible, avoid interfering with other boats. This instruction is an exception permitted under RRS 42.3 (i).

## 13. Hazards on the River (derived from PLA Regulations)

- 13.1. Tide and keeping clear: Competitors must be alert to the strength of the tide and the need to keep clear of bridges, piers, barges and other moored vessels and vessels that are restricted in their ability to manoeuvre. If necessary to avoid danger, boats should anchor, paddle or head ashore until it is possible to continue safely. This instruction is an exception permitted under RRS 42.3 (i).
- 13.2. Navigation in the fairway: Boats must not cross or enter a fairway so as to obstruct a vessel that is proceeding along the fairway. Boats must not impede the passage of a vessel that is 20 metres or more in length.
- 13.3. Navigation through bridges: Some bridge arches may be closed to navigation; these are marked by three red discs forming an equilateral triangle with the apex downwards. Some bridges may be subject to navigation control, and boats must follow any instructions from a patrol boat stationed at the bridge. Before entering a bridge arch boats should identify any vessels approaching the bridge and should not enter the arch if by doing so they would impede the vessels passage.

## 14. Protests and Requests for Redress

- 14.1. The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat has finished.
- 14.2. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses and the location of the protest room.

## 15. Risk Statement

- 15.1. Competitors are referred to the Notice of Race and are required to attend the race briefing.