

FSW entry fees

You may have already noticed from the Falmouth Sailing Week Notice of Race the entry fees have been increased. If you haven't already noticed this then you will find this out when you enter. We would just like to offer an explanation for these increases.

The Bay Fleet

Last year, for the first time, we hired seven **robotic marks** – known as MarkSetBots – for use in the Bay. There are several advantageous in using these marks compared to traditional marks with ground tackle and anchors:

- The Race Officer can set trapezoid courses (which require a total of eight marks, including the start and finish pins) which provide top quality racing for competitors.
- These courses also allow a separate finishing boat which means 2nd (and 3rd) races each day can be started more efficiently and promptly, meaning less waiting around for competitors.
- The robotic marks can be easily and quickly re-positioned in response to wind shifts, again meaning less waiting around for competitors.
- It gets over the problem of trying to recruit volunteers - an increasingly difficult task - who are willing to haul and repeatedly re-haul ground tackle in depths of around 20 metres.
- With no ground tackle, the robotic marks are much more environmentally friendly as they cause no damage to the sea bed.

There seems to be a general consensus that the robotic marks improved Falmouth Sailing Week significantly in 2024, and so it would seem to be a negative backward step to not use them this year.

But they come at a cost, not just to hire the marks themselves but also to employ the services of experts to be on board the committee boat to control them. In 2024, the costs were met, in a roughly 50:50 split, by raising additional sponsorship and by a subsidy which came from POFSA's reserves. We expect to raise a similar sum in sponsorship this year but to keep dipping into reserves is simply not sustainable.

We have recently been doing some research into the **entry fees of other regattas** and it is clear that the entry fees for Falmouth Sailing Week have previously been significantly less than regattas elsewhere. To take Dartmouth Regatta, for instance (the nearest major regatta to Falmouth) it is difficult to make a direct comparison as they run a four-day regatta and charge entry fees according to boat lengths. But even after this year's increase in FSW entry fees, we will still be cheaper for the majority of boats.

The Carrick Fleet

You will notice that, for most classes, most entry fees have just been increased by a roughly inflationary amount. The exceptions are the Sunbeam, Ajax and Shrimper classes. This is because those classes are able to take part in more races and compete for more prizes, and so for each of their entry options the cost per race is now effectively the same as all the other classes.

Early entry fees

Remember that, as in previous years, the earlier you enter the less you pay. This year **Early** entry fees are applicable up to 20 July, **Standard** entry fees from then until 1 August, and after that **Late** entry fees will apply.