

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 31(T) of 2017

Cowes Classic Offshore Powerboat Races

Sunday 27th August 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cowes-Torquay-Cowes and Cowes-Poole-Cowes Powerboat Races will take place on Sunday, 27th August 2017, times as below. Race Control will be at the Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS) and Race Officials will operate from there throughout the event. Up to 20 boats, 8 – 12m in length, are expected to take part in the Cowes-Torquay-Cowes Race and the faster race boats may approach speeds of 90 knots. This notice is issued jointly with the Cowes Harbour Commissioners.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish (approx.)</u>
Sunday 27th	Cowes-Torquay Race	09:30	10:45 – 13:00
	Torquay - Cowes Race	14:00	15:30 – 18:00
	Cowes-Poole-Cowes race	09:45	10:45 – 12:30

Practices

There are no official practice sessions ahead of the races. However, competitors may test their boats in the Western Solent between 14:00 and 15:30 on Saturday, 26th August, subject to obeying Cowes Harbour speed limits and a maximum speed of 25 knots when transiting to/from the testing area.

Starts (Fig 1)

Participating vessels will depart Cowes Yacht Haven at approximately 08:45, and conduct a low speed parade towards Egypt Point before turning east to muster off Old Castle Point by approximately 09:20.

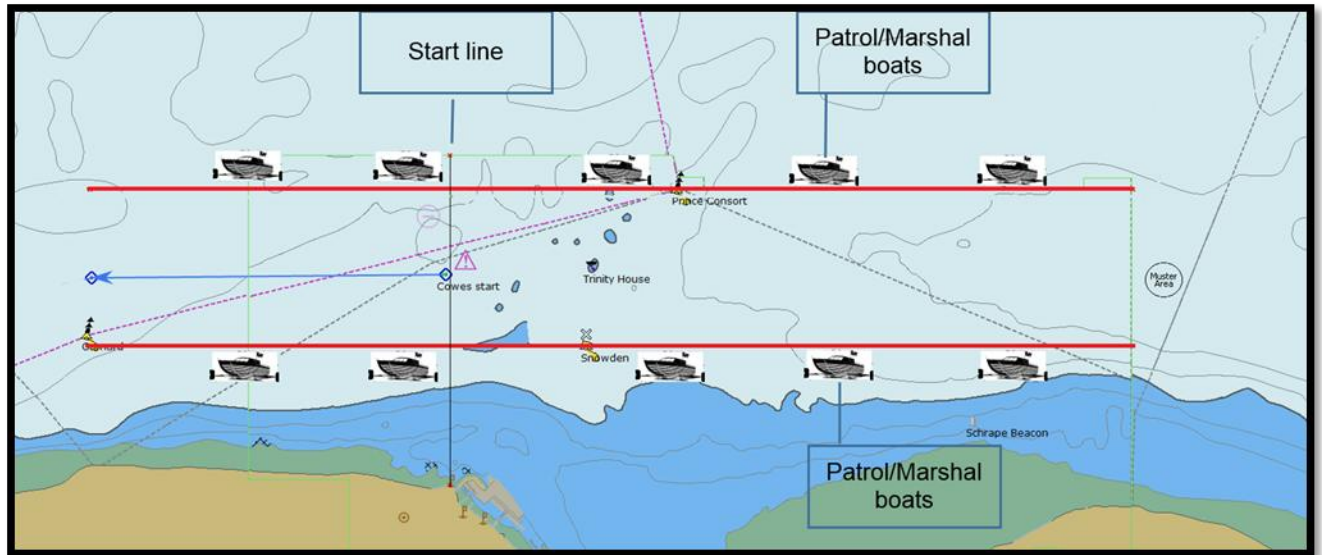


Fig 1: Muster and pre-start formation

At 09:28 the Coves-Torquay-Coves race boats will come into a pre-start formation abreast on the port quarter of the start boat, which will fly a Yellow flag and be positioned at the northern boundary of the race corridor. The fleet will then head west at speed passing between the Snowden race mark and Prince Consort Buoys before crossing the Outer Fairway and the RYS line. At this point, if the course ahead is clear, the race will be started by displaying a Green flag from the start boat and the race boats will accelerate towards East Lepe passing to the north of the Gurnard North Cardinal Buoy. The fleet will remain within the north and south boundaries of the start run at all time (see Fig 1). All spectators and mariners are advised to remain outside of these boundaries for the duration of the start sequences.

This procedure will then be repeated for the Coves – Poole – Coves race start at 09:45, however competitors will run abreast either side of the start boat. A Classic Boat rally will commence at 10:00. The pre-start corridor off Coves will be marshalled by 10 boats flying a BPRC Marshal flag (see Fig 2) and the Coves Harbour Master Launch will be stationed in the Outer Fairway monitoring VHF Channel 69.



Fig 2: BPRC Marshall Flag

Any vessels including commercial vessels and ferries wishing to use the Outer Fairway between 09:20 – 10:10 shall contact Coves Harbour Radio on VHF Ch69 for clearance to proceed.

Finish

Both races will finish across a line between the Gurnard North Cardinal Buoy and a Committee Boat stationed approximately 1 cable to the north. Boats competing in the Poole race are expecting to finish between 11:00 - 13:00 and Torquay boats between 15:00 - 17:00. A safety patrol will be in the area; however, spectators or mariners who are not associated with event are requested to keep well clear of the line. Craft participating in the race will be observed to ensure that they have come off the plane as soon as possible after

crossing the finish line and proceed below 6 kts before entering Cowes Harbour (see Fig 3).

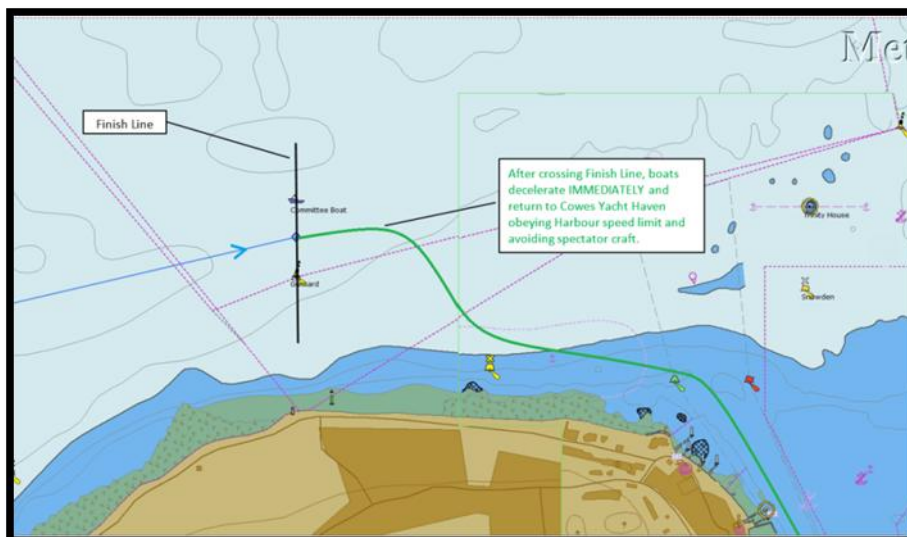


Fig 3: Finish Line

Spectator Craft

These are high-speed races taking place on a potentially busy summer Sunday and, in the interests of safety, all craft not participating in the event are advised to keep well clear of the start and finish areas. All vessels should proceed with caution and keep a good look out whilst navigating in or near the areas of racing.

Race Marshal Patrol Boats

Race Marshals will patrol the area between the Muster Area and Gurnard Buoy for both starts. For the finishes, the area between the finish line and Cowes Harbour entrance will be patrolled by Race Marshals to ensure that the race boats are off the plane once over the line and at less than 6 knots before passing south and east of the Gurnard Buoy.

The International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (1972) as amended will take precedence over all other considerations at all times.

This notice will self-cancel on completion of racing on 28th August 2017.

**Vessel Traffic Services Centre
Ocean Gate, Atlantic Way
Southampton**

**Captain M Phipps
Harbour Master**

21st August 2017

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.