

## NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 57 (T) of 2023

### Round the Island Race: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Central Solent - Traffic Restrictions

**Notice is hereby given** jointly by the King's Harbour Master Portsmouth, the Harbour Master ABP Southampton and the Cowes Harbour Master that the Round the Island Race 2024 will start from Cowes between **0600** and **0730** on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024**. Up to 1100 yachts are expected to take part in the Race.

A full description of the race is available from the Island Sailing Club ([www.roundtheisland.org.uk](http://www.roundtheisland.org.uk)).

The following summary is provided for information purposes:

1. The start line extends from the Island shore at the Royal Yacht Squadron to an outer distance mark close to Williams Shipping Buoy.
2. Due to the number of competitors taking part, the various class starting times will be staggered to take place at 10-minute intervals between **0600** and **0720**. A total of 9 sequential starts will take place, with the last being at **0720**.
3. The anti-clockwise course around the Isle of Wight will be from Cowes west-about and back to Cowes. Turning points for the race are at the Needles Lighthouse, St Catherine's Point and Bembridge Ledge Buoy.
4. It has been agreed with the race organiser that all competitors awaiting their class starting time will proceed to designated holding / waiting areas (Figure 1), to avoid congestion in the main navigable channel. All competitors will be equipped with VHF radio and will keep a listening watch on **VHF Channel 22**, in the event that a recall or postponement becomes necessary.
5. Whilst the main bulk of the fleet of yachts is expected to pass the Bembridge Ledge Buoy between **1030** and **1600** and the peak finishing time at Cowes is likely to be between **1200** and 1800, it should be noted that the earliest finish could be around **0900** and that the finish limit time for this year is **2000**. Hence, there will be increased levels of recreational activity within the Central Solent area throughout this period.

#### Seaview Exclusion Zone

6. When rounding Seaview boats shall not pass inside the outer line of moorings. A large orange cylindrical buoy will be laid at the eastern end of the line to identify it. Competing yachts disregarding the area and entering the Seaview mooring area will be subject to protest.

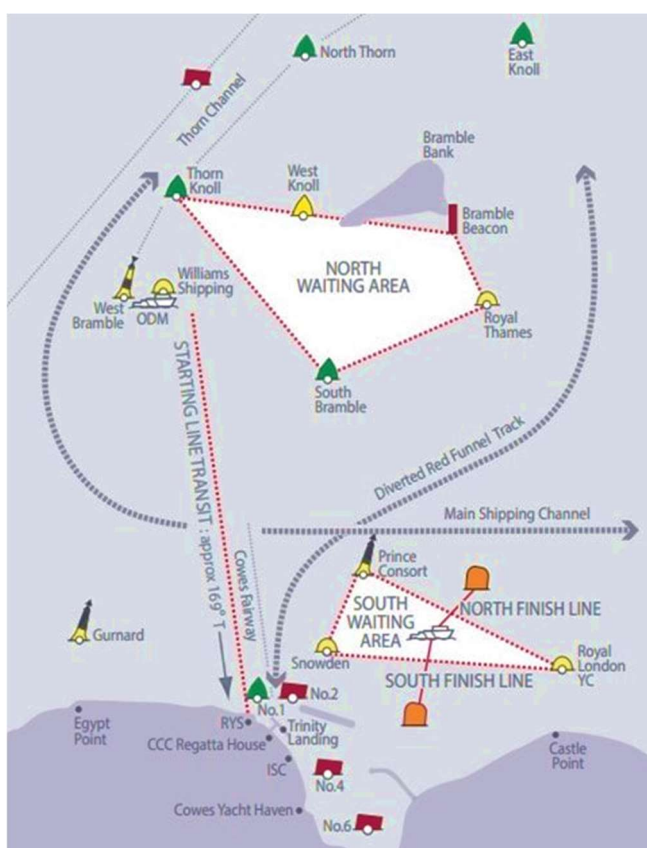
## Commercial Traffic

In order to separate the competitors from any commercial traffic movements intending to pass through the Central Solent, or bound to or from the Port of Southampton, during the starting period:

Masters of vessels not directly involved in the event are to arrange to be clear of the start area by **0530** and are not to enter the start area until after **0730** or when the bulk of competitors have cleared the area; and

Masters of Red Funnel Ferries and Commanders of Red Jets are to avoid passing through the start area and are to arrive at/or leave Cowes passing to the east of the Bramble Bank, if safe to do so, during the period **0600 – 0800**.

All spectator craft not taking part in the race are to keep well clear of the start area or are to proceed to one of the designated holding areas, as depicted at Figure 1, and keep clear of the Main Navigational Channel.



**Figure 1 - Designated Holding Areas**

Notice will be self-cancelling 2359 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

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

**Steven Masters  
Harbour Master**

**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.**

[www.southamptonvts.co.uk](http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk)