



# **East Anglian Cruising Club** [www.ea-cc.org](http://www.ea-cc.org)

*Established 1936 Affiliated to the RYA and the NSBA*

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## **Briefing notes for COB Passage Race, Monday 29 May 2023**

**OOD:** Many thanks to Toby Fields and his team for running this race for us.

**Entries:** We would encourage you to enter online using Webcollect for the weekend which will include this race. However, entries will be accepted on the day.

**Open to:** All RCC cruisers, production cruisers & half decked keel boats, Allcomers and centreboard or dagger board dinghies over 18ft in boat length (no single handers allowed due to safety – minimum crew of two). All helms should be 16 years or over on 29/05/2023.

Race duration approx. 1.5 to 2hrs. There will be a cut off time for finishing at 14.30 hrs.

**N.B. Personal Buoyancy** must be worn by all dinghy sailors at all times.

All other competitors must wear personal buoyancy if the Y flag is flown (yellow & red diagonal stripes) which is at the discretion of the Officer of the Day,

**Safety:** Following some incidents on the water at TMOR last year, the Broads Authority have requested that racing craft are aware that 'All hire and private motor boats have been asked to keep to the RIGHT HAND BANK for safety'. New signs will be displayed on all three approaches to our racing course. Hirers may have only just picked up their hire cruiser for the weekend so please allow them to keep to the right-hand bank.

Please note that all aspects of safety are the sole responsibility of participating skippers and crew. The EACC team will try to assist if any competitor has a problem.

**Handicaps:** All boats will sail to a percentage handicap. Equivalent handicaps will be allocated for boats which normally sail to a Portsmouth Yardstick handicap. If a vessel does not have a handicap, one will be allocated. A River Cruiser on a provisional handicap WILL NOT be entitled to win any trophies but will be timed.

**Charity support:** The EACC committee decided that the Cock of The Broads race will support the charity that is selected annually by EACC and have put a £2 premium on the entry fee. This year it will be donated, together with other monies collected by the club to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

**Guard Ships:** There will be two guardships placed at each of two turning marks. These will be manned by EACC members. The guardships are not rescue boats but will be in a position to relay safety messages to race control. They will supervise the turning marks. Please inform them of any competitor who has a significant problem or one that has to

retire from the race. They will be moored as near as possible to the turning marks. There will be two additional safety boats on the course.

**Emergency situations:** Please supply a mobile number on your entry form and this will be used to set up a **Whatsapp group** especially for the COB race. If you have an emergency and are not near a safety boat or guard ship, please put a message on the WhatsApp group which will be monitored during the race. As a last resort, phone the OOD on 07715 100499.

**Select start time:** Boats will confidentially nominate their start time at Race Control from 09:00 am to 11:00 am on Monday. There will be starts every 5 minutes from 11:30 am to 13:00, with a maximum of six boats per start. Skippers will be given a form on which they will nominate three start times in order of preference. This will be confidential, and they will not be able to find out when anyone else is starting. Race Control will inform each helm which of his times has been allocated. If all his choices are already taken, he will be given three further choices which will be repeated until an available slot is found. The earlier you enter the more likely you are to get the entry time of your choice.

**The course:** The course will not be decided until Monday morning and may be amended up to the starting time of 11.30 am due to wind conditions. The course will be from the start line at Thurne Mouth, around two marks and then finish at the Thurne Mouth line. The position of the marks will be decided on the day by the starting team, but are likely to include a turning mark at or near Acle, and a mark up towards Horning. It is unlikely that this mark will be beyond Cockshoot Broad. An estimated position and the side of rounding of the marks will be indicated at Race Control at 9 am on the day of the race, with the intention of producing a race of up to 2 hours. Please check the actual course from 11.25 am on the point. Competitors may choose to round the marks in any order. Please note that you will not race towards Potter Heigham for safety reasons.

**The start:** Will be in the direction indicated on the course board. The normal X zone rules will apply. A special Cock of the Broads flag (black with a cock on it!) will be hoisted at the first 10 minute gun; the Blue Peter will be hoisted at the 5 minute gun; the COB flag will be dropped and then re-hoisted at the first start and at subsequent starts. It will be re-hoisted at the dip for up to a minute if anyone is over the line at their start until they have cleared. The vessel that is over the line will be hailed. Competitors may ask the starting team to confirm their start time but NO other verbal assistance will be given to competitors from the starting team.

Having started, if a yacht then wishes to go to a mark that is directly from the direction they have just started, then they will have to clear the line before turning to go to the mark of their choice. Normal racing rules will apply at this time, but other skippers are asked to be accommodating to yachts that wish to turn 180 degrees immediately after crossing the start line. The finish line will be the same as the start line but competitors may pass through it in any direction. All competitors must finish by 14.30 for their result to count.

**Prize Giving:** For all races will be immediately after the Cock of the Broads. Please will all competitors assemble in the Marquee after this race.

If there are any questions on these race instructions, please ask any of the TMOR organising committee who will be pleased to explain the rules of this race with the offer of suitable liquid refreshment!

Please will competitors note that the breakdown of the site will occur immediately after prize giving. We would be very grateful if you could stay and help with this task.