



PORT OF DARTMOUTH ROYAL REGATTA
REGATTA RIVER PARADE – Saturday 29th August 2026 2pm
PARADE INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction and welcome

The Parade is an opportunity for all Boat Owners, from Motor Cruisers to our Classic Yachts, to show off their craft, and crews are encouraged to dress for the occasion! The dress theme is **Safety at Sea in honour of our local River Dart RNLI**.

For further information about The **181st Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta**, visit our website www.dartmouthregatta.co.uk or contact **Gwen or Laura** : riverparade@dartmouthregatta.co.uk

Safety

The following instructions have been developed to ensure as safe an event as possible, avoiding danger to or from any other vessels entering the port and minimising disruption to commercial operations. The decision to wear life jackets or personal buoyancy aids is at the discretion of the skipper of each vessel. However, all crews are strongly recommended to wear life jackets whilst on the water. Participation is at the discretion of the skipper of each vessel who should also **ensure that appropriate insurance is in place**. The Organising Committee ask all participants to follow these instructions closely. Skippers should note that the Parade is **not a race**.

Identification

Each vessel will have a number to help identify each other and to assist the commentators. Numbers will also be listed on the Website from Friday 28th August. We welcome all boats to submit a brief note about their vessel to inform the commentary or any groups participating. These will be shared on our Website and social media channels.

Eligibility and Entry

Registration is free for each vessel, with a Burgee / Battle Flag being supplied to the first 50 entries subject to availability.

Note: We still have a few left of **2021 – Mayflower, 2022 – Jubilee, 2023 – Coronation, 2024 – Royal Regatta .. VINTAGE..** available for sale on the day, please contact Laura for details (riverparade@dartmouthregatta.co.uk)

The only limitation to the size of participating craft is maneuverability in the river.

All boats must have completed an entry form and ensure their insurance is in place

Trophies

There will prizes awarded along with a Regatta Champion's mug for

- **Best Dressed Vessel & Crew**
 - Bunting and all things '**Guardians of the River**' encouraged
- **Best Salute:** The VIP tent is situated in front of the Harbour Masters Office just before the Lower Ferry crossing point.
VIP Guests include our **Dartmouth Mayor** Cllr Graham Webb
- **Grockel Cup** – a Trophy for a **CLASSIC** craft presented by tbc

Prizes will be presented at 17:00 at Dartmouth Yacht Club

Parade Briefing

The Parade briefing will be by way of these instructions for 2026. Any queries should be directed to DHNA on channel 12 on the day.

Or to riverparade@dartmouthregatta.co.uk prior to the event.

VHF Communications

VHF channel 12 will be used for all broadcasts to participants in the Parade. Participating boats are not to transmit on channel 12 during the Parade and Power except in emergency, but must maintain a listening watch on this channel from 14:00 onward.

Whilst in the Parade

At all times, boats are to proceed in accordance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and Dart Harbour Directions and Regulations. **Boats are to proceed one by one, in numerical order, as called upon by our Parade Marshall.**

Order of sail is to be by Number so please follow direction from your **Parade Marshall**.

Boat speed is to be adjusted to stay in station, passage speed will be 3 knots. Crews are encouraged to salute the VIP platform by cheering or other means as they pass.

Schedule

Forming up area

Boats are requested to arrive in a timely manner and to form up South of Noss Marina. In order to avoid congestion and to minimise the risk of collision around the start line, boats are to wait in the forming up area before proceeding to the start line. Boats entering the forming up area from the south are to ensure they are well clear of the Higher Ferry before they wait for their start.

Start

The start line will be a line due west of the southern end of the Noss Marina.

At **13:45 on Saturday 29th August** a signal will be given from the Parade Marshall's boat. At approximately **14:00** the lead vessels, we are inviting **HMS BLAZER & HMS EXPRESS** to lead the parade along the course, will be followed by the flotilla of boats in an orderly manner. Wesley Offshore & our local RNLI form our Finale (subject to availability due to being fully operational). **Boats will be called forward on VHF Channel 12**

Boats are to proceed at **3 knots** in order to pass the saluting platform (which is 0.75 nm south of the start).

Boats will head south from Noss, on the western side of the river, passing close to the VIP / saluting platform which is on the embankment opposite the Harbour Office.

The Steam Boats will join the Parade as the penultimate group prior to our RNLI family finale at a start below the Higher Ferry to allow for slower passage south and will continue to Dartmouth Castle

ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE, and delays may build up, we ask you to be patient.

Parade area and courses

The Parade area is shown on the attached chart. The course to be used will be broadcast on VHF channel 12. Boats are to proceed along the course in the direction shown on the chart.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Dispersal

Boats which have finished the course are requested to keep well clear of boats that are still starting and vessels forming for the next regatta event.

After saluting, vessels are to turn to port, staying South of MS 1 buoy (large yellow Admiralty mooring buoy), cross the river and head north up the eastern side of the river, dispersing to their next activity. Vessels that have saluted are to clear the area quickly and must avoid impeding the passage of the ferries.

No boat is to proceed against the flow of other vessels in the parade.

Mark Boats and other Control Craft

The Lead Boat, and all marshalling Boats will display large Regatta River Parade flags.

Commercial and Naval Shipping movements

There may be occasions for the start of individual squadrons to be delayed for a short time, in particular to allow the movement of commercial or naval traffic. If so, the fact will be broadcast on channel 12. Boats already started should proceed around the course as normal, but boats not yet started shall not cross the start line until receiving a VHF broadcast to continue.

Advisory: HMS Brocklesby is moored at MS1

Collection of Burgee / Battle Flag

Please collect your Burgee / Battle flag

From **Dartmouth Yacht Club** (tbc) from Thursday 28th August 2pm – 6pm and Friday 29th 10am - 8pm, Saturday 30th prior to 9am - 12 noon.

To make arrangements for collection outside of these times please email riverparade@dartmouthregatta.co.uk.

Abandonment of the Parade

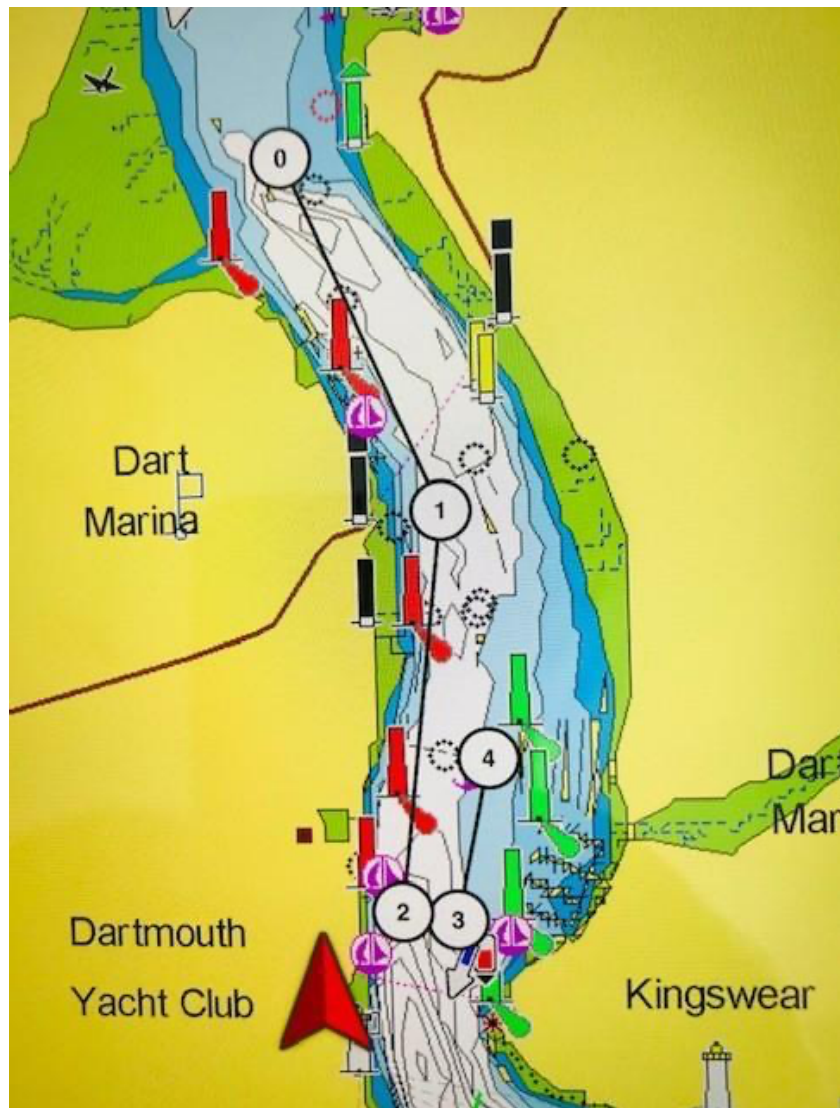
In the event of inclement weather or heavy swell conditions, the entire Parade may be abandoned. This decision will be taken no later than **13:00 on Saturday 29th August**. Information will be posted on Dartmouth Regatta Website & Social Media. In addition, text messages will be sent to skippers on their designated mobile telephone numbers.

Leaving the course prematurely

You are encouraged to complete the course for the benefit of the spectators, but if it is necessary for you leave before the finish, then you should **report the fact to the Parade Marshall on channel 12 or notify the nearest safety boat**

Please note: The winners will be notified through your submitted captains phone number - details will be published on our socials and on our website following the event.

COURSE CHARTLET



Parade Marshall: Tim Dewing, Commentator: Basil Williams
Supported by Harbour Master **Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority**

Contact details: Laura Campbell on 07880744900

(Please note new email) Email: riverparade@dartmouthregatta.co.uk

More information can be found on <https://www.dartmouthregatta.co.uk/regatta-river-parade>