

The Contessa 32 Class Association



Racing Handbook Solent 2017

Useful Contacts

George Isted	(Class Captain & Official Measurer)	captain@co32.org / 07799 037516
Mark Oliver	(Sailing Secretary)	race@co32.org / 07768 515109
Alice Butcher	(Social Secretary)	social@co32.org / 07989 918042

This is intended as a handy guide to the Contessa 32 Solent Racing Programme for 2017.

It does not include the Notices of Race or the Sailing Instructions for the events. These are issued by the host Club upon entry and will usually arrive about a week before each race – or may often be downloaded from the Club`s website.

The Contessa 32 Class Racing Rules are on the Class Association website.

Alice Butcher, Owner of Panache, continues as Social Secretary;
and

Mark Oliver, Skipper of Connie, continues as Sailing Secretary.

The series of Inshore Regattas will run from May to September and Cowes Week starts on early on 29th July this year. The Contessa 32 National Championships will be the penultimate event of our season starting on Friday 15th September. In 2017, all of our Inshore Points Championship events will be regattas run by the host clubs for our class alone, with the exception of the Royal Solent Yacht Club`s Taittinger Regatta in which we will have our own class starts.

How to enter for the Inshore Series:

- Entry for the Taittinger Regatta will be through the host Club – the Royal Solent YC will announce details on their website at www.royalsolent.org nearer to the time of the event – please note that entry fees are usually discounted until a date in June. The Class Sailing Secretary will, if possible, circulate a message by e-mail to draw attention to when entry to this event becomes available.
- Entry to events that are just for the Class – i.e. the other five of our Inshore Series rounds, (including our Cowes-Poole-Cowes Races) and our National Championships - is via the Class Association website at www.co32.org.
- Sailing Instructions for some events will be despatched directly in the week before the event – usually by e-mail from Sailing Secretary Mark Oliver – but sometimes directly from the host Club. For some events it may be necessary to download the race documents from the host Club`s website.
- Your entry details are passed to **Alice Butcher** who organises the social side of our Regattas.
- Recently most of the contact re. entries, social fixtures and SI`s has been handled by e-mail and this has proved to be convenient for all concerned.

Please ensure that Mark Oliver has your up-to-date e-mail details.

Entry for other Key Events:

If you have not entered some or any of these events before, the details below should give you the background information to persuade you to enter this year.

The JP Morgan Asset Management Round the Island Race: 1st July 2017

Details of this ever-popular event should be obtained directly from the organiser, the Island Sailing Club: www.roundtheisland.org.uk Entry is directly to the ISC and cannot be arranged through the Class. For the first time in several decades, our class will be given overall positions in the Club`s ISCRS handicap system as well as extracted Class results. To facilitate this, competitors are encouraged to enter giving the standard class specifications for their boat as supplied by the Class Measurer, George Isted so that Contessa 32`s entered in this way will effectively be "level rated" in comparison with each other – as in our own events. The Contessa Rose Bowl is awarded to the first Contessa 32. Please see the notes below regarding measurement.

Cowes Week: 29th July to 5th August 2017

The Contessa 32 has been at the heart of this regatta since the 1970`s. We understand that this year our racing will again allow the traditional thrilling finishes on the Squadron Line after a final leg just offshore along The Green. Additionally, an exciting social programme is being planned for the Week, including the drinks receptions and parties that we have come to expect!

If sailing in Cowes Week is something you are considering, please do contact The Class Association for encouragement and reassurance about how easy it all is. As with the last few years, Cowes Combined Clubs intend to handle all entries for all classes themselves (rather than just the late ones): this can be done online at www.cowesweek.co.uk. Please, however, inform Mark Oliver when you have done so to enable the Class to keep up to date with entries. **This really is very important!**

Do please remember that "early bird" entries again close earlier than usual this year (May 30th).

Class berthing for Cowes Week has been organised at Cowes Yacht Haven in response to feedback from the Fleet that this is, for many, the preferred location. We have again been offered the same special rate as in 2015, while space is still available, of £559.68 for ten nights in the Class`s own area of the Haven

– a very substantial discount compared with usual Cowes Week rates. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Contact details for booking with Cowes Yacht Haven:

Tel +44 (0) 1983 299975

Fax +44 (0) 1983 200332

ben@cowesyachthaven.com (Ben Ferris is the Marina Manager)

Cowes Yacht Haven Ltd, Vectis Yard High Street, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7BD

To benefit from the discounted rate, please make it clear when booking that you are doing so as a member of the Contessa 32 Fleet.

A full and varied program of evening social events for the Class is being planned and details will be announced when they have been confirmed.

Inshore Points Championship:

There will be a total of 6 weekends forming the Inshore Points Championship. In addition to our Cowes-Poole-Cowes passage races on 3rd and 4th June, there will be four weekends when host clubs in the Solent will run a two day racing event exclusively for our Class and one event when we will make up our own Class in a larger regatta run by the Royal Solent Yacht Club. Apart from the "Poole" weekend, in the other events we can expect to see a mixture of Windward-Leeward and "Round-the-Cans" type racing. The race officers will be aware of our preferred formula for Class racing and will try to accommodate this where reasonably possible.

National Championships 15th – 17th September

Our "Nationals" are once again in September but a little earlier than usual this year with one more regatta following them at the end of our series. This is for a number of reasons including the suitability of tides for the timing of each event. The host club will be the Royal Solent Yacht Club in Yarmouth. Although we have raced in the Club's excellent Taittinger Regatta annually in recent seasons, they have not hosted an exclusive event for us since 2014. Over the three days of the event, the race officer will have the alternatives of setting courses in the challenging conditions of the Western Solent and in the, relatively less tidal area of Christchurch Bay. Additionally, there will be social events for the Fleet on both the evenings that we are in Yarmouth – with Fleet berthing again arranged on the ideal and extremely sociable Harold Hayles Boatyard pontoon. To book berthing at Hayles please call Sandy on 01983 760373 or e-mail info@haroldhayles.co.uk. **Please note that payment for berths is required during the week before the event - £30.00 per night.**

Class Certificate:

It is mandatory for all entrants to Class races to hold a current Class Certificate. These are issued by George Isted, the Official Measurer. There is a waiver for the Round the Island Race, where the Committee reserve the right to measure the first six boats to finish unless they already hold Class Certificates. New Class Certificates must be issued on change of ownership. Please contact George Isted for more details.

Please also note that entry to the Class Fleet at all events including the Round the Island and Cowes Week are conditional on the Owner holding a Class Certificate and being a paid-up member of The Class Association. There must also be a paid-up member of the Association aboard during Class racing.

